

COURSE OUTLINE

SUBJECT: Backstage Theater Arts

GRADE: 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Backstage Theatre Arts offers 8th Grade students the opportunity to explore: backstage theatre units and vocabulary; see and analyze live performances; learn and work on various aspects of technical theater including stage management, stagecraft, sets, props, costumes, stage makeup, publicity, and design; participate in all aspects of a theatrical production; and be introduced to acting. As an MYP Arts class, all students in Theatre Arts will create and maintain an online process journal, demonstrating their growth and achievement as students of the Theatre. Students will be assessed using Criterion A: Investigating; Criterion B: Developing; Criterion C: Creating/Performing; and Criterion D: Evaluating. There will be one 8th Grade Theatre Arts Play in which all students are expected to participate backstage to showcase their hard work and growth.

I. GRADING PROCEDURE FOR THEATER ARTS

A. Grades

1. Grades are based upon a number of accumulated points.

90-100%= A 80-89%= B 70-79%= C 65-69%= D Below 65%= Failing

Sources for accumulating points are:

- a. Class Projects applying skills and growth in backstage units including costumes, sets, props, special effects stage makeup, and stage management
- b. Theater Committees Participation
- c. Journals/ Reflections/ Peer Assessment
- d. Daily Participation (including being on time)
- e. Attendance at rehearsals outside of scheduled class time (tech week)
- f. Online process journal for MYP Assessment
- g. Final Project: Spring 8th grade play performance

II. PERFORMANCES:

- *A Theatre Arts Performance is the culmination of student work and is therefore crucial for the class. Performance attendance is mandatory and dates are given out in plenty of time to rearrange work and/or other responsibilities.*
 1. In order to have the highest quality performances, Theatre Arts students are required to attend ONE Saturday rehearsal and ALL Tech Week rehearsals.
 2. These rehearsals are considered mandatory and students are ONLY allowed to miss a rehearsal “excused” (with a note or parent email).
 3. Students will be required to work backstage during the matinee performance for the 5th graders as well as the one evening performance.
- Students will be required to perform at the **8th Grade Theatre Arts Spring Play- May or June/2026, including the Saturday before and all after school “tech week” rehearsals leading up to the play performances.**

Outline developed by: Georgia DeFalco

Date: Spring 2025