Theater (Foundations I) Mrs. Bertler

Theatre/Music room

2012- 2013

Course Scope:

*This semester long course is designed to help the student find meaning in works of theatre art through the study and appreciation of theater as an art form, and construct meaning in the works of art through the study and skill development of theatre techniques in the creation of that theatre art form. This is the entry-level course that introduces these two concepts.*

*No prerequisite course is required.*

Course Goals:

*The Utah State Theatre Arts Core divides each of the goals into standards which organize the curriculum into manageable and related units representing the artistry and craft of theatre as well as the critical thinking essential to the theatre process. Each standard is broken into objectives and each objective into indicators. A scoring box is placed to the left of each objective. The student scores his or her achievement within each objective using a number ranging from 0 to 10. A legend is provided wherein the student and teacher tally both the average score from the objective boxes and the total number of indicators the class has studied.*

*\*The following standards in this course will be mastered: Scriptwriting: (character and plot), Acting: (movement, voice, emotional recall, characterization and rehearsal techniques) and Constructing Meaning (applying life skills and self assessment).*

*Technology requirements for this class include existing school theatre equipment such as fly systems, lighting/sound systems and equipment and stage craft equipment.*

Materials:

*Students will be using various play scripts from recognized authors, resource worksheets and diagrams as well as activities from Introduction to Theater Arts (PDF student handbook copies) These resources may be used anytime and scripts can be signed out ensuring that it will be returned in the condition it was loaned out and on the day agreed by both the teacher and the student. Any damages to the loaned out material will be on the responsibility of the student. Students are expected to bring a 3-ring binder with college or wide ruled paper, which will serve as a Theater Notebook.*

***\*Students will be required to bring costumes, props and scripts on occasion (especially when used with personal written scenes***

***\*Recommended (but optional) dance slippers***

***\*Materials in the classroom/theater/storage/shop are not to be used by students without permission and supervision of the teacher***

Evaluation Criteria:

*Since this is mainly a performance class,* ***performance*** *will equal* ***75%*** *of the student’s grade. Performances will be graded on the overall presentation. Aspects of each overall performance (including, but not limited to, believability, interpretation, character development, voice, blocking* *etc) will be figured into overall score and a total will be established for the performance. A rubric handout with a breakdown of points for each assignment will be given to the students before each performance. Students will be required to see two productions (one each semester)*

*Participation points will be awarded for attending these productions, Quail Run plays or musicals productions can meet this requirement. Students may attend Quail Run productions for free with student ID. Special family rates will be offered for performance participating students.*

***In-class assignments*** *(bell work, journals, quizzes and projects) will comprise* ***25%*** *of the student’s grade.*

*The student’s* ***final*** *will comprise* ***10%*** *of the semester grade*

Minimum performance requirements for grading

1. *Stay in character*
2. *Learn basic blocking techniques*
3. *Utilize facial expressions and gestures*
4. *React to other actors and situations*
5. *Motivate action*
6. *Incorporate action and dialogue*
7. *Exhibit varying emotional intensities*
8. *Memorize lines as required in a scene*

***\*It is up to the students to prepare scenes for performance and critique (this will be mainly done during class-time) however on occasion the student will need to prepare some scenes and projects on their own time.***

Make-up work:

*Scenes for presentation will be assigned at the beginning of each unit.*

*Students must perform on their assigned day. With so many scenes to be presented, students will be expected to perform on their performance day; especially since many of the scenes will involve other members of their class. If they are not here, the old adage of “the show must go on” applies and your scene will be presented without you. You will receive 0 credit for the assignment, with the only exception of excused absences, and then this policy will apply: “After any absence, students shall be required to initiate contact with the teacher to obtain appropriate makeup work within three days directly following the absence. Once contact has been made determined by the teacher, a minimum of three days for each day of absence will be required.)*

There is no guaranteed extra credit for this class**.** *A student needs to be receiving 85% or higher to fill out and submit a form of approval. The request may be denied if the student failed to stay on top of the required 85% mastery and behavior expectations.*

Written “make-up work” assignments (after an absence) *can be attained in the binder marked “make-up” at the front of the classroom. The binder is divided by class period and the absent student’s name will be marked on the written assignment. The returning absent student’s name will be marked on the written assignment. The returning absent student will be directed to consult this “Make-up” binder first and to then ask Mrs. Bertler what he/she missed. If a test or quiz is missed, the student is to see me to establish a time to make up the assignment.*

Grade Reporting

*Individual student grades and lesson plans are accessible online for parents and students under the district’s website. Grades will be updated on a weekly basis. Formal grades will be distributed each nine weeks. All assignments will be distributed back to the students after they have been graded and recorded.*

Late Work

*All late work should be turned in to the basket at the front of the class. For each day an assignment is late, 10 points will be deducted for the maximum value. If a student is absent the day an assignment was due****, it will be due the day the student returns.***

When working in class expectations

1. *Students are to show respect at all times(including property)*
2. *Students are to stay “on task” at all times(no talking during bell work time)*
3. *Noise level should be kept to a minimum*
4. *Distractions such as personal grooming/texting etc...will not be tolerated*
5. *Bathrooms are to be used on a request basis only (one student at a time with pass)*

Rehearsal expectations

1. *Bring your script and a pencil every day*
2. *Work only in your group unless otherwise instructed*
3. *Keep criticism respectful and constructive*
4. *All props and equipment must be put away (5 min) before transitional activity*

Performance expectations

1. *Be quiet and still, and have supplies ready in advance*
2. *Be supportive before, during, and after performances*
3. *Only offer constructive criticism (when asked to do so)*
4. *During a performance, no one should leave or enter*
5. *There will be no “make-ups” for poor performances*

\*Follow all school rules, regarding punctuality, attendance and dress code

Results for behavior infractions

1. *Verbal warning 2.)Student will answer in essay style the sign form below 3.)Phone call home/form goes home with returned parental signature 4.) Parent/teacher/student conference 5.)School referral*

**\*Behavior infraction form will include the following:**

*What rule did you break? Explain*

*Why have you been having trouble following this rule?*

*What could you personally do to take more responsibility for your own actions?*

*Set at least two goals and explain each.*

*The parent/student will sign the form*

Incentive Plan

*Students who receive* ***85% or higher*** *on all* ***completely finished*** *course work each week will have the opportunity of* ***free-time on Fridays****, in which they will be able to choose between the* ***following activities: free reading of their favorite novel while seating on the bean bag chair, extra credit assignment opportunity (10% extra) or the playing of board games with a partner****. Students are to not bother those who are still working on required coursework.*

*They will also have their name put in a jar for a monthly draw for prizes. Once a month I will draw four different names. These students will get to choose from my bin (full of prizes) such as posters, journals, stuffed animals, and small prizes etc…*

Hours of availability

*I will be available most week days and evenings, except on Tuesdays, between* ***2-3pm*** *and* ***7-9 pm******(****with the exception of performances and/ or rehearsals)****.*** *Please don’t hesitate to contact me. I will be happy to answer any question to the best of my ability and make adjustments where necessary. I can be reached at 801-692-3401 or via email at hbertler@gmail.com*

*Both you and your parent/guardian are to sign these expectations by* ***August 23, 2012***

\*If you are new, you have four days from the day I give this to you.

Detach and hand in next page before the deadline so your child can participate in our first drawing, thank you.

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**Student name Date**

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**Student Signature Date**

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**Parent/Guardian signature Date**

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**Phone number #1 Phone number #2**