

BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL
THEATRE DEPARTMENT
THEATRE II, III, IV, IB



STUDENT
HANDBOOK

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BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE

Take the elective classes with *enthusiasm* and *desire* to learn all that you can.

The curricular offerings for the BSHS Theatre Department are as follows:

Theatre I - Intro to Theatre: Open to any student of any grade level enrolled at Big Sky High School

Theatre II - Intermediate Theatre: By consent of instructor and audition interview – grades 10 -12

Theatre III - Advanced Theatre: By audition only – primarily in grades 11 -12.

Theatre IV – Advanced Theatre: By audition only – students in grades 12 who have completed Theatre II and III.

Technical Theatre: By consent of instructor – students should have completed and passed Theatre I to be enrolled in this course. Course is for students primarily in grades 11-12 but open to any grade level upon consent.

Film Studies: By consent of instructor - students should have completed and passed Theatre I to be enrolled in this course. Primarily for students in 11-12 grade but open to grade 10 upon consent.

Movement for the Theatre: Open to any student of any grade level enrolled at Big Sky High School

IB Theatre: Standard Level and High Level – Two-year program beginning Junior Year.
Prerequisite – Theatre I

Educational Theatre Leadership – Teaching (TA/Peer Tutor or Advocacy) Upper level students by consent of Instructor only. (TA for Theatre I class)

Extra-Curricular Program:

School Plays: By audition only – extra-curricular, generally the elite students dedicated to theatre and performing. Open to all grade levels. Any student enrolled at Big Sky High School may audition for the plays or technical positions. Although not a requirement, it is often helpful for students who wish to participate in all school productions to have completed Theatre I.

Thespians: By Membership only. Members of this extra-curricular, elite troupe have earned the right to be honored as Thespians through points earned working on upper level class performances and outside of class activities. This program is offered to any student enrolled at Big Sky High School who has completed the requirements to earn membership into the Big Sky High School International Thespian Honor Society of Troupe 3090.

Travel Opportunities: Each year there may be opportunities for students to go on special trips arranged through the Theatre Department. Students who wish to be able go on these trips must be academically eligible, able to pay all fees/funds before the trip begins, and approved by the Theatre Instructor to go on the trip. Trips may include Spokane – day trip, New York –weeklong trip, and Nebraska to attend the International Thespian Festival – Summer trip.



BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE

STUDENT EVALUATION / GRADING

Grading Policy

Theatre is unique to the curriculum in that it is a performance-based organization. Students involved in Theatre classes must understand that each class scheduled day is considered a necessary part of the class curriculum and will be treated as such. It is the philosophy of the department that each student is responsible to not only him or herself, but is responsible to other students for participation in class work and class performances.

Basic Class Expectations:

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

The following areas will be used for grading purposes.

I. Daily Participation and Attendance: Daily "in class" work will consist of warm-up exercises, rehearsal of performance material, note taking, reading of plays, and various other dramatic exercises. Students have the opportunity to 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
- Show an enthusiasm for the study of theatre

Ways to lose daily participation points:

- Unexcused absence: 0/10 (minus 10)
- Late to class 4/10 (minus 6)
- Gum in mouth after class begins: 5/10 (minus 5)
- Hat on head 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.

As individuals, we each need to be responsible for self-discipline. This requires ***Integrity***.

Essentially this means: Doing the right thing even when we don't feel like it

Students who are consistently earning 0 points on weekly basis will be asked to leave the class permanently as they are disruptive to the education of the other students.



BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE

Attendance Policy

Tardies: Students are tardy if they are not in their assigned seat when the bell rings. For each tardy within a semester, six points will be deducted from your Daily Participation grade. Students who are consistently tardy will be referred to the office.

School-Sponsored Absences: No loss of daily participation points. Student must inform the classroom teacher in advance that they will be missing class due to a school sponsored activity. Students must make up any assigned written work within one week of the absence or the student will receive a "0" on the assignment.

Excused Absences: The first three class absences within a semester will not affect your grade. For each additional class absence, you will receive a zero for your daily participation grade. Make up work may be assigned for any rehearsal missed due to excused absences. It is the student's responsibility to ask for missed assignments.

Performance Absences: Absences from performances may be excused by the instructor in the event of serious illness or family emergency. School activities conflicting may also be excused **if arranged IN ADVANCE** between the instructors involved. A written note must verify excused absences or phone call from a parent/ guardian or school affiliated coach. Excused absences must be made up using materials assigned by the instructor within two weeks of the missed performance. The student is responsible for getting the assignment from the instructor. A percentage grade will be awarded based upon the results of that material. The student may also take the option of making up time in service to the drama department. One night's performance usually consists of 4 hours of time spent working on the production. Students may come in on work-days or after school hours to make up the time. This work will usually consist technical/preparation work for the upcoming production. Material/Time not completed within the state two-week time period and unexcused absences will result in the percentage grade of "0" for that event (letter grade of F).

Unexcused Absences, Suspensions, or Truancy: The student will receive a "0" for daily participation grade or for any other graded activity missed during the absence. This cannot be made up unless otherwise indicated by the school office.

Assignments: There will be a few written assignments. Assignments are always due at the beginning of the period. **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED!!** Be sure to head your papers: Name, Period, Date, and Assignment Name.

Academic Honesty: I expect that all my students will be honest in their accomplishment on tests, homework, papers, or projects. 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.

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 at the end of class/after school. I am happy to set up a meeting time with you.



BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE

STUDENT EVALUATION / GRADING (cont.)

II. Performances: Attendance at Performances is required. Performance attendance is considered to equal a major exam. Each student satisfactorily participating in a performance by arriving on time signing in, wearing the proper performance attire, being ready by the company meeting time and warm up and completing their assigned jobs will be awarded the percentage grade of 100% for that event. Students will be notified of all performance dates at least one month before that performance or sooner, if possible. Students in upper level drama classes are required to attend the Montana State Thespian Festival at the University of Montana.

Each infraction (i.e., tardiness, improper performance behavior, etc.) lowers the student's grade.

It is strongly recommended that student avoid being absent from any performance.

See notes above for performance absences. **Please set aside the evenings you are scheduled to perform. We need you and expect you to be there.**

III. Tests/Written Work: Script writing, resumes/letters, written worksheets, journals, technical drawing & design work, quizzes, tests and/or memorization tests will be given each quarter. Students will be expected to complete all assignments and turn in assignment on time.

All written work, assignments, and performance-based work, must be completed and turned in one week prior to the end of each semester.

No assignments will be accepted after that date.

(Detailed class requirements can be found in the student's classroom folders and included with this handout for parents/guardians)

Performance Attire

The following items are needed throughout the year for various performances.

Men:

Black pants
Black shoes
Black socks
White, collared shirt

Women:

Black bottom (pants or skirt)
Black shoes (no flip-flops)
White top

Tech theatre:

Long Sleeve Black T-Shirt
Short Sleeve Black T-Shirt (provided for you)
Black pants
Black socks
Comfortable Black/dark shoes

Movement for the Theatre:

All Clothes must be ones that you can move in
Black pants
White T-Shirt
Any plain colored T-Shirt



BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE

DRAMA AWARDS & LETTER AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Because of the great amount of time and effort exerted by many Big Sky Drama students in their theatre activities, a letter award is given to afford these students due recognition and incentive. **In order to letter in theatre, one school year, a student must achieve 10 or 100 hours working in the theatre at Big Sky High School. Lettering points/hours are only earned through play productions open to the Big Sky Student body.** (In other words, one cannot letter for class production work or work done in other theatres outside of Big Sky High School.)

Points/hours are achieved through participating in various activities in the theatre including such things as lead roles, stage management, thespian officer duties, etc. All points/hours are based on the recommendations from the International Thespian Honor Society. One point is equal to 10 hours of work in the theatre.

Points will be kept posted by the thespian officers and students will be notified if they have lettered before the end of the year award ceremony. Students may check their lettering points at any time.

Students may also earn the right to become members of the **International Thespian Society**. The International Thespian Society is an honorary society for high school theatre students and has troupes in more than 3,900 North American schools. ITS has inducted more than two million members since its founding in 1929. This society includes many famous actors such as Tom Hanks and Goldie Hawn.

The International Thespian Society is supported by the Educational Theatre Association. The Educational Theatre Association and its International Thespian Society branch have been working since 1929 to honor excellence among students of theatre and support the work of theatre educators. Originally focused on theatre in high schools, EdTA has in recent years broadened the scope of its mission to embrace the concept of theatre as an instrument of lifelong learning and has expanded its membership to include students and teachers in middle schools, and college students preparing for careers in theatre education. You may find out more information about both of these organizations through their website at EdTA.org.

Theatre/Thespian Honor Cords

Theatre students who have become Thespians who have a high GPA and have fulfilled the following requirements will be awarded Blue and Gold Thespian Honor cords to wear during the graduation ceremony. Requirements for these cords include the following:

- Thespian member in good standing i.e. dues paid and attending meetings. (please check to see that you have all your fees paid by June 1st)
- Earned Varsity Letter
- Earned 40 or more Thespian Points
- Held Thespian Office
- High G.P.A. Approved by Senior Councilor

Performance Endorsement Students may earn this endorsement by completing the requirements listed in the endorsement handbook found in the Big Sky High School counseling office.

**Take pride in our theatre and backstage areas. Treat them with respect.
It's all we have.**



BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE

School Policies

Cell Phone Policy: According to the Big Sky High Student Handbook, student possession and use of cellular phones on school grounds is a privilege. School authorities reserve the right to restrict the use of cell phones during school hours. High school students may use cell phones on campus before school begins, during the lunch period, and after the instructional day. They must be kept out of sight and turned off during the instructional day including passing time between classes.

During performances, students will not be allowed to have cell phones on stage or back stage. Lock boxes will be provided for valuable items such as phones, ipods, wallets, etc.

Dress Code: According to the Big Sky High School Student Handbook, students are expected to wear clothing that does not distract from the learning environment.

The theatre instructor will inform students of the specific dress code when students are traveling or going on special trips. It is expected that this dress code is followed. No holes in jeans/pants will be allowed to be worn when traveling as theatre group with Big Sky HS.

ALL OTHER SCHOOL POLICIES APPLY (See Student Handbook)

General Classroom Rules

- 1. Be on time. Be on time to class, rehearsals, and for evening show call time.**
Being on time includes being ready to go to work. Please be respectful of time, we work together and being late slows everyone down.
- 2. No hats or dark glasses are to be worn during class.**
- 3. All electronic devices one listens to must be stored away during class time. No students should have any headphones/ear buds plugged into their ears at any time.**
- 4. Cell phones must be kept in backpacks/ purses left by the door. Cell phones are not allowed to be out or in use during class. (i.e. no texting during class time)**
- 5. 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.**
- 6. No gum, pop, coffee, food or candy is to be in the classroom or stage during class/rehearsal time.** Water bottles only. Please spit out your gum on your way in the room.
- 7. No writing on or defacing** seats, flats/ walls, curtains, furniture, props, costumes, etc.
- 8. You are responsible for completely cleaning up your work area.**

Remember to receive an A you must:

- 1. BE ON TIME, Prepared with a writing utensil for and WORK in every class.**
- 2. Be respectful to teacher and classmates.**
- 3. Participate and Present your work in a creative and skillful manner.**
- 4. Have a positive attitude, show enthusiasm for theatre and HAVE FUN.**
- 5. Complete the class requirements TWO 1 written/1oral critique per semester.**

Each student enrolled in Theatre department classes will have a detailed list of rules and expectations along with course requirements and guidelines in their classroom folders/binders.

DUE TO FERPA Laws - Under no circumstances are students allowed to film or take photos of any students work in the classroom without instructor permission. No student is allowed to use any personal hand-held recording device at any time during class.



BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE

Advanced Theatre Class Requirements

In addition to all class performance requirements, students in the upper level theatre classes will be required to complete the following assignments.

Students are required to see one play a semester outside of Big Sky High School and complete a critique using Aristotle's six elements of theatre as well as a character evaluation of the protagonist or antagonist. Student should be able to discuss the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution of each production. A grade will be given each quarter for student viewed plays. Students should see at least one production a quarter = Two productions a semester.

There will be several opportunities for students to fulfill this requirement throughout the year. For some performances, students will be able to see shows with a group of students and be eligible for group ticket discounts.

Students are required to individually read one play a semester, and read one play as part of a group class assignment. Students will take and construct Reading Counts Tests in conjunction with these four reading assignments. Several play scripts are available in the drama office script library.

Students are required to study one playwright. This includes reading a play written by the selected author and viewing a live performance and filmed version of the playwright's work.

Students are required to participate fully in workshops presented by guest artists.

Workshops may include one or more of the following; playwriting, stage combat, gymnastics and movement, modern and African dance. In some situations, workshops may be offered outside of your scheduled drama class. In those situations, students would need to follow Big Sky High Schools prearranged absent policy in order to participate in the workshop.

Students are required to have a journal and keep journal regular journal entries. Students will be required to keep up with the required monthly theatre assignments and be familiar with basic theatre history, theatre etiquette, musical theatre and vocabulary.

Aristotle's Six Elements of Drama

Plot – what happens in the play; order of events, the story as opposed to theme; what happens rather than what it means.

Theme – what the play means as opposed to what happens (plot); the main idea within the play

Character – the personality or the part an actor represents in a play.

Diction/Language/Dialogue – the word choices made by the playwright and the enunciation of the actors delivering the lines.

Music/Rhythm – by music Aristotle meant the sound, rhythm and melody of the speeches.

Spectacle – the visual elements of the production of a play; the scenery, costumes, and special effects in a production.

Websites students should be familiar with and may find helpful.

Edta.org

Imdb

Playbill.com

Colins Movie Monologue Page

Filmsite.org

Bravotv.com – Inside the Actors Studio

Pbs.org – American Masters actor's studio

IB LEARNER PROFILE

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally-minded people who, recognising their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. IB learners strive to be:

Reflective

Give thoughtful consideration to your own learning and experience.

You are able to assess and understand your strengths and limitations in order to support your learning and personal development.

Open-minded

Understand and appreciate your own culture and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities.

You seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and you are willing to grow from the experience.

Risk-takers

Approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies.

You are brave and articulate in defending your beliefs.

Caring

Show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others.

You have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

Balanced

Understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for yourself and others.



Principled

Act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities.

You take responsibility for your own actions and the consequences that accompany them.

Knowledgeable

Explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, you acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

Inquirers

Have a natural curiosity and learn to acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. You actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

Communicators

Understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. You are willing to work in collaboration with others.

Thinkers

Exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognise and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

The **IB** Learner Profile

