** Drama and Dance**

**2012-2013**

**Teacher:** Mr. M Patterson

**Course Grade:** Grade 8

**Rationale:** The drama and dance curriculum is intended to help students to develop an understanding and appreciation of drama and dance, as well as the ability to create works using the forms, elements, and techniques of these two disciplines. Through exploring drama and dance, students will develop an understanding of themselves and others, and will learn about the lives of people in different times, places, and cultures. They will develop practical, artistic skills in both disciplines, as well as critical-thinking skills and a variety of communication skills.

**Aim:** In Grade 8, students will refine their ability to evaluate the quality of performances by writing critiques of their own and others’ work and reviewing theatrical performances. Role playing is a key component of the drama and dance curriculum. Pretending to be someone else involves an act of the imagination that is of central importance in the development of the ability to understand others. As students “live through” experiences of others, they learn to understand a variety of points of view and motives, and to empathize with others. They also learn to clarify their own point of view and develop their ability to think carefully.

**Skills:**

* *Knowledge and Understanding* – Knowledge of the content taught and the comprehension of its meaning and significance;
* *Thinking* – The use of critical and creative thinking skills and/or processes as follows:
  + *Planning Skills* – focusing, research, gathering information, organizing an inquiry;
  + *Processing Skills* – analyzing, evaluating, synthesizing;
  + *Critical/Creative Thinking Processes* – inquiry, problem solving, decision making, research.
* *Communication* – The conveying of meaning through various forms as follows:
  + *Oral* – story, role play, debate;
  + *Written* – reports, essays, letters;
  + *Visual* – model, map, chart, movement, video.
* *Application* – The use of knowledge and skills to make connections within and between various contexts.

**Course Overview:**

* Evaluate the overall effect of various aspects of drama and dance;
* Interpret and communicate ideas and feelings drawn from fictional accounts, documentaries, and other material from a wide variety of sources and cultures, selecting and combining complex drama and dance techniques;
* Create drama pieces, selecting and using a variety of techniques;
* Critique, orally and in writing, their own and others’ work in drama and dance, using criteria developed independently and in a group;
* Critique solutions to problems presented in drama and dance, make decisions in large and small groups, and defend their artistic choices;
* Create different multimedia interpretations of a single work, using available technology to enhance their work in drama and dance performances.

**Major Themes:**

1. Drama
2. Dance
3. Theatrical Performance

**Evaluations:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **Assessment\*** | **Quantity\*** | **Grade** |
| 1 | Assignments | 9 assignments – 3 from each unit | 50% |
| 2 | Reports | 3 reports – 1 from each unit | 20% |
| 3 | Critiques | 3 critiques – 2 peer and 1 self-evaluation | 20% |
| 4 | Participation | Graded on class participation and attendance | 10% |
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**Schedule:** A long-range plan has been posted on the wall in the classroom with a complete breakdown of every lesson throughout the school year. Located below is a breakdown of each theme throughout the months of the academic year.

*Sept*: Monologue

*Oct*: Improvisation

*Nov*: Documentary

*Dec*: Dance Warm-up Program

*Jan*: Ethnic Dance

*Feb*: So You Think You Can Dance?!

*Mar*: So You Think You Can Dance?!

*Apr*: Historical Reenactment

*May*: Shakespeare Play

*Jun*: Broadway Performance

**Student Attendance:**

Student attendance is vital to the success of this course. Should a student miss a class due to any circumstance, all possible efforts will be made to ensure the material covered will be available to that student.

**Class Rules and Regulations**

Every member of this class is expected to come prepared and on time. Students must bring their textbook, notebook, all other materials that have been specified, and homework to each and every class.

Classroom participation is mandatory and will be evaluated through a variety of methods including: activities, classroom discussion, and homework. Students who struggle with classroom participation may substitute work to compensate for their lack of participation. Furthermore, every opinion and discussion will be received respectfully in class, although some opinions may be challenged.

Homework will be assigned throughout the course to ensure your personal growth. Readings and homework are assigned to stimulate interest in the subject being taught.

A homework or project, which is not completed on the due date, will be accepted late, but may receive a penalty. Exceptional circumstances will be considered and a deadline extension may be granted with no penalty.

Be prepared to work hard and think hard. I look forward to learning with you.

I have read the syllabus for ***Grade 8 Drama and Dance*** and am in agreement with the working methods, general philosophy, and topics that it proposes.

Student name Date

Student signature Parent signature