

# Theatre & Performing Arts

## Fundamentals of Theatre

### Key Instructional Activities

#### CREATING

- Recognize and interpret artistic choices in performance.
- Differentiate between dramatic and traditional literary writing and utilize common steps of the playwriting process.
- Assess the need for script analysis, concept development, and directorial and technical concerns of a theatrical script.
- Construct and critique elements of dramatic structure, character, and dialogue.
- Create and perform scenes for audiences.

#### PERFORMING

- Observe and demonstrate aspects of verbal and non-verbal techniques in common human activity for performance.
- Construct and interpret artistic choices in performance including the objectives, decisions, and actions of characters.
- Explore various acting methods and techniques.
- Perform acting choices for an audience based on critiques.
- Use the basic elements and procedures involved in the construction of props, scenery, and platforms.

#### RESPONDING

- Articulate why the relationship between the audience and performers is critical to the success of the production and demonstrate appropriate audience behavior.
- Generate and use terminology for critiquing theatre presentations.

#### CONNECTING

- Examine how theatre reflects real life.
- Analyze how theatre employs aspects of other art forms and disciplines to effectively communicate with a live audience.
- Demonstrate awareness of the discipline, knowledge, skills, and education required for careers in theatre.
- Explore various careers in the theatre arts.
- Identify and analyze plays and dramas from a variety of historical periods and cultures.
- Recognize historical events that have influenced the role of theatre and how theatrical events have impacted cultural development.
- Interpret cultural and historical research for use in a production.

In Fundamentals of Theatre, your student will investigate theatre by exploring the techniques and origins of a wide variety of theatre in various cultures and periods.



HOUSTON COUNTY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS

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

- *Create scenes utilizing a variety of acting techniques and approaches and sharing these scenes on stage.*
- *Provide honest and constructive critique to classroom peers to better performances and receive critiques to implement and improve as an actor.*
- *Use theatre terminology effectively to discuss, critique, analyze, and evaluate theatre performances.*
- *Understand the variety of theatre opportunities e.g. performance, design, production, administrative, education, promotion.*

# 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 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 performances and what you did not like and why.
- It is okay to be nervous. If your student expresses “stage fright”, remind them that this is a new activity for everyone in class. Sometimes we have to fall of the horse before we learn to ride. Take that nervous energy and turn it into adrenaline.
- Encourage your student to demo what they do in class and applaud their growth. Your support is key as your student delves into the unknown.
- Encourage your student to keep the scenes they write, jot down the ideas they have in class, and even journal about the activities they complete in class. Students often mention the first scenes they do on-stage.
- Attend a live performance with your student, whether it is a school, community, touring, or professional production. There is nothing compared to a live performance.
- Help your student by reviewing theatre terminology with information in preparation for quizzes and tests.
- Help your student by encouraging them as they memorize lines for performance. Several students worry about learning lines, but working on it with you will demonstrate your interest and help them as they learn the lines.
- Read articles about theatre to discuss with your student. Online sources such as <https://dramatics.org/>, <https://www.thestage.co.uk/>, and <https://www.stagelightmagazine.com/> discuss topics affecting theatre around the world.

