



Musical Theatre IV
2020-21 Syllabus

Faculty: Mr. William Dye, Musical Theatre I, II, IV
Mr. Morgan Day, Musical Theatre III
Dance: Mrs. Tracy Moody
Rehearsal Accompanist: Ms. Kim Fox
CFA Director: Dr. Stephanie Poxon

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Course Description and Objectives:

- Students will obtain training and skills associated with Musical Theatre: acting, dance and music, and use correct terminology and vocabulary in written and oral discussion.
- Students will achieve understanding of the historical, creative, artistic, and aesthetic aspects of musical theatre.
- Students will gain knowledge and understanding of the social and cultural impact of the arts on society and culture.
- Students will achieve a professional and personal understanding of the arts through rehearsals, auditions, performances, and presentations.

Class Expectations:

Students are expected to practice the following qualities at all times:

- Respect for others on and off the stage
- 100% participation at the appropriate times
- Remaining on task during independent and group work without constant supervision
- Maintain a positive attitude
- Come to class prepared to work, listen, and learn, with all appropriate materials
- Avoid interrupting the class or others with inappropriate talking or talking out of turn
- Listen to and follow directions given to you by your instructors

Your contributions to the positive learning environment aid in your learning as well as the learning of the entire class. This includes staying attentive to class activities as well as fully participating in all activities.

Guest Artists: We often ask professionals in our area to come to work with you so that you benefit from their expertise and experience. You are expected to show them total respect and your 100% willingness

to learn from their experiences. You are also expected to know the information that they are bringing to you. You will want to take notes on this information, as it will be included on tests.

Classroom Procedures:

You are expected to know the week's schedule and to be prepared for classes. Schedules will be on teacher's websites as well as on the white board in the classroom. The following procedures and expectations are to help you to know what to expect for each teacher's class:

Dance: Have all of your clothing available on TUESDAY for each week as there will be weekly dance classes taught by Mrs. Moody. Mr. Dye will teach dance on rare additional days some weeks. You will be told the dance class schedule each week. You will also need your clothing and shoes for rehearsals and guest artist classes.

All dance clothes and shoes must be marked with your name or initials and Musical Theatre level in permanent marker.

- You have **5 minutes** from the tardy bell to be dressed and in the dance studio. Points will be deducted for being late. Points will also be deducted for inappropriate dancewear.
- Absolutely No Jewelry, except small earrings. No head wraps, hats, scarves or bandanas, etc., allowed.
- It is vital that students do not miss dance class since dance classes cannot be made up.

Music: Students will keep all music that is handed out in a binder. Music should always be brought to school and available every day.

- Homework should be turned in by placing it in the appropriate level's folder found in the classroom on the day it is due. It is the student's responsibility to turn in homework without reminders.
- Students are required to always have a pencil with eraser as well as their laptop computer for class.

Grading:

From the CFA student handbook:

“The minimum GPA expectation for all students is 2.7; in addition, CFA students are expected to earn grades of B- or higher in their CFA curriculum area courses. A CFA grade below a B- will initiate a conversation about your commitment and dedication to your achievement in the arts. It is imperative that students and parents understand the importance of academic and artistic achievement.”

- **Tests/Performances/Major Assignments/Paper and or Projects 40%** Tests will be given in a variety of formats and may include performances, presentations, standard written tests, demonstrations, etc.
- **Quizzes/Homework 30%** Quizzes will be given in variety of formats, some announced, some not! Late homework assignments will lose 10 grade points per day.
- **Class Participation 20%** Class preparedness and attitude will factor into the class participation grade along with compliance with the classroom rules and procedures. Come ready to work!
- **Performance Reviews 10%** Each student is required to see one theatrical production (musical or play) each grading period and turn in a theatre log along with a ticket stub or program. The theatre log has a format that must be followed and failure to follow the format or proofread for spelling and grammatical errors will result in a reduced grade. Students will be given a list of professional and community performances in the Richmond area; however, they may see productions outside of Richmond. You may not review a production that you are in or the following types of performances: dance concerts, talent shows, pageants or music concerts. **Performance reviews must be turned in no later than TWO WEEKS after seeing the performance, and will not be accepted after the following dates for each grading**

period: **November 6, January 22, March 26 and June 8.** Performance reviews must be dropped into the Schoology Dropbox; *please tell Mr. Dye if you are turning your performance review in to Schoology!* **Please note: if your GPA at the end of the 3rd marking period is 3.0 or above, you will be exempt from writing your marking period 4 theatre log!!**

- **Extra help is available!** Your musical theatre teachers are available for extra help before and after school, by appointment. We want to help you succeed!

Attendance: Attendance in school is the most important factor in school success! Always bring a note to the attendance office to explain your absence. **Without the excused absence note, you will not be allowed to make up work and will receive a 0 for work missed, including class participation, quizzes and tests. It is your responsibility to ask about what you missed in class and how it may be made up.** Tests and quizzes must be made up within three days of returning to school after an excused absence. Refer to the CFA Student Handbook for additional information regarding attendance.

Rehearsals and Performances are part of the curriculum, and therefore are mandatory, and graded. While we encourage you to take an active role in your artistic education by participating in as many aspects of theatre, dance, music, or other aspects of our craft, it is imperative that you look at all possible conflicts well in advance of your Musical Theatre rehearsals and performances to avoid missing rehearsals or performances, thus receiving zero test grades for these absences. You may report emergencies by calling 228-2718 and leaving a message if you cannot speak directly to Mr. Dye.

Housekeeping:

Lockers: You will be assigned a locker – and given the combination to the lock. Please keep your locker number and combination where you can find them; teachers should not have to remind you of your locker number and combination on an ongoing basis. You may keep all your school supplies in this locker, but you **MAY NOT SHARE THIS LOCKER WITH ANYONE ELSE.** **Do not store your personal belongings in the dressing room, classroom, hallway, backstage or anywhere else. Items get lost when they are kept in these public areas, and your Musical Theatre materials, especially dance clothing and shoes, are expensive to replace.**

Backstage: This is an extension of our classroom – and we are responsible for taking care of it as well as sharing it with all others in the school. It is the utmost importance to look after yourself and your belongings, and to practice safety whenever on stage. You will be taught stage safety and be expected to practice proper decorum at all times. You should never be on the stage, in the auditorium, or in the Musical Theatre classroom without a staff member present. Wait in the hallway until a teacher arrives for class, rehearsal or performance.

Dressing rooms: Food and drinks are never allowed around costumes, and are not allowed in the dressing rooms. Keep the room clean and neat at all times. Items left in the dressing rooms can and will be disposed of if not claimed in a timely manner.

A note: Deodorant, Perfume, and Hairspray: Have deodorant on hand and use it. Do not spray perfume in the bathroom, dressing room, or classroom spaces. Be careful using hairspray around others who may be sensitive to it.

Finally – what we believe about you!

You were chosen for this program because we believe you have the gifts, talent and determination to develop into musical theatre artists. It is both a privilege and an honor to be involved in Center for the Arts. Your peers and classmates can be great resources for you and you can be a great resource for them.

Learn to trust each other so that you collaborate, not compete.

Behavior is what you do – it is the action of your attitude! Be open to the constant feedback that you will receive in class and rehearsal. You cannot grow as an artist if you are not able to hear and respond to the feedback that will be given to you. You are expected to change, to use the feedback to improve your performance. Listen to the feedback the instructors give to others and determine how it might help your performance as well. One rule we must insist on: during class time, unless instructed to, the student is not allowed to give others feedback. The instructor needs to be heard first and then feedback may be invited from the class. When you give feedback, remember to be constructive in your criticism and supportive of your classmates at all times.

A lot will be asked of you; stay focused and encouraged. We all struggle with some skills. Don't give up on yourself or the group. Singing, dancing and acting all take a great deal of practice, coordination and determination to do excellently. A true professional takes the struggles in stride with the successes and keeps working to improve his or her craft. This is where your behavior reflects your attitude! Keep it positive.

“Respect yourself, others, and the work. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to perform; give your best whenever you are on stage. Respect your audience and graciously thank them for attending your performances. You are taking part in the liveliest of arts; people have expressed themselves through music, drama, and dance for hundreds of years and your contributions are just as important as those of ancient Greece, Shakespearean England and 21st-century Broadway. Respect your body and mind. Don't smoke or use drugs. Eat a balanced diet, take your vitamins, get adequate exercise, take enough time in rest, play, and sleep. Read as much as you can. Observe the world around you. Be fascinated by life and be thankful for the abilities you have been given. Lastly, respect your teachers and classmates, and remember that we are on this creative journey together.”

MATERIALS LIST:

I. **Song Textbook:** Students will have the option to purchase the following book of musical theatre songs (If you already have your book from a previous level, you do not need to purchase another.) The Singer's Musical Theatre Anthology (any volume, for appropriate voice type) – Hal Leonard, publisher.

Students should purchase the edition that includes online access to piano accompaniment for at-home rehearsals of songs and in-class song presentations.

- Musical Theatre Anthology books may be purchased from the publisher at www.halleonard.com, SheetMusicPlus.com, jwpepper.com or may be ordered through local music stores (Music and Arts, Sam Ash, Guitar Center).
- **Be sure that you order the edition including the book with online piano accompaniment access.**
- **Song textbooks are due by **Monday, September 14**. All song books must have the student's name written in them. Lost music books will result in grade deductions (and money spent to replace them).**

III. **Classwork Materials:**

1. Three-ring binder for sheet music
2. Notebook or binder with note-taking paper and pockets for keeping handouts
3. Laptop computer
4. Pencils and pens
5. Clothing for movement (daily class will include movement exercises; avoid wearing clothing that hinders your movement (ex: clothing that is short or tight). Please keep extra movement clothes (t-shirts, sweatpants, sneakers, etc.) in your locker!
6. Sipper or bottle for water (performers must stay hydrated!) **Classwork materials are due on **Monday, September 14**.**

IV. **Dance Class Needs:**

Girls:

1. Shoes:
 - A. Black character shoes (1-1/2" or 2" heel (Not 1-inch), ankle-strap style)
 - B. Black jazz shoes (non-high top, traditional or sneaker style)
 - C. Black tap shoes (Oxford-style, low heel)

2. Attire:
 - A. Black jazz pants (NOT sweatpants, capris or leggings, non-drawstring, non-lycra (no tight, shiny fabric))
 - B. Leotard/Fitness Top/Non-oversize T-shirt

Boys:

1. Shoes:
 - A. Black jazz shoes (non-high top; traditional or sneaker style)
 - B. Black tap shoes (Oxford-style, low heel)

2. Attire:
 - A. Black jazz pants (NOT sweatpants, non-drawstring, non-lycra (no tight, shiny fabric))
 - B. School-appropriate T-shirt, not oversized; must fit snugly

** No jewelry (except small stud earrings)

** Hair must be pulled back away from face (use elastics or barrettes; no scarves or hats) **

Dance items may be purchased at Ellman's (19 S. Belmont Ave. - 358-0655) or online at www.dancedistributors.com or www.discountdance.com.

Dance clothes and shoes are due by Monday, September 14.

CENTER FOR THE ARTS - MUSICAL THEATRE SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Level IV:

Senior Showcase Song Selection and Presentation:

1. Choose **three** options for your Senior Showcase solo/duet song.
2. Research each song and present the following:
 - a. Musical
 - b. Composer/Lyricist
 - c. Which character sings the song, at what point in the plot
3. Prepare 16 measures of each song (on-book or off-book (extra credit)) to present the first week of school, with your research.
4. Recorded accompaniment is preferred for this project.

WARNING: Do not wait until the weekend before school starts to prepare this assignment. Give yourself adequate time to plan and prepare your project. Have fun, prepare well and enjoy a wonderful summer!!

CORRECT... it is very likely that your songs will not fit into your classes collective showcase theme. Please do NOT use this as an excuse to not put in the repertoire work. If nothing else, you will have at least three more songs to include in your heavily weighted, final grade "performance kit". WIN-WIN