

Middle School Theatre Syllabus

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Conference: 5th Period 11:42 am-1:01 pm

About the Course

Through self and collaborative exploration, students will develop skills in all aspects of acting and technical theatre. During this course students will investigate stagecraft, voice, movement, text, improvisation, and performance within focused units of study. Students will be assessed and evaluated through rubrics, portfolios, self-reflection, group-reflection, and quizzes. The student will become more confident in not only their acting skills, but their technical ones as well. Participation in the UIL One Act Play contest in the fall will provide students with an opportunity to apply their skills in a competitive setting. The spring semester will foster growth in students' analytical skills of plays and allow for expression through technical design of costumes, set, hair & makeup, and marketing.

As a reminder, participation in the Jr. High OAP contest is considered an Extra Curricular. Grades need to be passing in ALL classes in order to participate in the contest. Think about it like football. Students who don't pass, can't play in the games on Thursday.

Attendance and Participation

Your attendance and participation in EVERY class is imperative! We can't play if all our team members aren't present.

Grading

Your grade will be based on the following:

Major Grades (Tests/Projects, Participation, etc.)
40%

Minor Grades (Classwork, Notes, Journal, etc.)
60%

Required Materials

- Notebook Paper
- 1 inch 3-ring binder
- Pencils, Pens, Highlighters
- Binder Dividers (5 Tabs)

Discipline Policy

We do not expect to have disciplinary issues in this class. If, however, I become concerned about your participation or your behavior, the following steps will be taken:

1. Verbal warning in the classroom
2. Seat Change/Isolation
3. Phone calls to parents
4. Teacher Detention
5. Discipline Referral

Missing/Late Work:

- If you have work that is not turned in by the end of class on the day that it is due, it is considered LATE.
- You have 3 days for a maximum grade of a 70 to turn in any missing work.
- If the work is not received by the end of the third day, a failing grade of 0 will be put in the gradebook.

Make-up Work

- Students who are absent will have the amount of time missed to make up any work up to 1 week. (1 absent = 1 day)
- If you know you are going to be absent, you must let me know as soon as possible and NOT at the last possible moment.
- You are responsible for getting your classwork prior to your absence. It is not my responsibility to get it for you.

Technology & Food

- Cell phone use is not allowed in class in accordance with Texas law and Jim Ned ISD policy.
- Snacks in the classroom are okay until it becomes a problem. Please be mindful of the classroom and keep it clean. Failure to do so will result in loss of food privileges in the classroom.

Dress Code

- Please be sure to follow all the school dress codes. This includes but is not limited to facial hair, inappropriate t-shirts, hair length, dress or skirt length.
 - Students will be referred to the office for failure to follow dress code.
- Because this is a hands-on class, please be sure to wear comfortable clothes and closed toed shoes. Take note on days where we will be in the theatre or will be doing active lessons.

Dates to put on your calendar NOW:

October 25th–26th: High School Performs *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare

December 1st, 2nd, 4th, & 9th: Mandatory after school practices for OAP from 4:00 – 7:30 PM. These will be held on the stage in the high school.

December 10th: UIL One Act Play Contest in Clyde (parents welcome!!!)
(more information will be provided at a later date)

TBD: Spring Show (if possible)

TBD: Drama Fest w/ High School (in May usually)

Middle School Theatre Contract

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am so excited to have your student in Middle School Theatre this year! The Jim Ned Theatre program is dedicated to building confidence, creativity, and teamwork through performance and technical theatre.

This class is a **performance-based course** that blends acting, technical theatre, and design. In the fall, our primary focus will be preparing for the **UIL One Act Play (OAP) contest**, which will include both in-class rehearsals and a limited number of **after-school rehearsals** as we approach performance and contest dates. Participation in the UIL OAP is a graded component of the class.

Once contest season ends, we will shift focus to **design and technical theatre**, exploring costume, set, hair & makeup, props, and marketing design. If resources and scheduling allow, we may also produce a **spring one act play**, which will follow a similar process of rehearsals and performance.

Student Expectations

As a member of the Middle School Theatre class, your student will be expected to:

- Participate fully in all warm-ups, games, rehearsals, and activities.
- Maintain a **Theatre Binder** with script(s), bellringers, notes, and assignments.
- Attend assigned after-school rehearsals and performances unless a conflict has been communicated and approved in advance.
- Show respect for all classmates, directors, and crew members, both onstage and backstage.
- Follow all Jim Ned ISD policies, including dress code and technology rules.
- Care for costumes, props, scripts, and technical equipment responsibly.

Rehearsal & Performance Commitment

At the start of each production, I will send home a **Rehearsal & Performance Calendar**. Please review it with your student and mark any known conflicts. Conflicts shared in advance will be accommodated whenever possible. Emergencies and illness must be communicated by a parent or guardian—not the student—before rehearsal time.

Because theatre is a team effort, repeated unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances can result in:

- Loss of role or reassignment to a different position in the production
- A lowered grade in the class
- Removal from the Production with a shifted focus to written work

What Students Will Gain

In this class, your student will learn teamwork, patience, dedication, problem-solving, and creativity. They will explore acting, stagecraft, and design while also gaining skills in public speaking, collaboration, and time management. These skills will serve them both in and out of the theatre.

Thank you for supporting your student's participation in Middle School Theatre. I look forward to a year of learning, growth, and memorable performances!

Acknowledgment

Please return this page by the first Monday of classes, signed by the student and the parent/guardian.

I have read the Middle School Theatre syllabus for 2025–2026 and understand the expectations for this course.

Student (print) _____

Student (signature) _____ Date _____

Parent (print) _____

Parent (signature) _____ Date _____

Parent Contact Phone #: _____

Parent Contact Email: _____