

Focus of Learning for Theater K – 12

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Theater:

Theater: Focus for Primary Level Learning

Students enter the primary grades with basic knowledge of “play” and “role-playing” that develops naturally as children seek to explore and mimic the world around them.

Learning at the primary level develops out of these “play” and “role-playing” elements as students use movement, sound, and language to create images, express emotions, and imitate animals, objects and/or shapes. Student should extend “playing” and “role-playing” by using costumes, props, the environment and the elements of theater to communicate story and character.

Theater: Focus for Intermediate Level Learning

Students should arrive at the intermediate level with the skills to use movement, sound, and language to create images, express emotions and imitate animals, objects, or shapes. They should know the element of theater and have the ability to develop character and communicate story using their bodies, voices, the environment, costumes and props.

The focus of student learning at the intermediate level is building the knowledge base and developing the skills to adapt an existing piece of literature for a theatrical performance and to create more complex characterizations.

This includes developing students’ skills in interpreting a story, adapting the plot and creating characters and language for a dramatic performance. Student learning should also focus on expanding skill in describing a performance using theater terminology such as plot, character, theme, sound, props, setting and spectacle.

Theater: Focus for Middle Level Learning

Students should arrive at the middle level with the ability to use imagination, creative movement, and vocal expression to develop characterizations as well as the skills to consider and evaluate a variety of artistic choices in creating dramatic presentations.

They should also have the skills necessary to interpret, adapt and perform an existing piece of literature. In addition, students should arrive at the middle level with the skills to evaluate performances using the elements of plot, theme, character, language, sound and spectacle.

The focus of student learning at the middle level is on understanding theater as an expression of human experience and culture that is both creative and collaborative. Student learning should focus on the development of more complex acting skills based on artistic intent.

Included in this focus are the skills used for improvisation. In addition, middle level learning must focus on building the student’s knowledge of social, historical and cultural contexts for theater. With this knowledge, student should focus on developing skills in analyzing, interpreting and evaluating more complex dramatic performances from a variety of contexts.

Theater: Focus for High School Level Learning

Students should arrive at the high school level with the skill to create complex characters based on artistic intent. In addition, they should have a knowledge base of social, historical and cultural contexts for theater and the skills necessary to analyze, interpret and evaluate complex dramatic performances from a variety of contexts.

The focus of student learning at the high school level is developing skill in using more complex tools and techniques to create and refine more sophisticated characterizations and performances. Student learning must also focus on expanding and refining the skills involved in interpretation and evaluation of dramatic performance with reference to style and social, historical and cultural contexts.