

# BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE DEPARTMENT

## FILM STUDIES



## STUDENT HANDBOOK

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# BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA

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

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

**Drama II:** By consent of instructor and audition interview – grades 10 -12

**Drama III:** By audition only – primarily in grades 11 -12.

**Drama III/IV:** By audition only – students in grades 12 who have completed Drama II and III.

**Technical Theatre:** By consent of instructor – students should have completed and passed Drama I to be enrolled in this course. The 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 Drama 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 Drama:** Standard Level and High Level – Two-year program beginning Junior Year.  
Prerequisite – Drama I

See instructor for more information on any of the above-listed classes.

## **Extra-Curricular Program:**

**School Plays:** By audition only – extra-curricular, generally the elite students dedicated to drama 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 Drama I.

**Thespians:** By Membership only. Members of this extracurricular, 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 Drama 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 Drama 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.

**Film Festivals/Workshops:** Each semester there are film workshops and film festivals for students to participate in. Students may participate as individuals or in small groups. Class participation will follow all Big Sky-High School guidelines on field trips and prearranged class absences.



# BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA

## STUDENT EVALUATION / GRADING

### Grading Policy

Drama is unique to the curriculum in that it is a performance-based organization.

Students involved in Drama 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. The Film Studies program follows the same basic curriculum as all Drama classes within the Big Sky-High School Drama program.

The following areas will be used for grading purposes with a percentage of the student's grade assigned to each area:

**I. Daily Participation and Attendance (35%):** Daily "in class" work will consist of warm-up exercises, film trivia, film history, viewing of films, note taking, basic film vocabulary, filming and editing, screen writing, rehearsal of performance/festival material, and various studies of film techniques. Students have the opportunity to earn up to ten points per class meeting as follows:

A – on time to class in assigned seats when bell rings, prepared to learn, actively positive and responding quickly to instructions, completing daily class and individual projects.	9-10 points
B – on time to class in assigned seats when bell rings, prepared to learn, basically positive, listening, and responding to instructions, working on class and individual projects	7-9 points
C – late to class, neutral, talkative, barely participating responding occasionally to instructions	5-6 points
D/F – late to class, basically negative or disruptive, ignoring instructions and distractive to the class	4-0 points

**Film Studies in class work:** Students may be working in one the following areas during class time; script writing, acting/rehearsing, filming, editing, or viewing films. Students may work at their own pace however; each student will be asked to show progress of their daily work and held accountable for work completed each class session as part of their daily work grade.

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 enrolled in the class.**



# BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA

## **Attendance Policy**

**Tardies:** Students are tardy if they are not in their assigned seat when the bell rings. Each student will be allowed three (free) tardies per semester that will not affect your grade. For each additional tardy within a semester, five 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. Students 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 final class 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. Material/final performances not completed within the stated 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.



# BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL

## DRAMA

### STUDENT EVALUATION / GRADING (cont.)

**II. Class Performance Work (30%): Performances work is required.** Performance is considered equal to a major exam. Each student satisfactorily participating in a performance will receive a passing letter grade based on creativity and skills demonstrated. Performance work in film studies includes; acting, writing/directing, filming and editing.

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

**Please try to make attendance in this class a priority as fellow students are counting on you to be in class and able to perform with the group.**

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

**III. Written Work/Tests & Class Requirements (35%):** Daily written work, Film Reviews, notes, quizzes, tests on films viewed in class will be given each quarter.

**Students are required to view ten (10) films outside of class films some selected from AFI's top 100 films list including a written film review of each film viewed.**

- **Students are required to complete one film project which includes the following assignments: One film project of the student's choice selected from the film class project guidelines, and one commercial following the commercial assignment guidelines.**
- **Students are required to complete group class projects.**
- **Students are required to complete class assignments**
- **Students are required to view and take notes and pass tests on class films that will be during class time.**
- **Students are required to have all Film forms and Permission slips signed by parents and turned into the instructor prior to viewing films and beginning film projects.**
- **Students are required to keep a portfolio of handouts and work completed.**

Note: If any requirement should cause a financial hardship, see the instructor. **Lack of funds/ equipment and or time will not be accepted as an excuse for not fulfilling requirements.** If you have any problems with assignments, see the instructor immediately so that arrangements may be made for you to fulfill this requirement.

**One cannot study film effectively without the experience of viewing a wide variety of films**

**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.**

- **Students will be instructed on proper etiquette, and will be required to be a good audience during all class performances as well as what is appropriate for high school films**

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

- **Students will be required to complete the homework assignments of viewing Television and movies in order to study film.**
- **Students will be instructed on the film industry's film rating system.**
- **Students will be instructed as to where they can find out about upcoming film events, festivals and workshops in Missoula and surrounding areas.**

**Film Students will have opportunities to submit their student produced films to film Festivals/contests, MCAT and to the fall Big Sky-High School Cabaret Show.**

**Film Students may also have opportunities to take field trips to MCAT and UM Film School.** Field trips will follow Big Sky-High School field trip policies.

Being rude, sleeping, reading, working on other assignments, etc, will result in 0 points for work completed in that class period and 0 points for work assigned during class.

**A failure for the semester will result when a student does not carry through with their major requirements, completing their written work, and or performance work.** Your grade per quarter will be broken down into the following categories: 1/3 performance work, 1/3 written work and tests, 1/3 attendance and daily work. Your performance work will be considered in each of these areas. For example, attending class but sleeping does not count for being in class and working. Your semester grade will be figured from the total number of points available for the entire semester.

**Each class period you will work on a performance assignment that will earn points toward a daily work grade.** If you are not in class, you cannot be graded. Due to the nature of this class, rehearsal/film time cannot be made up. Once you have rehearsed and filmed the project for the class period, it is over. There is no extra time for when it is convenient for you to be in class. It is the same as if you were on a basketball team. If you did not get to play in the game, the game is not made up or played over when you can be there.

**As Film/ Drama is on of the arts, not only is it important that the work be well done, but also that it be presented in a creative and skillful manner.** Much of the student's grade will depend on how well he/she can use his/her creative ability.

**Remember to receive an A you must:**

- 1. Complete the class requirements.**
- 2. Present your work in a creative and skillful manner.**
- 3. BE and WORK in class.**

**Extra Credit** Students attending class and completing assignments should not need extra credit. However, viewing extra films or going to film festivals and writing critiques can be used for extra credit. Students may only apply extra credit when all class assignments are completed. Students can earn extra credit points through bringing in examples of advertising in films and or film mistakes. (5 points earned for each example)

**Students are given every opportunity to succeed and earn an A in Film Studies class. The student is responsible for the grade he/she earns and work he/she completes.**



# BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA

## 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 student presentations and the viewing of films, students are not allowed to have phones out and or be using the text options while sitting in the audience/classroom. All alarms, rings, etc should be in silent mode.

**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 drama 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.**

**ALL OTHER SCHOOL POLICIES APPLY.** (See Student Handbook)

## General Classroom Rules

- 1. Be on time. Be on time to class, rehearsals, and for group/class filming.**  
Being on time included 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. No gum, pop, coffee, food or candy is to be in the classroom or stage during class/rehearsal/filming time unless approved by the teacher.**  
Water bottles only. Please spit out your gum on your way in the room.

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



# BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA

We acknowledge that we read and understood the expectations specified in the Big Sky High School Drama Department Handbook. We will comply with its contents.

**DATE DUE: Please return this completed form on or before**  
**Assignment value - worth 200pts**

**DRAMA STUDENTS PRINTED NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature and \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Parent(s)/Guardian Signature and \_\_\_\_\_ Date

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### Emergency Information

1. Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

2. Parent(s)/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

3. Please put the number where you are most easily reached first.

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

4. Address \_\_\_\_\_

5. Students Birth date \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

6. Medical Information: allergies, diabetic, etc...

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**In case of illness or serious injury, I give medical authorities permission to treat my son or daughter.**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name of Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_





# BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA FILM INFORMATION & DUE

**It is expected that students research and find films in Missoula and the surrounding areas that they can view in order to complete the requirement to study film.**

**The following web sites and information may be helpful to the student's study.**

Filmsite.org  
Greatest Films.com  
IMDB  
IFC  
AMC  
Reelz.com  
Turner Classic Movies/Films (TCM)  
Rotten Tomatoes  
Worst Previews.com

Montana Film Office  
Youth Producers Network TCTV  
Roxy Theatre Events  
Montana Independent Film Festival in September  
Cine Film Festival  
AFI Festival  
[www.bigskyfilmfest.org](http://www.bigskyfilmfest.org)  
[www.wildlifefilms.org](http://www.wildlifefilms.org)

<p><b><u>You Tube Resources</u></b></p> <p><b>DSLRGuide</b></p> <p><b>DSLR video shooter</b></p> <p><b>Film Riot</b></p> <p><b>Rocket Jump Film School</b></p> <p><b>Indie Mogul</b></p> <p><b>Wolfcrow</b></p> <p><b>Film Courage</b></p> <p><b>Borgus Network</b></p> <p><b>Now You See It</b></p>
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**Several on site and Production filming opportunities will be made available to interested students.**

**Film Review Due Dates. (Students need to see 10 films) See Handout or Film Class Project Due Dates for all other class assignments.**

- 9-29 Review # 1**
- 10-6 Review # 2**
- 10-20 Review # 3**
- 11- 3 Review # 4**
- 11-17 Review # 5**
- 12- 1 Review # 6 & 7**
- 12-15 Review # 8**
- 1-12 Review # 9 & 10**

Students can keep up on their grades through Q by turning reviews in on the due dates. Missing assignments will be reflected in their grades on Q. Students may turn in reviews ahead of due dates.

Each review is worth 100 points.



# BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA

## Film Studies Parent Permission Slip Information

Dear Parent or Guardian:

As you know, your son or daughter has been enrolled in the Drama II film studies course at Big Sky-High School. Due to the requirements of this class, I have several permission slips I will need from you for your child to have the opportunity to participate fully in this class. I have given information and details with each permission slip form. If you have any questions or concerns, please state your concerns on the space provided or feel free to call me at 728-2401 ex 8052

Throughout the year, we will be involved in making films as well as studying films. The class may be going to MCAT on occasions to use the equipment and facilities available at the studio.

The class will continue to work on various projects through out the year as well as continue to study various films. I would like to view several different films with the class. Some of the choices of films include Schindler's List, Dead Poets Society, Bonnie and Clyde, Bridge on the River Kwai, West Side Story, and East of Eden. A few of these films are rated R. I always go over the film in detail when there is any aspect in the film that I feel might be disturbing to some students. Students always have the right not to view a film. However, I do try to choose only those films that have educational and artistic value.

The students in film class will often need to film on location. Thus, they will need to leave the classroom on occasion. A student in film class is expected to act responsible and dependable in order to remain in the class. The students have been informed on what their duties and appropriate behaviors are when enrolled in this class.

I am asking that you sign a permission slip for your son or daughter to be allowed to view the films for class, as well as film on location.

If you have any questions concerning these issues, please call me at (406) 728-2401 extension 8052.

Thank you for your input on this matter.  
Sarah DeGrandpre



# BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA

## Film Studies Permission Slip

I \_\_\_\_\_ give permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to  
(Parent name) (Student name)

view the films shown during the Film Studies class.

I am also giving my permission for my son or daughter to be filmed and to film on location outside of room 72/stage as well as on location outside of the school.

I have the following comments regarding my son or daughter viewing "R" rated films.

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I have the following concerns regarding my son or daughter filming on location outside of room 72

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that in signing this document that my child will be on community television.

Please Call me at 728 -2401 ex 8052 if you have any questions.

Sarah DeGrandpre



# BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA

## Film Studies Camera Check Out Information Letter & Permission Slip

Dear Parent or Guardian:

As you know, your son or daughter has enrolled in the Drama II film studies course at Big Sky High School. The students have been assigned to create film projects in order to complete the requirements of this class. Some students own their own camera equipment and do not need to use the school's camera equipment on a regular basis. However, most of the students will need to use school camera equipment on occasion or on a daily class basis if they do not own their own cameras.

The school's camera equipment is expensive gear and must be checked out by the student each time it is in use. Students who wish to use this equipment must have a parent permission slip turned in order to use the equipment. Students will not be allowed to use school equipment under any circumstances without a signed permission slip from their parent/guardian on file with the school. Students will be instructed on the proper use of the cameras and any tools that go with it. **Any damage done to the camera and or filming equipment while checked out to the student will need to be covered financially by the student and or parent.**

Please fill out the following permission slip, if you wish for your student to have access to the school film equipment in order to complete assignments for the class. Thank you.

If you have any questions concerning these issues, please call me at  
(406) 728-2401 extension 8052. Sarah DeGrandpre  
Film Studies Camera & Film Equipment Use Permission Slip

**I have read the enclosed film studies camera and Film equipment permission slip information letter and**

**I \_\_\_\_\_ give permission for \_\_\_\_\_**  
(Parent Printed name) (Student name)

**to use the school's camera and film equipment. I understand that if my student damages the equipment in any way while it is checked out to him/her that he/she and I, \_\_\_\_\_ will be financially responsible for the repair and replacement**  
(Parent name)

**of the damaged film equipment. Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_**

**I have the following concerns about my son/daughter using the school equipment.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**My student is not allowed to use the camera and film equipment for this class.**  
**Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_**

Big Sky High School Drama Students fit the IB Learner Profile.

