

# Theatre & Performing Arts

## Technical Theatre

### Key Instructional Activities

#### **CREATING**

- Explore and utilize the elements of design and principles of composition for a theatrical context.
- Create basic to advanced technical elements by choosing appropriate materials, tools, and techniques.
- Analyze and/or develop choices in technical elements of informal and formal productions and theatrical texts as a part of the design process, considering mood, tone, and symbolism.
- Create industry standard paperwork as it relates to completing design renderings and/or models.
- Conceptualize and/or generate design elements for a dramatic work.

#### **PRODUCING**

- Identify, explain, and demonstrate standard safety guidelines and operating procedures for tools and equipment used in formal and informal theatre productions, interpret design and construction documentation, materials, techniques, and procedures for production.
- Differentiate between stock and non-standard material, scenic, or technical elements related to a production.
- Conduct initial research about design to inform further development of the production concept and explore and/or produce an appropriate series of design documentation for a theatrical production.

#### **RESPONDING**

- Revise projects, plans, and/or procedures after peer criticism to improve development of technical elements.
- Identify and analyze the characteristics of different types of performance spaces and how they can influence production decisions.
- Evaluate design choices of professional designers.
- Evaluate design and technical elements in a post mortem following the completion of a theatre production.

#### **CONNECTING**

- Explore and understand the collaborations between designers and directors to develop design elements.
- Investigate the history of theatre architecture, stage technology, and other technical elements.
- Understand technical theatre career options and various industry unions.
- Explore connections with other disciplines associated with technical theatre.

In Technical Theatre, your student will explore the definition, design, and use of technical elements associated with theatre sets, props, costumes, makeup, lights, and sound.



HOUSTON COUNTY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS

*By the conclusion of  
Technical Theatre, all  
students are expected to:*

- *Design and create props, costumes, and sets using materials, tools, and techniques.*
- *Adhere to safety guidelines in the shop and utilize research to develop concept designs for a number of productions.*
- *Examine examples of professional designs and use design deductions to influence student projects and plans within the classroom.*
- *Collaborate with other students and developers to devise, examine, alter, and refine design concepts and products for the theatre.*

# Helping Your Student in Fundamentals of Theatre

Learning does not end in the classroom. Students need help and support at home to succeed in their studies. Try to craft a creative place for your student to study, create, discover, rehearse, and carve out time every day when your student can concentrate on exploring theatre arts uninterrupted by friends, brothers or sisters, or other distractions. Sit down with your student at least once a week for a few moments to while he or she works on theatre assignments. Ask them to read what they wrote, demonstrate a new skill, or share a recent performance. This will keep you informed about what your student is working on and share in their journey as they discover more about theatre.

- Discuss performances together. Watch movies, plays, read scripts together and discuss what you liked about the technical elements of the performances. How might you recreate props using household objects?
- It is okay to make mistakes. Measure twice, but once. If your student expresses apprehension, remind them that this is a new activity for everyone in class. Many times the best designs are not the first draft. Evaluate each projects and how it can be approved. Always strive to improve your work.
- Encourage your student to share the designs they create in class and applaud their growth. Your support is key as your student delves into the unknown.
- Encourage your student to keep the designs they create, note the steps they might take to design and produce elements from history that are no longer available such as the harpsichord from Amadeus, and even journal about the ideas they have after completing activities in class.
- Attend a live performance with your student, whether it is a school, community, touring, or professional production. Focus on the importance of the contribution of technical elements with your student.
- Help your student by reviewing theatre terminology with information in preparation for quizzes and tests.
- If your student is interested in reading more about technical theatre, *The Backstage Handbook* by Paul Carter is an excellent resource.

