

Welcome to First Period Theatre Arts (Beginning & Intermediate, Virtual Academy)!

Contact Info:

Instructor: Ms. Laura Levine

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Phone (voice): 919-387-2208 ext. 27251

Remind (text): Text the code @vatheatre to 81010

Primary Website: Google Classroom. You will log into Google Classroom daily to access the Google Meet as well as assignments and announcements.

Secondary Website: www.apexdrama.com – for more broad information about the theatre program at AHS including additional course offerings, drama club, extracurricular productions, volunteer opportunities, etc.

Social Media: @apexpeakplayers on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook!

Course Objectives:

COMMUNICATION:

- Develop physical, vocal, and performance skills that foster an ability to clearly communicate ideas, thoughts and feelings.

ANALYSIS:

- Interpret plot structure and dramatic themes within scenes and plays.
- Reflect on and evaluate performances.

AESTHETICS:

- Understand interrelationship of technical elements of theatre and how they are used to enhance a production.

CULTURE:

- Analyze theatre in terms of the social, historical, and cultural contexts in which it was created.
- Understand the traditions, roles, and conventions of theatre as an art form.

Necessary Supplies/Requirements:

If there is any difficulty in obtaining these supplies, please contact me.

- One three ring binder (1”) with loose leaf notebook paper **OR** one spiral notebook or journal
- Pencil
- Highlighter
- Intermediate Theatre students will need to pick up two books from the school on Thursday, August 27th.
- Space to move – you can't take this class from your bed 😊
- **You are required to watch one play or musical & complete a play review over the course of the semester** – I will keep a running list of available productions on Google Classroom. If you find a recording of a live production, or a virtual production that is being broadcast live, and it is not on the list, please send me the information to make sure it will work for this project.
- **You are required to read one full-length play & complete an Argumentative Script Analysis over the course of the semester.** I will keep a running list of available scripts (that you can read online) on Google Classroom, or you can check out a book from the local library. If you plan ahead, I can send a script home with you at materials pick up day on August 27th! (See later section on Resources). If you find a play script you would like to read for this project and it is not on the list, please send me the information to make sure it will work for this project.

Classroom Expectations and Policies: *Spread Kindness, Celebrate Diversity, Embrace the Unknown*

Virtual Meetings: Because 25% of our curriculum is focused on communication, it is my expectation that you will keep your camera on for the duration of each class meeting. Please set up a space in your home that will allow you to feel comfortable with being on camera. You may also choose to download the Google Chrome extension “Background Blur for Google Meet” (<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/background-blur-for-googl/jjbbcihejfopbmbbjmhkijofkgoog?hl=en>).

Attendance and Tardies: This class is performance-based, and you will be working closely with other members of your ensemble. You are expected to attend the Google Meet each day. If you are unable to attend for any reason, please contact me as soon as possible. Plan to be early – remember the Stage Manager’s mantra: to be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late!

Support your ensemble – show up to class 😊

Dress: Students must always wear clothes appropriate for movement – during daily warmups, you will be standing and moving, so please remember that your full body may be visible on camera – dress appropriately and comfortably.

Academic Integrity Code: Students are expected to abide by all school rules regarding appropriate behavior in the classroom. Cheating, discrimination, or breaking of other school rules will not be tolerated and will result in a discipline referral.

Engagement and Participation: Participation is key! Each student is a vital and critical member of the ensemble, and must treat their work in this way. This classroom is a safe environment to try new things and take risks – take advantage of this opportunity!

Respect: I hold you responsible for respecting the rights, dignity, worth, spirit, and freedom of each member of our ensemble. Discriminatory speech or conduct will not be tolerated.

Food/Drink/Cell Phones: Please refrain from eating during class. Cell phones should be silenced and put away during class time.

Grading:

You will be graded according to the total point system. Your grade will be a combination of major and minor assignments and daily performance practices – demonstrating appropriate rehearsal etiquette. According to this system, a major assignment worth 150 points holds more weight and affects your grade more than a minor assignment worth only 15 points. We will review this system in class.

Major Assignments: 100-150 possible points each

Minor Assignments: 15-50 possible points each

Performance Practices (Rehearsal Etiquette): 100 points per quarter

Final Exam: 20% of semester grade.

All students will be using the 10-point grading scale. A: 90-100; B: 80-89; C: 70-79; D: 60-69; F: 59 and below

Extracurricular Opportunities:

Drama Club is open to all students, and there are no membership dues. All meetings will be on **Google Meet** until further notice - use code **apexpeakplayers** to join. To get reminders and announcements, join our **Remind** group by texting **@peakplayer** to 81010. The following are the meeting dates for first quarter:

- Thursday, August 20th from 2:30-3:15 - Join us for the annual **Theatre Kickoff Meeting!** Meet your student leadership board, play games, meet new friends, and learn about all the extracurricular activities we have planned for this semester. See you there!
- Thursday September 3rd from 2:30-3:15 pm
- Thursday, September 17th from 2:30-3:15 pm
- Thursday, October 1st from 2:30-3:15 pm
- Thursday, October 15th from 2:30-3:15 pm
- Thursday, October 29th from 2:30-3:15 pm - **Special Spooky Season Spectacular!!!**

Productions

In a typical year, we produce a Fall Play, Spring Musical, and Advanced Theatre Production. As you can imagine, this year will look a bit different! I am hopeful that we will have a Fall production of some kind and am in the process of working through details – I will be announcing the information as soon as it is finalized. Any information about the Spring Musical and Advanced Theatre Production is on hold until further notice.

Resources (Blind Date with a Play!):

In the classroom, we have an extremely large library of play scripts that are available to check out. Materials pick up day is Thursday, August 27th. If you would like to go on a blind date with a play, please email me with some information about your interests (specific genres, historical periods, subjects, authors, etc) and I will select a play or two to send home with you that you can use for your Argumentative Script Analysis project. The deadline to email your “play dating profile” is Tuesday, August 25th.

Please fill out the Google Form (link on [Google Classroom](#)) by class time on Wednesday, August 19th to acknowledge that you have read and agree to these policies. I am looking forward to a great semester!