

BOOKER MIDDLE SCHOOL
HOME OF THE TORNADOES

VPA MUSICAL THEATRE I FACT SHEET

Instructors: Ms. Mills
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MAJOR CONCEPTS/CONTENT

Student's coursework focuses on basic acting, basic vocal performance, basic dance/movement, non-dance movement, and staging, which transfer readily to musical theatre literature. Students will survey the trends in musical theatre by studying representative literature and explore the unique staging and technical demands of musicals in contrast to non-musical plays. Public performances will serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals and to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

The student will be able to define and apply common acting terms, use his/her voice and body to communicate ideas/feelings, demonstrate appreciation and evaluation of performance skills, and work cooperatively with other class members.

AS YOUR TEACHER, I WILL...

- ... Provide a safe and secure classroom*
- ... Challenge your creativity*
- ... Strengthen your acting skills*
- ... Make plans for theatre experiences both in and out of school*

AS A CLASS WE WILL...

- ... Entertain a wide variety of audiences*
- ... Explore a wide variety of dramatic literature*
- ... Engage all our "actor's tools"*

TOGETHER, YOU WILL...

- ... Share feedback about each other's work*
- ... Perform on a regular basis*
- ... Tackle challenging material*

ON YOUR OWN, YOU WILL...

- ... Develop your personal talents*
- ... Deepen your understanding of yourself and others*
- ... Set personal artistic goals*

GRADING

All project documents will be posted on Blackboard Learn (Bb) and can be accessed through a student's MySCS account. This course is graded by the following methods:

1. Participation in class/rehearsals/performances
2. Cooperation in class/rehearsals/performances
3. Performances, projects, quizzes/tests, and assignments

4. Make-up work (including quarantined students): Students are encouraged to work on class projects while they are absent from school if they are able. Students with excused absences will be given additional time to finish projects/assignments once they return to school, not to exceed the number of days the student was absent.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

Each student will need to bring the following to class each day:

1. A hard cover composition notebook (NOT SPIRAL) and a plastic pocket folder (any color) – these will usually stay in the classroom.
2. Writing utensils and project supplies (which can include costumes, props, etc.)
3. Scripts, sheet music, etc.

Notes about shoes:

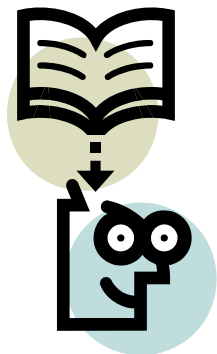
Students should be prepared to dance in class every Friday (unless specifically told otherwise). Bare feet, socks, flip flops, sandals, and other slip-on types of shoes are not permitted during dance sessions. It is a good idea to invest in specific dance shoes and have them available to utilize during class as soon as possible. The two kinds of shoes are as follows:

1. Jazz shoes (can be easily found on Amazon or at any local dance shoe store in town)
2. (*GIRLS ONLY*) A heeled pair of character shoes (more info to come about heel height and color)

NO HATS, HOODS, GUM, FOOD, OR DRINKS IN CLASSROOM AREAS.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING CELL PHONES AND ELECTONIC DEVICES...

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE TO BE TURNED OFF AND PUT AWAY for the entire school day unless being used for an approved class activity. In keeping with Sarasota County Schools policy, any student not adhering to this guideline will have his/her device confiscated and delivered to the main office where a parent or guardian must pick it up.



One final note – in order to be successful in Musical Theatre...

BE FEARLESS!!!

BMS VPA Musical Theatre I Performance/Event Calendar 2021-2022

- **Fall Concert:**
 - Performance
 - Tuesday, October 12th, 7:00PM at BMS (performer call time, 6:00PM)
 - There are no afterschool rehearsals for this concert
- **Musical Details:**
 - Afterschool Rehearsals
 - Monday-Wednesday, Feb. 14th-16th, 2:30-4:30PM at BMS
 - Tuesday-Thursday, Feb. 22nd-24th, 3:30-7:30PM at New College of Florida
 - Performances
 - Friday, Feb. 25th, 7:00PM at New College of Florida (Actor call time, 5:00PM)
 - Saturday, Feb. 26th, 2:00PM at New College of Florida (Actor call time, noon)

Participation in ALL rehearsals and performances is MANDATORY. Unexcused absences from class, rehearsals, and/or performances will result in the lowering of the student's overall letter grade and/or dismissal from the program. If a student misses a performance/rehearsal unexpectedly due to illness, emergency, etc, a separate note explaining the situation should be sent to the teacher and signed by the parent immediately upon returning to school. A courtesy phone call is also expected on the day of the missed rehearsal/performance.

Additional Events:

- Junior Thespians District Festival (Tampa, FL).....Sat., Nov. 20th (All day event)
- Junior Thespians State Festival (Orlando, FL).....Thu. – Sat., Jan. 13-15th, 2022
Orange County Convention Center
- INSPIRE SARASOTA.....TBD (all day event, we *may* perform at this event)

Each student will be responsible for a \$40 enrichment fee which will go towards costumes, make-up, sets, and props for our production. Please return this to Ms. Mills no later than Friday, September 17th. *(Please make checks out to "Booker Middle School" with "VPA Musical Theatre enrichment fee" in the memo line. You can also pay online. Visit <https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/bookermiddle>, click on the "Parents & Students" tab, then click on "Online Payment" from the menu on the left)*

We will also have the opportunity to go on field trips during the school year, including a trip to see a professionally produced Broadway musical in late spring. Additional details about field trips and any fundraising will be distributed at a later date.

Theatre Etiquette

Our VPA Musical Theatre class is made up of performers of all abilities and backgrounds, but not everyone comes with a strong familiarity of the process of putting on a production. Below are some of the do's and don'ts on how to interact with your fellow cast members and crew, and how to behave in and around the stage.

Remember, in theatre and in life, your reputation is built more on your professionalism and work ethic than it is on your skills and talents.

Rehearsals

As a performer:

- DO come to all rehearsals with your pencil and script for notes
- DON'T talk when the director is talking. EVER!
- DO accept all notes from the director with grace and say, "thank you"
- DON'T give other actors notes and don't accept them from other actors, crew, parents, etc.
- DO wear appropriate rehearsal shoes. If you don't know what that means, ask the Director
- DO give the crew the respect they deserve, especially during tech week!
- DO always pay attention to the Director
- DO let the Director know if a piece of scenery/prop./etc. is unsafe
- DON'T miss a rehearsal. If you're going to be late or are sick, call the director as soon as possible.
- DO call for your line if you can't remember it. Simply say "line" and you will be prompted. This saves time and keeps the rehearsals moving along
- DO always give your best!
- DO always be respectful and courteous of everyone working with and around you.

As a parent/guardian:

- DO feel free to attend rehearsals, but understand that all artistic decisions (i.e. casting, costumes, choice of shows, etc.) have been made with careful consideration for the production and the program itself and will not be changed due to an individual's personal preferences.
- DON'T give acting/singing/dancing notes of any kind to your child. This is the job of the Director. The concern is that if the child receives conflicting notes from a parent and the Director, the child may be conflicted trying to please both.
- DO help your child with diction, pronunciation, and memorizing lines. This sometimes makes the difference between an average and an excellent show!
- DO drop off and pick up your child promptly. You can count on rehearsals ending at the posted time so please be respectful of the Director's time and other commitments/responsibilities.
- DO share any questions or concerns you may have with the Director

(Theatre Etiquette cont.)

Performances

As a performer:

- DO walk quietly backstage. No talking or whispering off stage.
- DO keep off the stage once the house (audience area) is open; stay in the backstage area.
- DON'T miss an entrance. Be a professional and pay attention to the progress of the show all the time!
- DON'T add to/remove from/alter your costume AT ALL! Let the Director know if there is a problem with your costume.
- DON'T hang out in the wings to watch the show unless you have an entrance coming up.
- DO keep the dressing rooms neat and clean (i.e. throw out trash, hang up clothes, etc.)
- DO make sure you can't be seen by the audience when waiting in the wings. The rule is, if you can see them, they can see you!
- DON'T brush against the scenery, backdrops, or curtains as you make an entrance or an exit.
- DON'T touch someone else's prop. EVER!
- DO always check your props before the house opens.
- DON'T eat or drink while you are wearing your costume.
- DO let the Director know immediately after a performance if a prop breaks, becomes unsafe, or needs to be replenished or replaced.
- DO treat props with respect and put them back in their place so they are ready for the next performance.
- DON'T ad-lib, unless you have been specifically told to improvise. The authors and playwrights wrote the lines that way for a reason; if you want to mess around with the script, write your own play. ☺

As a parent/guardian of a performer:

- DO respect the boundaries of the dressing rooms and backstage areas. These areas are often maze-like and full of materials for the show, making them difficult to navigate for those unfamiliar with the space. Your child will meet you in the house or lobby when they have changed out of their costume.
- DON'T be a director, voice coach, or anything other than an audience member when watching your child perform in a show. Trying to communicate with them when you are in the audience and they are onstage is disruptive, distracting, and potentially dangerous for the performers.
- DO enjoy the performance through your eyes rather than a camera, phone, or video recorder. We record and photograph our performances (when copyright laws and royalty agreements allow) and make them available for performers and their families for a nominal fee. Theatre is meant to be witnessed "live", not through the lens of a device.

Adapted from Venice Theatre's "Theatre Etiquette"