



FINE ARTS 8 Drama

~ Course Overview ~

Mr. Featherstone

(Please Note: this may change due to time restrictions or at the instructor's discretion)



An Introduction to Drama

What is Drama?

Drama comes from the Greek word for “doing”. Drama is active, participatory, and involved. Drama 8 is an exploratory course designed to develop the student’s abilities to express ideas and emotions vocally and physically in a controlled, monitored, and safe environment. Any drama, however, involves risk: “Without embracing risk, there can be no progress and no adventure.” (Anne Bogart)

Many of the skills you will learn in Drama 8, whether or not you ever take a drama course again, will be useful in your life. Drama will help build your self-confidence and your ability to express yourself honestly. You will be able to get your ideas across more easily and more clearly, both in writing and in person.

Each one of you will determine what drama is for you. It is up to you how much of yourself you put into it. Drama will be a reflection of who you are and where you are in your life. Through drama, you will find out more about what is inside you, and that part will find expression, for your own well-being, as well as the enrichment of others.

Remember! Drama is an active, participatory class! You get out as much as you are willing to put in. Use your body, your voice, your imagination, and your memory and have FUN!

General Overview:

During this semester rotation, you will experience a ‘crash course’ in what drama is. Students will be exposed to:

- ❖ Drama as a venue for self-expression. Students will develop speaking and interacting skills in front of a group or audience
- ❖ Drama as an artistic vehicle for creativity and imagination. Students will learn drama exercises and theatre games that will incorporate theatre language.
- ❖ Improvisation and Theatre Sports (as seen on “Whose Line is it Anyway?” etc.)
- ❖ Non-verbal Communication, specifically object and character mime.
- ❖ Formal Drama and Theatre vocabulary
- ❖ Script and scene-work.

Big Ideas:

- ❖ Identity is explored, expressed, and impacted through drama experiences.
- ❖ Drama provides opportunities to gain insight into perspectives and experiences of people from a variety of times, places, and cultures.
- ❖ Collaborative drama experiences can build community and nurture relationships with others.
- ❖ Drama uses a unique sensory language for creating and communicating.

What do I Bring to Class?

- ❖ Wear **comfortable clothing!** Drama involves a great deal of movement so wear something in which you are comfortable sitting on the floor. Shoes will be left by the door to protect our stage.
- ❖ **Duotang/binder section** filled with lined paper. You will be keeping a learning journal throughout the term and will need to have a place to keep any handouts given in class.
- ❖ **Pen/Pencil** – something with which to write.



Evaluation:

- ❖ Evaluation will consist of self-evaluation, group (peer) evaluation and instructor evaluation of effort, participation and growth.
- ❖ *From the instructor perspective:* because this class is based upon development of skills, participation and personal growth, each student will receive a mark out of 5 every class.
- ❖ Unexcused absences automatically receive a “0”.
- ❖ The instructor will also give grades for honest reflection and learning revealed in journal entries.
- ❖ **Daily work, journal reflections, notes and general use of rehearsal time** are worth **25%** per term.
- ❖ **Presentations, performances & longer assignments** are worth **75%**

Expectations:

- ❖ **USE THE WASHROOM BETWEEN CLASSES.** If you must go, ASK TO LEAVE THE THEATER (Note: only one person will be allowed to leave the theater at a time)
- ❖ **ARRIVE ON TIME.** People arriving late interrupts the class and inhibits the creative process.
- ❖ **DO NOT BRING FOOD, DRINKS OR ELECTRONIC DEVICES INTO THE THEATRE.** A WATER BOTTLE is fine as long as it has a working lid.
- ❖ **Leave any valuables in your locker** or better yet at home
- ❖ **REMAIN IN THE THEATRE** at all times during classes, unless otherwise instructed. Do not go into the storage rooms or office unless asked.
- ❖ **LISTEN CAREFULLY TO ALL INSTRUCTIONS.** The room is large, and my voice is merely human.
- ❖ **RESPECT EACH OTHER AND OUR WORKING SPACE.** NEVER belittle or ridicule anyone, no matter what they do. Extend this respect to the theatre facility and treat it as your own space. Do not touch any of the props, set pieces, or costumes without permission from the instructor.
- ❖ **TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND OTHERS.** Stay healthy, drink lots of water, get plenty of fresh air and sleep.
- ❖ **A note on LANGUAGE** – this is a creative class and I appreciate that “creative moments” do happen. However, derogatory or offensive language has NO place in our theatre –
- ❖ **Treat your fellow classmates as you would like to be treated.**

Health and Safety:

Please wash your hands before entering the theatre (room 167). Masks are optional in the school. Please be respectful of each individual choice in the matter. Thank you for respecting the health, safety, and wellbeing of the community.

Hybrid Learning:

All class communication and assignments will be posted on Microsoft Teams. Please take the time to refamiliarize yourself with this platform and ask lots of questions as we get started. Use the ‘Class Notebook’ in Teams as our online classroom to track class progress, reference notes, watch video tutorials, and more!

Semester System:

Our Drama 8 class will take place over approximately 6 weeks (28 sessions). Attendance and consistent engagement are extremely important.

Communication:

- ❖ Find me in and around the theatre and drama area – my office is backstage.
- ❖ Send me any (appropriate) email if you have questions about class, upcoming assignments etc. at – **gfeatherstone@sd44.ca**
- ❖ Any questions you or your parents/guardians may have may be directed to me at any time.
- ❖ I am available for help with course work, to answer questions or if students would like to borrow costumes for non-drama assignments. Please don’t hesitate to drop by.
- ❖ Keep me in the loop about what’s going on and we’ll have an awesome term!



PARENT/STUDENT CONTRACT

Please sign below that you and your parent/guardian have read and understand the expectations and requirements for this course. Please return signed form to the teacher by _____, _____ (Period __)

(Parent/guardian name)

(Parent/guardian signature)

(Date)

(Preferred contact number or email)

(Student Name)

(Student signature)