

HIGH SCHOOL BEGINNING/INTERMEDIATE ACTING

2019-2020

Instructor: Mr. Luke Young

Classroom: Green Room/Theatre

Class Website: nsaayoungarts.weebly.com **Remind Code:** 76262K9 **E-mail:** Lyoung@aznsa.com

Office Hours: Tues 7:30 - 8:45, Wed 12:15 -12:40 By Appointment **Course Day/Time:** M/W/T, 5th Hour

Course Description: Beginning/Intermediate Acting will focus on core basic knowledge of theatrical elements and skills. Topics covered throughout this course will include (but are not limited to) Acting, Directing, Playwriting, Technical Theatre Elements and Collaboration & Ensemble-building. Students will be expected to participate in theatrical games & improvisations, focusing exercises, monologue work, scene work and ensemble work. Students are also required to participate in performances both in class and in our final performances each semester. This class will encourage creativity, trust, bravery and respect. Let's have a wonderful and dramatic year!

Required Materials:

- ½ Inch Binder dedicated to this course
- Loose leaf Lined paper
- Binder tabs
- A cute journal - think of it as an accessory, pick something you like!
- Highlighters
- Pencils
- Clothes and shoes you can move in

IMPORTANT: Please note that throughout the year you will be provided with copies of scripts, scenes and/or monologues. *It is your responsibility to keep track of these materials and to bring them with you to class everyday.*

Major Assignments / Assessments:

- Rehearsals and Performances will account for 40% of your final grade, as this is a performance-focused class. If you are tardy or do not show up for a performance, you will receive a "0."
- Memorization will account for 20% of your grade. This means that you will have dialogue and blocking memorized for appropriate dates. If you do not demonstrate adequate memorization, you will be required to maintain a "Memorization Log". This log will be due daily during times of performance preparation and must reflect accurate and honest records of time spent memorizing and include a parent signature for each entry.
- In this course, you must attend class and participate daily. Attendance and participation account for 10% of your grade.
- Homework, in class assignments, and quizzes account for 15% of your grade.
- Quarterly projects & major papers also account for 15% of your grade.
- Finally, at the end of the first and second semester, you will have a final exam, which will include a written essay component. These exams are a school wide policy and they are cumulative.

Social Contract: Each student and parent will sign the attached social contract acknowledging that they understand and will adhere to course policies included in the syllabus, the Student Handbook, the Non-discrimination policy outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and the Parent/Student/School compact which is in the enrollment packets.

Students with Special Needs: Students with special needs will receive appropriate accommodations.

Film Sensitivity: On occasion, a film may be shown in class that has a rating of PG-13 or R. A parent/guardian signature on the Social Contract grants your student permission to view these films. If you wish for your students to be exempt from viewing, please make a note on the Social Contract. Students who do not watch the film will be given an alternative assignment.

Tactile Teaching: Acting is a physical art. From time to time, the teacher may physically position a student.

Field Trips: Students will occasionally offered the opportunity to take part in field trips. Parent & Students will be notified of these field trips at least three weeks in advance and will be required to return a signed Field Trip Permission Slip two weeks prior to the trip in order to be permitted to partake. Students who choose not to participate in the field trip must still attend school and will be given an alternative assignment to complete.

Course Policies:

(Be sure to review the student handbook and student code of conduct for additional details and specifics. All school policies and rules apply in this course.)

Attendance, Tardy & Participation Policy

- Participation is inherent to success in this course. Every activity we complete in class will receive a grade including warm ups, rehearsals, notes, acting exercises, and performances. Non participation will result in a 0. As part of your daily grades, you are expected to be respectful, do the work at hand and stay on task. You will receive zero points for being disrespectful, not doing the work at hand, and/or for goofing off.
- Tardy is considered arriving anytime after class starts. If you are tardy for any reason, it will be reflected in your daily warm up grade. Three tardies will result in further disciplinary action.
- If you would like to make up points you missed for an excused absence, please see me, or contact me, and we will discuss options. Missed activity points must be made up within three class periods of the excused absence.
- If you plan to miss class on a day that we are rehearsing for an upcoming performance, **you must notify Mr. Young by email or remind message immediately.**
- ATTENDANCE: Prompt daily attendance is expected. All students must be seated in the classroom and prepared to learn when the class begins! Each tardy or unprepared class will cost the student academic points and negatively influence their grade. Additionally, if a student is aware of up-coming absences, it is their responsibility to inform the teacher before the absence(s) and arrange make-up or alternative work. **Any student who accumulates three or more tardies or unexcused absences in the same class in one month will be required to recover instructional minutes on the last Saturday of each month. Saturday attendance will be from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Failure to attend Saturday recovery hours may result in a schedule change.**

Bathroom/Hall Pass Policy

- Only one student may be excused to use the restroom at a time.
- Students must leave their cell phones in the class plastic pocket organizer before they are excused to use the restroom or deal with business.
- Students should limit their restroom break to 5 minutes. Any student who leaves the room for an extended amount of time on multiple occasions without a valid excuse may face consequences or limited privileges.

Missed Assignments

- If you miss an assignment due to an **excused** absence, you may make up the assignment for up to full credit. If you have missed a class, please see me at the beginning of your next class period so we may discuss a plan of action.
- Please make every effort to attend on days we have in class performances. Group members are depending on you and it puts the class behind if we have to do the performance on another day.
- If you miss an in class performance with an **unexcused** absence, you will receive a "0" for that performance.

Late Assignments

- Late Assignments will be entered as a 0 until the assignment is made up. It is your responsibility to create and adhere to an extension plan on late assignments.

Class Conduct

- In this class, we will work the entire semester on creating an ensemble. **Ensemble: A group of individuals, using their individual strengths and working together cooperatively and responsibly, for the betterment of a group, wherein the group becomes just as important as the individual. Our ensemble's goal is to respect one another and use our strengths to create the best theatrical work we can make.**
- Please be respectful to yourself, others, the teacher, the space, and the work that we are creating. Theatre/Drama is a creative art form, and we will not succeed in the creation of it, unless we can all collaborate, cooperate, and be committed to what we are creating.
- You will be expected to maintain a positive attitude and to actively participate in all activities.
- Encourage one another. We will work to maintain a "safe place" to explore and play.
- You are expected to keep your belongings against the wall and out of our performance space for the safety of all students and faculty.
- **Students will not be dismissed from class until the theatre or room is restored to the state in which they found it. All chairs must be stacked before students will be excused.**
- No food or drink is allowed in the classroom or the theatre. However, you may have a bottle filled with water.
- You should be dressed comfortably and able to move. Revealing clothing (for either gender) will not be tolerated. If I feel what you are wearing is inappropriate, I will not hesitate to send you to Dean Cardenas for further action.
- Hats, sunglasses, or any articles of clothing that constrict or prevent movement are prohibited in class.
- Gum is not permitted in the classroom or in the theatre.
- Cell phones may not be used in class. If I see you using your cell phone or if it rings/vibrates and disrupts the class, I will confiscate it for the remainder of the class period. If there are repeated offenses, further disciplinary action may be taken.
- Any student who released to work in the Gallery or any areas outside of the classroom must leave their cell phone in the plastic pocket organizer hung on the back of the Green Room door.
- This is a profanity free classroom. For all infractions, the student will be sent to the front office.
- **Be prepared.** Please come to class with all of your materials. If students come to class without necessary materials, they will lose your participation points for the day.
- **You must attend a full day of school on rehearsal and performance days. If you miss any part of the day, you will not be able to rehearse or perform and your grade will suffer accordingly. Rehearsal and performance is a large part of this class and it is imperative that you attend all of your classes, so that you are able to perform as scheduled.**
- Finally, if a student misses one or more rehearsals they may be removed from the production and/or class.

Behavioral Consequences

- For all minor infractions, the student will be given up to two verbal warnings. Upon the third offense, they will be sent to the front office.
- For all major infractions, the student will immediately be sent to the front office.

Academic Honesty

- Academic dishonesty of any sort, including but not limited to cheating and plagiarism, is not acceptable in this course. If you use a source in any of your assignments, please make sure to cite them (MLA).
- Consequences may range from failure for the individual assignment to failure of the entire course.

Peer Review/ Feedback

- Constructive criticism feeds growth as a performer. As such, after performances we will all participate in a feedback session where students are encouraged to offer both positive notes & constructive criticism.
- I ask that you be open to your fellow students and take their constructive criticism as suggestions and in the spirit that it is meant.
- In the same regard, it's crucial to celebrate good work amongst your peers. If you think someone has done something awesome, let them know!

Remind

- We will be using the Remind App for text messages in this class. Both parents and students will receive reminders for homework, assignment due dates, and tests or quizzes. Students or parents who do not want to participate must sign a waiver that they will not be participating in the Remind program. The Remind App is free and only requires a cell phone number. The remind App will replace the weekly email reminders that we have used in prior years.

Juries and AzMerit Testing

- Performances classes will take Benchmark Tests in the form of juries on August 19 - 23, December 12 & 13, and May 14-15 and the AZMerit Exam (with the exception of seniors) sometime in April 2020. Students must attend these days and will lose activity points for any absences. Test data is instrumental in being able to refine course work and effectively plan for the future. Take note: This test data is often used for college entrance and scholarships; students should take the exams seriously and perform to their best ability.

Grading by Quarter:

40% - Rehearsals and Performances and Warm Ups and Exercises

20% - Memorization/Off Book, Memorization Log

20% - Homework, Journal, In Class Assignments and Quizzes

20% - Quarterly writing assignment

Honors/Gifted Option

In any NSAA course, students may elect to pursue an Honors option. Should you choose to select this option we will work out a plan which will be typed in the form of a contract, and will contain clear, detailed requirements for the student to accomplish. Honors options will be self-directed, teacher-supported, and will require outside research and pursuit of a subject beyond the scope of what is presented in the regular curriculum. **If you would like to pursue an Honors Option in this class, please speak with Mr Young.**

Units

Semester 1

The Theatre

Monologues

Scene Study and Contemporary Techniques

Showcase

Theatre History

Semester 2

Character Development and Play Analysis

Performance Rehearsal and techniques

Directing Projects

IMPORTANT DATES! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Rehearsal and Performance Dates:

All students are expected to be at all rehearsals and performances. **If you miss rehearsals or performances, you will lose those points and your grade will suffer accordingly.** Please remember the idea of an ensemble and that you are part of one—the rest of the ensemble is counting on you.

NSAA Open House: August 16, 6:30- 8 pm

Fall Showcase: November 1st at 7 pm, 6 pm call time

Mandatory tech and dress rehearsals October 28th - 30th 4 - 6 pm, and an in class rehearsal on October 31st, attendance is mandatory.

Spring Performance (Attendance Mandatory)

Most rehearsals will be conducted in class.

Tech/ Dress Rehearsal: March 16th - 19th, 4 pm to 7 pm

Performance: Friday, March 20th at 7 pm, 6 pm call time

WE NEED PARENT VOLUNTEERS!

If you'd like to sign up as a parent volunteer please visit the link below and fill out our Volunteer form. You will be contacted via email when volunteer opportunities arise!

Thank you in advance for your support!

<https://goo.gl/forms/g1uD2mZ6xyXgQtJS2>

Requirements for All Performing Arts Students

- **All students who are currently enrolled in a performance class MUST attend the NSAA Open House on 8/16 with their parent or guardian. The meeting will be held in the NSAA theatre.**
- **All students who are currently enrolled in a performing arts class will be required to attend all rehearsals and performances for that class. Final grades and performance grades are given and are crucial to being successful in any performing arts class.**
- **Rehearsals and performance schedules are given on the syllabus for the class at the beginning of the year. Any conflicts or concerns must be voiced by the last school day in September 2019.**
- **Students must attend all rehearsals. Tardiness to a show will result in a deduction of points or possibly being pulled from the show and not allowed to perform.**
- **Any student not allowed to perform for any reason, including academic probation, will still be REQUIRED to attend all performances and assist the Director as needed.**
- **Any absence from a rehearsal or a show due to illness must be accompanied by a doctor's note.**
- **Any student who is absent on the day of a performance will not be allowed to perform, but still must attend the performance (as stated earlier).**
- **Any student who is disruptive or disrespectful during performances or rehearsals may be asked to leave, and might risk being pulled from the performance, but again they would still be required to attend.**
- **Any student on academic probation may NOT perform.**
- **Any student who is not dressed properly on stage will receive a deduction in points for their grade and could possibly be pulled from the show.**
- **Students and parents are responsible for checking the online calendar (www.aznsaa.com) for rehearsal and performance times.**
- **Appropriate dress for performances will be up to each individual instructor and will depend on the needs of the class.**
 - **Any financial concerns need to be discussed privately with the instructor during office hours.**

Acknowledgement of Policies and Receipt of Syllabus

Student Agreement

Course: High School Beginning/Intermediate Acting

Academic Year: 2019 - 2020

I, _____, have read, understood, and agree to the aforementioned policies of this course.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: August ____ 2019

Parent Agreement

Course: High School Beginning/Intermediate Acting

Academic Year: 2019-2020

I, _____, have read, understood, and agree to provide the necessary support so that my son/daughter achieves and meets all the expectations of this course.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: August ____ 2019

Contact Information*: e-mail: _____

Phone: () _____ - _____

*If I need to make contact, I will only do so between the hours of 8am and 8pm