September, 2016

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to MYP Acting 10 at Obama Academy 6-12! The goal of this class is to gain a basic understanding of the principles of acting, in and out of theatre. There will be an emphasis upon physical movement and the use of voice in the development of characterization as we move from ensemble work to solo performances. We will interpret a text “from page to stage” investigating a range of different ways to play a character, plan which gestures and movements, props and costumes to use, present ideas, receive feedback and make artistic choices based on our own evaluation and that of others.

Acting is all about creating and responding to drama and using it as an art-form to express ideas, situations and characters to an audience. You will play many parts in different situations, working to understand what it is like to put yourself into someone else’s shoes. You will have the opportunity to create your own work, as well as work with short scenes and plays written by others. You will develop your acting skills, as well as looking at plays in more detail and discovering different ways of bringing a script alive on stage. Some course units we will explore, but will not be limited to include the art of pantomime, puppetry, radio dramas, ensemble/partner scenes and preparing for auditions.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
- Full participation in class exercises, discussions, and performance work
- Appropriate attire for class exercises, as well as performance work
- Willingness to risk and stretch beyond your comfort zone. This is a highly participatory performance course. Small things count. Be prepared and fully participate in discussions, class exercises, and performance assignments. When discussing the work of your classmates, seek to offer constructive comments and listen earnestly to the observations of others.

IBMYP ARTS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
Assessment rubrics will be created to specify how the criterion applies to different projects and which aspects of the work are evaluated.

Knowing and Understanding: demonstrate awareness of the art form studied, including the use of appropriate language/demonstrate awareness of the relationship between the art form and its context/demonstrate awareness of the links between the knowledge acquired and artwork created.

Developing Skills: demonstrate the acquisition and development of the skills and techniques of the art form studied/demonstrate the application of skills and techniques to create, perform and/or present art.

Thinking creatively: identify an artistic intention/identify alternatives and perspectives/ demonstrate the exploration of ideas.

Responding: identify connections between art forms, art and context, or art and prior learning/ recognize that the world contains inspiration or influence for art/ evaluate certain elements or principles of artwork.
GRADING GUIDELINES
You can expect formative and summative assessments throughout the course. Assessments are 5% of your overall grade, participation (including rehearsal time) 15%, practical (performances) 40%, and theoretical (written work) 40%. All performance/projects will be graded using the MYP Arts criteria: Knowing and Understanding, Developing Skills, Thinking Creatively, and Responding. The grading scale used is as follows:

- 90-100% = A
- 80-89% = B
- 70-79% = C
- 60-69% = D
- 59% & below = E

HOMEWORK POLICY
To be regarded on time, work must be completed and submitted by the beginning of the period on the day it is due. Unfinished homework is not accepted. Short homework assignments will be stamped "on time" only at the beginning of the period and are not accepted if late (this includes APJs) Larger assignments may be turned in late with a 5% penalty for each day late. In the case of excused absences, your work is due upon your return. Work due on the day of an unexcused absence receives a zero. Missed assessments must be completed no later than one day from a student's return. Please make an appointment with me for the morning or after school, otherwise the missed assessment results in a zero. There will be no opportunities for extra credit, so please take your work seriously.

The application of the MYP DESIGN CYCLE and the ARTS PROCESS JOURNAL (APJ)
The MYP design cycle allows students to approach their acting work with a set of steps/stages: Investigate (decide what will be needed to understand this project. List desirable outcomes.), Design (develop the product through sketches, journal ideas of approach, etc.), Plan (develop timelines, rehearsal schedules, consult with group/partner), Create (create the product, focus, record, journal the process), Evaluate (record self-evaluation, teacher and peer feedback). The Arts Process Journal (APJ) is an essential tool that will aid in the application of the cycle as part of the creative process. The APJ is a requirement of the course and provides a written record of the student's development as an "apprentice artist". The purpose of the APJ is to encourage experimental and critical thinking and provide an opportunity for reflection, as well as a source and stimulus for further ideas. The APJ might contain rough drafts for scripts, goals of a performance, and observations or reflections on a student's work. These entries will be submitted every week for grading.

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that is both practical and creative, and if you enjoy working as part of a team. I look forward to a successful and exciting year. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at kmckrell1@pghboe.net. Let the acting begin…scene!

Sincerely,

Ms. K. McKrell
Obama Academy 6-12
(412) 529-2053
English/Theatre Arts Teacher
Musical Director

“A word does not frighten the man who, in acting, feels no fear.” ~Sophocles

Approved: _______________________
(Dr. Wayne N. Walters, Asst. Superintendent, Principal)