

MUSICAL THEATRE

LENGTH OF TIME: ½ year, 90 minutes every other day

GRADE LEVEL: 9-12

COURSE STANDARDS:

Students will:

1. Learn improvisation skills in order to improve character development. (NMTS 1,2)
2. Examine the history of American Musical theatre from 1800's to present. (NMTS 5,6; PA Std 9.1 a-h; 9.2 a-e)
3. Practice speech clarity and projection. (NMTS 2; PA Std 9.1 a, b, c)
4. Learn and identify the parts of a stage. (NMTS 4; PA Std 9.1 a, b, c)
5. Learn and identify the components of a play/musical. (NMTS 3; PA Std 9.1 a, b, c)
6. Evaluate and critique a play/musical. (NMTS 7,8; NMCS 7; PA Std 9.3 e, g)
7. Observe the purpose of stage make-up. (NMTS 3; PA Std 9.1 a, b, c)
8. Identify purpose and style of costumes/ design an appropriate costume for a musical. (NMTS 4,5; PA Std 9.2 a-e)
9. Design a simple set. (NMTS 3,4,5; PA Std 9.2 g, h)
10. Understand the tasks of the producer, director, and choreographer. (NMTS 4,7; PA Std 9.2 g)
11. Design a poster for a musical. (NMTS3; PA Std 9.1 d, e, f)
12. Perform before an audience. (NMTS 2; PA Std 9.1 a, b)

NATIONAL MUSICAL THEATRE STANDARDS (NMTS)

1. Script writing by improvising, writing, and refining scripts based on personal experience and heritage, imagination, literature, and history.
2. Acting by developing, communicating, and sustaining characters in improvisations and informal or formal productions.
3. Designing and producing by conceptualizing and realizing artistic interpretations for informal or formal productions.
4. Directing by interpreting dramatic texts and organizing and conducting rehearsals for informal or formal productions.
5. Researching by evaluating and synthesizing cultural and historical information to support artistic choices.
6. Comparing and integrating art forms by analyzing traditional theatre, dance, music, and visual arts, and new art forms.
7. Analyzing, critiquing, and constructing meanings from informal and formal theatre, film, television, and electronic media productions.
8. Understanding context by analyzing the role of theatre, film, television, and electronic media in the past and the present.

RELATED PA ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR ARTS AND HUMANITIES

- 9.1 Production, Performance and Exhibition of Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts
 - A. Elements and principles in each Art Form

- B. Demonstration of Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts
 - C. Vocabulary Within each Art Form
 - D. Styles in Production, Performance and Exhibition
 - E. Themes in Art Forms
 - F. Historical and Cultural Production, Performance and Exhibition
 - G. Function and Analysis of Rehearsals and Practice Sessions
 - H. Safety Issues in the Arts
- 9.2 Historical and Cultural Contexts
- A. Context of Works in the Arts
 - B. Chronology of Works in the Arts
 - C. Styles and Genre in the Arts
 - D. Historical and Cultural Perspectives
 - E. Historical and Cultural Impact on Works in the Arts
 - G. Geographic regions in the arts
 - H. Pennsylvania artists

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS:

Students will demonstrate achievement of the standards by:

1. Spontaneous skits and theatre games. (NMTS 1,2; E3b, S5c) (Course Standard 1, 3)
2. Performing comedic and dramatic monologues. (NMTS 1,2; E3c, A4a, A2a) (Course Standard 3, 12)
3. Performing small group dramatic scenes. (NMTS 1,2,4, 5) (Course Standard 2, 6, 12)
4. Poster, costume, and set design projects. (NMTS 3,5; E3d, A1a, M1f, M1g, S8c, S5c) (Course Standard 2, 5, 8, 9, 11)
5. Quizzes, essays, critical reviews. (NMTS 6,7,8; E5a, E3d, E2a; NMCS 7) (Course Standard 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10)
6. Final performance of a children's play for elementary students. (NMTS 1,2,3,4,5,7; A1c, A4a, A4c, A5a) (Course Standard 1, 3, 4, 8, 9)

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Musical Theatre is a performance-oriented class, which will explore all aspects of musical theatre. Some units to be included are improvisation, character development, musical theatre history, set and costume design, and performance of a full production.

TITLES OF UNITS

1. Improvisation - ongoing
2. Character Development - ongoing
3. Speech Clarity - ongoing
4. Theatre History – 10 weeks
5. Stage Terminology – 1 week
6. Components of a play/musical – 1 week
7. Comedic Farce – 2 weeks
8. Critical Review – 2 weeks
9. Make-up/Costumes – 2 weeks
10. Directing/Choreography - ongoing
11. Scenery/Set Design/Lighting/Sound – 1 week

12. Audition techniques/resume writing – 1 week
13. Production of a play – 4 weeks

SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES:

1. Concentration/Trust Exercises
2. Development of all five senses and imagination through mime exercises.
3. Tongue twisters, word games, voice projection
4. Research of musical composers.
5. Stage direction exercises/ terminology worksheets
6. Poster Design Project
7. “Cold” Script readings
8. Reading newspaper reviews of musicals/writing critical reviews
9. Costume Design Project
10. Study of Musical scripts/scores.
11. Collaborative Set Design
12. Computer use for resume writing
13. Choose, rehearse, and perform a children’s play

MATERIALS:

1. Monologue books
2. Scripts from plays/musicals
3. Videos of musicals
4. Costumes
5. Stage (or large area simulating a stage)

METHODS OF ASSISTANCE AND ENRICHMENT:

1. Computer research for costume design, composers, history/synopsis of plays
2. Attend a live production of a play/musical

PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT:

1. Resume (and photo, if available)
2. Critical Reviews
3. Costume/Poster projects
4. Performances

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

1. Collaborative evaluations of monologues, scene readings
2. Quizzes
3. Projects
4. Class participation/performance

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES:

1. Concepts
 - Acting technique
 - Understanding musicals in relation to history and culture
 - Collaborative effort towards a performance

2. Communication
 - Working together on improvisation skills and skit writing
 - Speech clarity when delivering monologues or play lines
3. Thinking/Problem Solving
 - Designing costumes
 - Designing sets
 - Designing a poster and logo
 - Spontaneous improvisation
4. Application of Knowledge
 - Group development of skits
 - Performance in a play
5. Interpersonal Skills
 - Group dynamics
 - Peer evaluations
 - Collaboration towards a production