

# Theatre 2

2022~23



**Theatre 2: Intermediate Theatre**  
Syllabus 2022-2023

**Instructor:** Mr. Laramie Dean (he/him)  
**Email:** ldcarsen@mcpsmt.org  
**Phone:** X6077  
**Room/Office:** Auditorium / 124C

Welcome to Theatre II here at Hellgate High! I'm excited to have you in this class and I'm looking forward to working with you. Throughout the year we will explore more deeply many areas of the world of theatre touched upon in Theatre 1, which can be challenging as well as fun. No matter if you are destined for a career on the stage or you end up feeling a little more comfortable standing up in front of a group of people, you will have the opportunity to use the skills you gain in this class to improve your life as you see fit.

This class requires active participation. You are expected to stand up and perform in front of the class alone and in groups. You will be asked to write and share your writing. You will be asked to memorize texts written by you and others. You will be graded on participation, which includes your consideration of your instructor and your classmates, your effort, and your continued enthusiasm.

Remember: Theatre II requires thinking outside the box and stepping outside your comfort zone. **Be brave!**

**Course Overview:** (from Missoula County Public School's course catalog)

"Students will become acquainted with several selected areas of theatre: including presentation and technical work. Students will gain advanced knowledge and appreciation of the theatre. Public and in-class performances will be a central feature of this class. **Students will be assessed on preproduction tasks and through in-class and public performances.**"

**I expect that each student will approach every assignment in this class with curiosity and enthusiasm.**

**Basic Class Expectations:**

- **Be Respectful and Kind**
- **Be Prepared and On Time**
- **Participate and Do Your Best**

**How to get an A in Theatre II:**

- be on time and be prepared (this means having a folder, a notebook, and a writing utensil...**EVERY CLASS.**)
- have a positive attitude and HAVE FUN!!!
- be respectful to teacher and classmates.
- participate.
- show an enthusiasm for theatre.

## **Class time:**

At Hellgate, being on time means that you are in your seat when the bell rings with your materials out, ready to go. Therefore, class begins when the bell rings. You will sit in the first two/three rows of the middle section of the theatre. If there is a change in location, there will be a note attached to the theatre doors.

When you are in the theatre, I expect you to be focused on theatre. I ask that you not work on other homework or do anything unrelated to class.

If you have to leave the theatre, please ask first. There is no guarantee that you will be allowed to leave, however.

## **Theatre Rules**

**Take pride in our theatre and backstage areas. Treat them with respect.**

- No running, monkey business, or horseplay – anywhere. Be safe and responsible!
- Please keep your feet off the seats and encourage others to keep theirs off as well.
- No writing on or defacing the seats, walls, curtains, furniture, props, costumes, etc.
- Handle only that equipment or material needed for an assignment. If you haven't been authorized to touch it, don't touch it. Simple as that.
- You may not leave the auditorium or backstage areas without permission.
- You are responsible for completely cleaning up your work area.
- No food, drinks, or **GUM** anywhere. Bottled water is allowed. If you bring food or drink to class, I will ask that you throw it away when the bell rings. You will not be allowed to stash it for later.

## **Cell phones/headphones/other electronic devices:**

Electronic devices are **prohibited** unless otherwise instructed. **(They have become a huge problem/distraction recently.)** I do not allow head phones or ear buds in ears, even if music is not on. Do not take photos or record video unless given permission. Turn off watches that act as phones do, allowing connections to text messaging, social media, etc.

## **Grading:**

I follow the standard (90% = A, 80% = B, etc.) grading format.

### **Every day you need to bring the following items:**

- pencil/pen/writing utensil and a notebook specifically for Theatre class
- scripts or **anything else** I have told you to bring ahead of time

**\*\*If you don't have these items, do not ask me. I do not supply them. You will be unable to participate without the proper materials, and, if you choose not to bring them, your participation grade will reflect your choices. \*\***

**Assignments:** There will be written assignments. Assignments are always due at the beginning of the period. **Late work will be subject to loss of 10 % per day.**

**Academic Honesty:** I expect that all my students will be honest in the accomplishment on tests, homework, papers, or projects. I will follow school policy: Students guilty of cheating/plagiarism will receive a zero on that assignment. If a student is guilty of cheating/plagiarism a second time, he/she will be immediately dropped from that class and an “F” will be recorded for the semester.

**Google Classroom:** You are expected to use Google Classroom when directed. There may be assignments, surveys, and videos posted that I expect you to utilize **outside of class**. I will post digital copies of anything I hand out in class there as well: **if you are absent (or know you’re going to be absent) it is your responsibility to use Google Classroom to help keep yourself on track.**

**Attendance:** Class time is very important. If you are absent, **it is your responsibility to make up the work.** Do not expect me to come after you about it.

- If you need clarification or don’t understand something, ask me questions before the bell rings or during Office Hours. I am happy to set up a meeting time with you.

If the absence is school-related or you are aware of absence before it happens, it is ***your responsibility*** to pick up any assignments before you leave. These assignments are due when you return. Depending on length and circumstance of absence, due dates may be adjusted. Please see me and make arrangements. In order to make up the ten participation points you missed due to an excused or school-related absence, you must perform a makeup assignment. These will be posted weekly on Google Classroom. **Advocate for yourself. Don’t disappear. Stay in touch. Reach out.**

A large portion of this class is based on performance. If you are absent for a performance day and your absence is UNEXCUSED, you will receive a zero. If you are excused, we can reschedule your performance depending on the assignment. For the public performances, this can prove to be extremely difficult. **Please commit to this class.**

Because theatre is based on group work, your fellow classmates are depending on you. Attendance is of the highest importance in this class: how can you participate if you’re not here?

If you know you have attendance problems or will be unable to participate in the public performances, please consider your ability to commit to this class. Also, because others are depending on you, you must be prepared. I cannot stress this enough. You will have lines to memorize. You will have movement to memorize. There are times when you can rehearse in class, but a good deal of the work must be done **outside of class.**

**Participation Rubric**  
**Theatre 1, 2, 3, 4**  
**Mr. Dean**

Students earn a maximum of 10 participation points per class period.

Ways to earn daily participation points:

- Demonstrate kindness toward your teacher and fellow classmates
- Follow the theatre rules outlined in your syllabus
- Arrive to class on time
- Come to class prepared
  - Always bring a notebook/folder, writing utensil, and whatever script or handout we're working on
- Demonstrate a positive attitude
- Offer respect to teacher and classmates
- Demonstrate safe, responsible behavior
- Show an enthusiasm for the study of theatre

Ways to lose daily participation points:

- Unexcused absence: 0/10 (minus 10)
- Gum in mouth after class begins: 5/10 (minus 5)
- Eating or drinking non-water after class begins: 5/10 (minus 5)
- Unprepared for work/rehearsal: 5/10 (minus 5)
  - Not having required materials (pen, paper, scripts, props, costume pieces, etc.)
  - Not knowing your lines/blocking
- Lack of focus on classwork: 5/10 (minus 5 for each reminder)
  - This may include, but is not limited to:
    - Conversing with another classmate about topics unrelated to Drama class or the task at hand
    - Talking while another person is talking (teacher, classmates, guest speakers, etc.)
    - Talking during a film or performance



**Be Safe.**  
**Be Respectful.**  
**Be Responsible.**  
**Be a Graduate.**  
**Be a KNIGHT!**

## COURSE OUTLINE

- 8/31-9/10: How to audition (keeping your place in the class)
  - Auditions: 9/6, 9/7, 9/8
- 9/9-9/26: Voice
  - 9/23 and 9/26: Cartoon voices!
- 9/27-10/4: Improvisation and devised theatre practices
- 10/5-10/24: Solo performance and monologue writing
  - 10/18, 19, 24: Final monologue performances (in class)
- 10/24-12/9: Film study and *mis-en-scene*
  - 12/7, 8, 9: Final performances (in class)
  - Films studied:
    - *Vertigo, All About Eve, Smoke Signals, Chicago, Little Shop of Horrors*
- 1/3-2/10: Physical theatre (with professional choreographer from Bare Bait)
  - 2/9: Physical theatre performance (in class)
- 2/13-3/10: Design for the Theatre
- 3/14-4/25: Writing, Designing, Staging a Performance for Children
  - 4/25: performance for an **audience**
- 4/26-6/7: Musical theatre
  - Films studied:
    - *Singin in the Rain, Sweeney Todd, Dreamgirls, In the Heights*

These dates are subject to change.

**PERFORMANCE DATES for *Charlotte's Web*: 10/27, 28, 29 @ 7:30**

**PERFORMANCE DATES for *She Kills Monsters*: 2/23, 24, 25 @ 7:30**

# HOW TO MAKE UP EXCUSED ABSENCES

Absences happen. Often they are excused. However, in a performance class, *even an excused absence must be made up somehow.*

**It is always your responsibility to check with me to see what you missed. I will not track you down.**

- I will post weekly makeup assignments on Google Classroom.
- If you miss an in-class rehearsal day, it will be up to you to arrange a time to meet with your partner if you are working on a scene to make up the rehearsal; for a monologue, you'll need to come in before school or during Office Hours to put in the time you missed.
- If you miss an in-class performance day, you will need to set up a time with me to make it up **outside of class.**

# **Ten Things That Require Zero Talent (But Will Get You 100 % Respect)**

1. Being on time.
2. Work ethic.
3. Effort.
4. Body language.
5. Energy.
6. Attitude.
7. Passion.
8. Being coachable.
9. Doing extra.
10. Being prepared.



Please fill out this page with your parents/guardians.  
Students, please keep the rest of this syllabus with you for classes.  
I may refer to it from time to time.

## THEATRE 2 Students and Parents:

I have read this document and understand the policies and procedures of Mr. Dean's class.

I am aware that it is my right to request a meeting at any time during the year to discuss the enforcement of these rules and policies or any other issues related to class.

\_\_\_\_\_ Print Student's Name

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ **Student** Signature & Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Print Parent/Guardian's Name

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ **Parent/Guardian** Signature & Date

Parents/Guardians: Please provide phone number and/or e-mail address. If listing phone, please let me know the best time of day to contact you.

Best way to be contacted (Circle one):

Phone

E-Mail