

Drama 2 Miss Snyder

**MVHS
2004-2005**

Welcome to Drama 2! You are part of our MVHS Drama family. This year we will have the opportunity to explore the world of drama from a variety of perspectives. Through theatre you will open the eyes of a child to the wonders of a fantasy land. With the power of historical knowledge you will be one of the few that truly understand theatre's colossal impact on the human experience. You may find that theatre inspires your personal courage to stretch intellectual and creative boundaries. This and more will earn you the respect and admiration of everyone in this class. By working together, as a true *ensemble*, these ideals will become reality. To be a vital part of MVHS Drama, you show up every day with the full commitment to be positive and supportive toward your peers, focused, and ready to work. This is going to be a great year!

Class Rules

1. **Attendance** – Be in class every day. Roles are subject to recasting if you are absent.
2. **Be prepared and on time** – Have everything you need when the bell rings. There are no locker visits allowed.
3. **Respect yourself and others** – Listen. Be supportive to classmates. You'd be surprised how great it makes *you* feel too!
4. **NO food, drinks, or gum!**
5. **Do not leave personal items in the classroom.**

Course description for Drama 2: Drama 2 is a year long course which provides group and individual activities in body control, voice, diction and pantomime. The creation of characters, projection of ideas and emotions are also practiced when preparing and acting scenes from plays. Development of language skills and appreciation through reading and interpreting dramatic literature will be practiced through writing critiques, analyzing character, study of theatrical time periods, critical listening and speaking effectively. This class will emphasize experiencing drama from the standpoint of the actor, the director and the technician from a historical perspective.

Proposed Class Units

The following are the subject areas we will be studying first and second semester:

- Greek Theater
- Roman Theater
- Medieval Theater
- Commedia dell' Arte
- Oriental Theater
- Children's Theatre
- Shakespeare
- Modern Theater
- American Theater
- Absurdist Theater
- Acting Styles of the 20th Century
- Socially Relevant Plays

Primary Text

The History of Theater 8th edition, by Oscar G. Brockett

Materials

- Drama portfolio: This is a Drama ONLY notebook. All paperwork relating to the class, including assignments, notes and scripts must be retained for the entire year.
- Pen/pencil and highlighters.

Requirements

Performances

- scenes and monologues from each historical period
- semester showcase
- performance of a children's theater production (and participation at the Fullerton College Theater Festival)
- involvement in improvisational performances and MVHS Comedy Sportz
- in-class performance

Participation

- students are required to be prepared, productive, and positive during scene study, and reflection
- frequently check the website : mvhsdrama.com
- check your grades online every two weeks (one or two grades can make a big difference)

Portfolio

- all papers relating to the class must be kept in an *extremely* orderly fashion; so use and label dividers in your notebook!

Reviews and Reports

- "Meet the Critic" theater review of local productions (Due every week)
- "Be the Critic" - your review of a local production (Two each semester)
- Research report (one per semester)

Tests and Quizzes

- on acting styles and historical periods of the theater

Other Details

- You will be required to see two outside performances. This means an extra expense to consider.
- There may be rehearsals after school for particular productions.

Grading

Performances – 50% of grade

Portfolio – 30% of grade

Tests – 20% of grade

Grade Overview

- An **A** grade indicates: exceedingly high quality work, mastering all assigned work, shows originality and initiative, does more than required, and makes quality contributions in class.
- A **B** grade indicates: good progress that is above the average, mastering portions of work, is alert and interested in work, completes work on time and consistently participates in class.
- A **C** grade indicates: a quality of work acceptable for this Drama 2 level, satisfactory completion of assigned work, shows interest in work, completes work on time.
- A **D** grade indicates: a need for greater effort to meet requirements of this course satisfactorily, achievement below Drama 2 standards, completes a minimum of assigned work, and seldom responds in class.
- An **F** grade indicates failure to produce an acceptable quality of work for a Drama 2 class.

Drama 2

Class Contract

Return this sheet by (Tues) September 14th to Ms. Snyder

I, (print your name) _____ understand the class requirements for Drama 2.

I further understand that participation is very important in this class and I will be expected to participate in both **memorized** and improvised performance.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Print Parent Name _____

Parent email address _____

Parent phone (h) _____ (w) _____

Drama 2 Parents are invited to join the MVHS Drama Parent Booster Club for our first meeting on Wednesday, Sept 22th at ___p.m. in the Performing Arts Theater room 600 (Drama). This meeting is for both new and continuing members. Please join us and be a part of the award winning productions.

Many field trips are being planned for this year and will be discussed at this meeting, as well as ways you can get involved backstage. We depend on the parents to support fundraising, chaperoning events, selling refreshments at performances and being our Biggest Fans.

Check one:

_____ Yes I will definitely be there!

_____ No, I am not able to be a part of Drama Boosters this year.