Liberty High School
Theatre I, II, III
Syllabus & Handbook

Minutemen Succeed, No Exceptions!
Welcome to Theatre Productions 1, 2, & 3. In this class you will experience many different aspects of theatre. Our goal is to improve your performance level, your knowledge of theatre, and, most importantly, your self-confidence. Below is a description of the classes, as well as information on grading and other important details.

**Class Supplies:** Spiral notebook (Journal), One 3 Ring Binder, Pencils, and a USB Drive

**Theatre I Course Description:** Theatre I is a beginning course in theatre that focuses on basic foundations and techniques in acting, improvisation, character analysis, and movement. This class wants each student to master studies in Theatre with broad preparation in liberal arts and humanities. This focuses the students on becoming familiar with basic acting techniques, theatre history, dance, theatrical design, and theatre production. ALTHOUGH THIS CLASS FOSTERS INDIVIDUALITY, IT IS THE CLIMATE OF TEAMWORK THAT CHALLENGES STUDENTS TO BRING HIS OR HER BEST TO THE CLASS, FOR THE CLASS! The study of theatre is not just about academics and production. Theatre is the study of human behavior in which imagination plays a vital role. Developing ones imaginative skills occurs when the mind and body work together. I encourage each student to inspire, inquire, and develop skills in the following areas: self-discipline, respect for yourself and others, & effective communication skills. Students in this course are not required to audition for extra-curricular productions; however, it is strongly encouraged, since public performance is a natural extension of the course work.

**Theatre Productions II Course Description:** Theatre Production II is an intermediate course in theatre that is a continuation of Theatre Productions I. This is a course where actors work on two-person scenes, group scenes, and monologues in a “lab” setting. While the broad strokes of that definition will apply to this class, there are also some significant differences. First of all, the goal in this class will not be the “study” of scene work strictly speaking, but rather the ongoing investigation and discovery of scenes that will give students the skills necessary to keep their
scenes “alive” and in the moment. The goal is not to “perfect” a scene and discover a single truth or meaning within a scene, but rather to engage the text anew with every performance. Thus, while we will discuss some of the traditional terms from the mode of acting called “Psychological realism” (e.g., Stanislavski), the emphasis will be on developing acting skills and techniques that are based on spontaneity, impulse, and improvisation. The theatre games of Viola Spolin and the terminology and approach of Michael Chekhov, in particular, will be our basis. The overall philosophy in this class is that it is the ACTOR who is the source of the meaning of the PERFORMANCE – not the author, not the script, not the director, not the teacher. You, the actor, are the “authority” – you are the one that brings the work to life. The text and the teacher are merely there to inspire, suggest, and designate some guidelines and boundaries. Finally, students will be encouraged to explore beyond the traditional canon of “serious,” realist dramatic literature and the limits of two-person scenes. If you want to work on that sort of thing, you will be able to – but I also hope you take this opportunity to explore ensemble scenes, scenes from genres such as comedy and absurdity, and more contemporary performance pieces as well. Students in this course are not required to audition for extra-curricular productions; however, it is strongly encouraged, since public performance is a natural extension of the course work.

**Theatre III Course Description:** Theatre III is a performance based class leading students through the collaborative process of playmaking and advanced character development. Students receive conservatory style training in acting, movement and voice and showcase their growth in a full- scale production. Students learn to interpret plays dramatically, to analyze plot, genre and themes of dramatic literature. At the end of the semester, all students will have acting roles in a full- length play or musical production. This class will require some after school rehearsals and will have mandatory, graded, performances for all class members. Students in this course are required to audition for extra-curricular productions.
Course Requirements basis for evaluation:

40% of students’ grade is derived from formative assessments such as class participation in exercises, discussion, rehearsals, memorization, production journals, etc.

60% of students’ grade is derived from summative assessments such as critiques, observation exercises, quizzes, in-class performances, etc.

1. Written Assignments & Quizzes: Students will complete assignments designed to enhance their understanding of acting aesthetics. Periodic quizzes, in the form of take-home worksheets or oral questions, may be given. This is a participation course. Acting is participatory there is no way to learn without doing, no adequate substitute for a missing partner, and no way to “make up” missed experience. Therefore, it is very important for all students to make attendance to class a priority. Students will be assigned to view performances in our community, online, and DVD/VHS. Written evaluation.

2. Use of Journal: Students should have journals that will be housed in class and used on a daily basis. They are to record homework, assignments, and deadlines in the planner. Journal entries will be required on a daily basis and turned in periodically for a completion grade. The journal also is a rehearsal & production log.

3. Homework: Homework is designed to provide additional practice with the skills we are working on in class or with the concepts being studied. Homework assignments will be checked in class, for a grade.

4. Attendance, Progress & Professional Discipline. Each actor in this class is evaluated as an individual, and the instructors’ expectations for each student are "tailored," taking into account that student's background/training at the beginning of the semester and their improvement throughout the course. Reading of texts and viewing of performances as assigned.

5. Final Examination will be given at the end of the semester, which may involve the presentation of memorized monologue, scenes, written or oral questions, and/or other material deemed appropriate by the instructor. In order to pass the course, the actor must participate in the final exam.
Property Use:

Students and their parents are responsible for any school property used by the student in pursuit of his/her studies that is lost, broken, destroyed, or not returned to the school. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school years, the student’s parent must reimburse the school for any outstanding bills due to lost, broken, destroyed, or unreturned school property before the student is allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies. Parents and students with financial needs may discuss a payment plan and special needs with the school principal.

Class Policies:

1. **NO GUM, FOOD, OR DRINKS IN THE CLASSROOM OR IN THE AUDITORIUM!**
2. **NO CELL PHONES IN CLASS OR IN THE AUDITORIUM! I WILL TAKE IT AND TURN IT IN THE MAIN OFFICE!!!!!!**
3. Courtesy and a positive attitude are essential to ensure excellence in a production and in the growth of each individual to his or her potential.
4. Students are expected to treat the auditorium, chorus room, dressing rooms, set and any tools or materials with respect. Costumes are to be returned cleaned and pressed. Scripts are to be returned in good condition promptly after the rehearsal and/or production.
5. If the student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to make up missed blocking and work.
7. Know and act accordingly to all safety rules regarding the auditorium.
8. Participate in performances, since this is a performing arts class.
9. Turn in homework on time.
10. Meet all deadlines on time (line memorization, costumes, blocking).
11. Be present in order to participate/work on the play being produced.

**Dress Code:** Students are expected to adhere to the dress code put forth in the student Handbook. In addition, I would like students to be prepared for this class. That means if a student wears a skirt, she should bring something to put on under it or something else to change into for class. Students should also have proper foot gear. If you are wearing sandals or flip-flops or heels, please bring something comfortable and to work in during class. If you have on dangling earrings or body piercings, you may need to remove those depending on what will be worked on in class. Please remember that there is a lot of movement in this class and students should be comfortable to reach their full potential.
If the student fails to follow class policies, specific discipline actions will take place:

1st offence - Verbal warning

2nd offence - Parent contact

3rd offence - Administrative Involvement & Intervention.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Interactive Haunted Theatre</td>
<td>October 31, 2014</td>
<td>Doors open 5:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performance Tour I</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Elks Home Field Trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performance Tour II</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Elks Home Field Trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>WINTER BREAK</td>
<td>DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Musical Auditions</td>
<td>January 6, 7, 8</td>
<td>LHS Auditorium 3:45 – 5:00</td>
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<td>Musical Rehearsals</td>
<td>January 12 - 31st</td>
<td>Wednesday - Friday 3:45 – 6:30</td>
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<td>February 2 - 28th</td>
<td>Wednesday - Friday 3:45 – 6:30</td>
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<td>March 2 - 20th</td>
<td>Wednesday – Friday 3:45 – 6:30</td>
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<td>TECH WEEK</td>
<td>March 23rd - 26th</td>
<td>Monday - Friday 3:35 - 9:00</td>
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<td>PERFORMANCE</td>
<td>March 27th</td>
<td>Friday 5:00 Call 7:30 GO</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERFORMANCE</td>
<td>March 28th</td>
<td>Friday 5:00 Call 7:30 GO</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
<td>APRIL 6-10</td>
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Theatre Arts

2014 – 2015 Class Contract

Return this contract by: Wednesday, August 18.

I, (print your name) ____________________________ understand the class requirements for Theatre Productions 1, 2, 3.

I further understand that participation is very important in this class and I will be expected to memorize and perform in front of the class and be involved in departmental productions.

Student Signature_________________________ Class Period_____________________

Student Email (print clearly)______________________@________________________

Parent Signature_____________________________ Date____________________________

Print Parent Name____________________________________________________________

Parent Email (print clearly)______________________@________________________

Parent Phone (h)__________________ (w)_____________ Cell_________________
Dear Parents,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Liberty High School Theatre will present "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown" The Musical on March 27 and 28, 2015. To support this major project and to bring musical theatre back to Liberty High School, the theatre classes will be participating in three fundraisers. Liberty High School Theatre t-shirts will be on sale until August 29th. All Theatre III students are required to purchase a t-shirt that will serve as their costume for community performances. Little Debbie snack cakes will be sold November 6th – November 29th, and an interactive Haunted Theatre will serve as a fun fundraiser, especially for younger members of the community. The purpose of these fundraisers is to develop the Liberty High School Theatre Department and build towards a productive and educational production season. The profits from this fundraiser will support the production and technical design aspects of our facility such as; lighting, sound, sets, costumes, scripts, music, and the performance rights for future productions. Information regarding each fundraiser will be given to your student prior to each of the start dates.

Thank you for your support,

Shayna Crews
Director of Theatre
Liberty High School
shayna.crews@bedford.k12.va.us
540-586-2541