



**VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
CHARTING THE COURSE

***Department of Teaching & Learning***  
***Parent/Student Course Information***

***Introduction to Theatre Arts***  
***(LA 1450)***  
***One Credit, One Year***  
***Grades 9-12***

*Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Introduction to Theatre Arts offers students a general overview of theatre and its use and effect in and on culture. Students will be offered the opportunity to act, mime, improvise, design for the stage, read plays, discover theatre history and explore career options in the field of theatre. Students will also be encouraged to attend live theatrical productions. This course is a prerequisite for all other Theatre Arts course offerings.

The standards for Theatre Arts I enable students to survey theatre arts, experience and appreciate theatrical works and performances, and participate in the creative processes of producing and performing theatre. The course emphasizes foundational concepts, ensemble work, and skill development and provides theatrical opportunities for students to determine areas of personal interest.

**PREREQUISITE**

None

**OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE**

Performance Theatre, Technical Theatre, Studio Theatre and Cinema Studies

**REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK**

Basic Drama Projects, Eight Edition

Drama for Reading and Performance-Collection I, *Schumacher*

**VIRGINIA BEACH STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES  
FOR THEATRE I**

**PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTION**

- TI.1 The student will explore theatre as an ensemble art through group interaction by
1. Developing communication strategies;
  2. Proposing and selecting alternatives to solve problems while building consensus;
  3. Collaborating to implement personal artistic choices; and
  4. Respecting the ideas and viewpoints of others.
- TI.2 The student will create and strengthen trust and expand listening skills through participation in theatre games and improvisations (e.g., solo and group dramatizations, portrayals of characters in conflict, experiments in rhythm and imagery, pantomimes, playwriting experiments).
- TI.3 The student will demonstrate the skills necessary to perform theatrical works by
1. Creating and maintaining an imagined reality;
  2. Using the body and voice as expressive tools; and
  3. Employing diction and projection so words can be heard and understood by an audience.
- TI.4 The student will apply the creative process in storytelling, playwriting, and acting by
1. Creating and writing a monologue and/or scene;
  2. Analyzing the physical, emotional, and social dimensions of characters;
  3. Employing voice, body, and imagination in role playing;
  4. Presenting a memorized monologue and/or scene from a published work; and
  5. Investigating and applying audition techniques.
- TI.5 The student will demonstrate theatrical direction, including blocking and staging a scene.
- TI.6 The student will apply principles of technical theatre by
1. Differentiating among the components of technical theatre;
  2. Identifying the responsibilities of designers and technicians;
  3. Demonstrating theatre safety practices; and
  4. Practicing ethical use of available technology and other resources (e.g., music, visuals, media materials).
- TI.7 The student will examine and explain the principles of theatre management.

**THEATRE HISTORY AND CULTURAL CONTEXT**

- TI.8 The student will identify how theatre, television, film, and/or contemporary media reflect the culture in which they are created.
- TI.9 The student will make connections between theatre and other fields of knowledge.
- TI.10 The student will explore theatre in various historical times and various cultures by
1. Researching historical and cultural information about theatre in other times and places;
  2. Examining non-western traditions in drama; and
  3. Identifying theatrical activity in the community and the commonwealth.

## **ANALYSIS, EVALUATION, AND CRITIQUE**

- TI.11 The student will give, receive, and utilize constructive criticism by
1. Making observations about theatrical performances, projects, and plans, using theatre arts vocabulary; and
  2. Applying evaluative criteria to these observations.
- TI.12 The student will analyze selected works of dramatic literature by
1. Identifying the elements of character, conflict, setting, plot, theme, and dialogue;
  2. Examining the purpose and meaning of each element; and
  3. Developing and applying evaluative criteria.
- TI.13 The student will analyze live performances by
1. Identifying the elements of production—acting, directing, and design; and
  2. Describing, analyzing, and evaluating artistic choices.
- TI.14 The student will use self-evaluation as a tool for growth as a theatre artist.

## **AESTHETICS**

- TI.15 The student will define *theatre* and support that definition, using theatre arts vocabulary.
- TI.16 The student will describe how theatrical presentations can entertain, inform, and interpret the human experience.
- TI.17 The student will describe a personal response to a theatrical experience, using theatre arts vocabulary.
- TI.18 The student will explain how personal experience, culture, and current events shape personal aesthetic opinions and criteria.

## **ADDITIONAL TOPICS OF STUDY**

- 6.9 The student will describe physical performance spaces and stage positions.
- 6.10 The student will identify different types of performance spaces and productions.
- 7.6 The student will practice theatre etiquette and analyze the role of the audience as integral to the performance experience.
- 8.22 The student will write a critique of a live or recorded dramatic performance, using designated criteria and theatre arts vocabulary.
- 8.24 The student will define *aesthetics* and describe how it relates to theatre as a reflection of life.
- 8.25 The student will explain personal responses to theatrical productions based on experience and aesthetic criteria.
- TII.1 The student will create theatre projects and productions through collaboration by
1. Assuming shared responsibility for group work;
  2. Practicing courtesy and respecting the ideas and points of view of others; and
  3. Engaging all members of the group.

- TII.2 The student will create and strengthen trust through participation in theatre games and improvisations that
1. Demonstrate characterization and justify motivations;
  2. Develop a narrative that expresses dramatic conflict;
  3. Incorporate dialogue and listening skills to express character relationships;
  4. Integrate personal experience into the exercises; and
  5. Refine concentration, observation, imagination, and sensory memory.
- TII.3 The student will exhibit rehearsal discipline and maintain stage properties, costumes, equipment, and facilities according to established standards.
- TII.4 The student will demonstrate acting skills and techniques in solo and group performances by
1. Using movement, staging (blocking), pacing, and stage business;
- TII.5 The student will apply principles of directing by
1. Communicating directorial choices, including pacing, mood, concept, and style; and
  2. Employing ethical standards in script selection, revision/adaptation, and presentation.
- TII.6 The student will demonstrate skills and principles of technical theatre by
1. Applying safety procedures;
  2. Utilizing the elements of technical theatre, such as lighting, scenery, costumes, makeup, properties, and sound;
- TII.11 The student will identify major theatrical styles, including classical, Renaissance, modern, contemporary, and non-Western, including
1. Identifying universal characters, situations, themes, and ideas in theatre;
  2. Identifying the use of symbolism and cultural and historical clues in dramatic texts; and
  3. Describing historical production designs, techniques, and performance practices.
- TT.3 The student will describe the different types of theatre spaces (e.g., proscenium, thrust, area), suggesting specific design considerations for each.
- TT.4 The student will identify the components of the theatre facility.
- VBO.5 The student must know how to follow safety guidelines and demonstrate appropriate safety practices.

Dr. Aaron C. Spence, Superintendent  
Virginia Beach City Public Schools  
2512 George Mason Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038

Produced by the Department of Teaching and Learning.  
For further information please call (757) 263-1070.

#### Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy

Virginia Beach City Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation/gender identity, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, disability, marital status, age, genetic information or veteran status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. School Board policies and regulations (including, but not limited to, Policies 2-33, 4-4, 4-6, 4-43, 5-7, 5-19, 5-20, 5-44, 6-7, 7-48, 7-49, 7-57 and Regulations 4-4.1, 4-4.2, 4-6.1, 4-43.1, 5-44.1, 7-11.1, 7-17.1 and 7-57.1) provide equal access to courses, programs, counseling services, physical education and athletic, vocational education, instructional materials and extracurricular activities.

To seek resolution of grievances resulting from alleged discrimination or to report violations of these policies, please contact the Title VI/Title IX Coordinator/Director of Student Leadership at (757) 263-2020, 1413 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23451 (for student complaints) or the Section 504/ADA Coordinator/Chief Human Resources Officer at (757) 263-1133, 2512 George Mason Drive, Municipal Center, Building 6, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23456 (for employees or other citizens). Concerns about the application of Section 504 Coordinator/Executive Director of Student Support Services at (757) 263-1980, 2512 George Mason Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23456 or the Section 504 Coordinator at the student's school. For students who are eligible or suspected of being eligible for special education or related services under IDEA, please contact the Office of Programs for Exceptional Children at (757) 263-2400, Laskin Road Annex, 1413 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23451.

Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write The Department of Teaching and Learning, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038. Telephone 263-1070 (voice); fax 263-1424; 263-1240 (TDD) or email her at [John.Brewington@VBSchools.com](mailto:John.Brewington@VBSchools.com).

**vbschools.com**  
your virtual link to Hampton Roads' largest school system



**VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
CHARTING THE COURSE

No part of this publication may be produced or shared in any form without giving specific credit to Virginia Beach City Public Schools.

(Revised August 2017)