

# 2024-2025 Syllabus and Classroom Guidelines

Theatre and Technical Theatre

Creekside High School

Ms. Fixel

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Welcome to the start of a new school year! As a student enrolled in a theatre class, you are now a member of FIXTOPIA – the Home of All Things Theatre!

As we begin the school year, I would like to give you some information about what to expect from my class and about what I expect from each of you as a member of FIXTOPIA. I want you all to know that I am here to support you and help you succeed. Remember to check Schoology for due dates, copies of handouts and notes, and other important class information; copies of class notes can also be found on my school website. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns by Schoology message or email.

**Here's to a great year!!!! Go Knights!!!!**

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

- ❖ This course will incorporate language arts elements through reading and writing and social studies elements through the study of theatre history. Students will complete reflective journal entries and take notes regularly; these recordings will serve as study aids and project notes. Students will be expected to participate in group work and complete projects regularly. Please check the class website for information about these projects throughout the school year.
- ❖ As part of theatre, our class may watch film versions of plays and other film clips to enhance the study of theatre. A separate permission slip will be sent home for each film.

## BEHAVIOR AND CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

- ❖ **FIXEL'S #1 RULE: Keep it Positive!** 😊
  - The land of Fixtopia is a safe place where everyone should feel supported!
  - Practice Kindness; Be Courteous, Respectful, and Uplifting to One another!
  - Vibe Check: Is it Friendly? Is it Inspiring? Does it set a good example?
- ❖ Students are expected to demonstrate the following behaviors at all times and to abide by the Knights Code of Honor:
  - Respect others and yourself at all times.
  - Show good character every day.
  - Set goals, stay focused.
  - Think and act like a leader.
  - Strive for excellence.
- ❖ Students are expected to adhere to the following school and classroom rules each day:
  - Put earbuds and phones away in backpacks before you enter the class each day.
  - When the bell rings, all students should be seated in their assigned chairs (not milling about or on the floor).

- Come to class each day prepared with the correct materials and ready to engage in class discussions and activities. If there is a warmup assignment, begin working on it immediately after you enter the room.
  - Participate and contribute to the class at all times, in a mature, respectful, and responsible manner.
  - No food or drinks (except bottled water) are permitted inside the classroom; this includes gum.
  - Portable electronic devices, including phones, IPODs, MP3, other music, or gaming systems, shall not be taken out or made visible at any time inside the classroom. #notextinginclass #no snapping
    - \*For specific projects, students may be able to use personal electronics for research or sound needs. Students must ask for permission before using these items. Students may only use the item with permission during the specific class period; the student will not be allowed to use the device in other classes. In addition, the student must have a personal use form on file with the school in order to use the personal electronic device in class.
- ❖ **Tardies** – Students who are not seated when the bell rings, will be considered tardy, and marked as such. Please note: After three (3) unexcused tardies (per quarter) the student will be referred to the Dean for disciplinary measures. 1<sup>st</sup> Tardy = Warning; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tardy = Notify Guardian; 3<sup>rd</sup> Tardy = Referral to the Dean.
- ❖ **Homework** – Homework is a necessary part of the learning process. Most of our assignments will be long-term projects; students will be aware of due dates for these projects several weeks in advance. Students are responsible for asking for help when experiencing difficulties prior to the due date. Many of our projects and assignments for this course will be completed in class.
- ❖ **Submitting Assignments** – Our class will be as paperless as possible. Assignments will be submitted on Schoology. This includes assignments completed in class; if you complete an assignment in class, you will scan it or take a photo and submit as an attachment to class assignment on Schoology.
- ❖ **PARTICIPATION** – This class is fun! Be ready to actively participate in class projects and activities. If you are a little shy, no worries...your classmates and I are all here to support you!
- ❖ **GET INVOLVED** - There are many opportunities to get involved with theatre outside of class through school productions and through the International Thespian Society. However, participation in these activities goes hand in hand with academic attentiveness and a commitment to being a responsible student. ***In order to participate in after school rehearsals and/or performances, you must be present at school on the day for which there is practice or performance.***
- ❖ **Make-Up Work** – If a student is absent, it is his or her responsibility to check Schoology for missed assignments and notes. Students will have two days to make-up a missed assignment due to an excused absence. Tests and Quizzes which are missed during absences can be taken before school by appointment. Extended absences will be handled individually. Unexcused absences will result in 50% credit on assignments.
- ❖ **Retake Policy** - Any student earning an 85% or lower on a summative assignment will have the opportunity to redo the assignment.
- ❖ ESE and ELL accommodations will be addressed within the classroom.
- ❖ **Academic Integrity** – It is non-negotiable that students will exhibit academic integrity at all times and in all classes at Creekside High School. All work submitted should be your own, with credit given to any expert used. Cheating, plagiarism, falsification - or attempts to cheat, plagiarize or falsify - will not be

tolerated. Aiding others in their desire or attempts to cheat is also not permitted. **Academic dishonesty will result in a zero on the assignment, a referral to the dean, and guardian notification.** NO EXCEPTIONS.

**MATERIALS TO BRING EACH DAY:** *(Use your Theatre Notebook from previous years if you have it)*

- ❖ 2 Pocket Folder dedicated to Theatre and Composition/Journal Book to use for Writing OR Binder with dividers
  - If you can take theatre performance and tech theatre, you can use the same materials for both classes.
  - You can and should use the same materials from year to year (Use your theatre 1 notebook in theatre 2, 3, 4 and tech)
- ❖ Notebook Paper – (8 ½ x 11)
- ❖ Pens, Pencils
- ❖ Colored Pencils
- ❖ Planner
- ❖ Index cards and highlighters may also come in handy but are not required

**CLASSROOM NEEDS:** Donations of tissues and hand sanitizer are greatly appreciated. Thank you!!!

**GRADING SCALE:** A= 90- 100%    B= 80- 89%    C= 70- 79%    D= 60-69%    F= 0- 59%

Guardians and Students are advised to check the Home Access Center on a weekly basis. Please contact me by email for any questions regarding grades.

\*\*\*\*The remaining pages contain course specific content. Please locate your class page for the course description, units of study, and any course specific requirements. (Theatre 1 – Page 4, Theatre 2 – Page 5, Theatre 3 – Page 6, Theatre 4 – Page 7, Tech – Page 8).

\*\*\*\*The final page of the packet (page 9) is for all classes and should be signed and submitted online to the Schoology assignment. If you take performance and tech theatre, you only need to submit one signed copy (list both class periods). Submit signed page by Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>.

# THEATRE 1

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

*Theatre 1:* This course is designed for students with little or no theatre experience and promotes enjoyment and appreciation for all aspects of theatre. Classwork focused on the exploration of theatre literature, performance, historical and cultural connections, and technical requirements. Improvisation, creative dramatics, and beginning scene work are used to introduce students to acting and character development. Incorporation of other art forms in theatre also helps students gain appreciation for other art forms, such as music, dance, and visual art.

## UNITS OF STUDY:

- ❖ **Theatre Etiquette**
- ❖ **Improvisation Techniques and Activities**
- ❖ **Character Development/Characterization**
- ❖ **Technical Theatre**
  - Areas of The Stages
  - Parts of the Theatre
  - Sets/Scenery
  - Sound
  - Lights
  - Costumes
  - Make-up
  - Publicity
- ❖ **History of Theatre**
  - Theatre Origins
  - Storytelling
  - Ancient Theatre
  - Pantomime
  - Commedia dell'arte
- ❖ **Introduction to Shakespeare**
  - Shakespeare's Words and Works
  - The Globe Theatre
- ❖ **Musical Theatre**
  - History and Styles/Types
  - Musical Creation/Production
- ❖ **Plays and Playwrights and Musicals and Composers/Lyricists(Ongoing)**

## **THEATRE II**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

**Theatre II:** This course is designed for students with a year of experience or more and promotes enjoyment and appreciation for all aspects of theatre through opportunities to build significantly on existing skills. Classwork focuses on characterization, playwriting, and playwrights' contributions to theatre; improvisation, creative dramatics, and scene work are used to help students challenge and strengthen their acting skills and explore the technical aspect of scene work.

### **UNITS OF STUDY:**

- Reading the text and Developing Your Character
- Playwrights and Plays/Musical and Composers/Lyricists
  - Thornton Wilder, Arthur Miller, Samuel Beckett, Neil Simon, Anton Chekhov, Tennessee Williams, Sarah Ruhl, Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw, and More
  - Influential and Important Musicals
- Acting Styles and Methods
  - Stanislavsky, Strasberg, Adler
- Theatre and the World
- Theatrical Budget
- Introduction to Theatrical Resume and Portfolio Building
- Two to Three Full Length Play Studies

**\*Students enrolled in theatre II are expected to fully participate in all class activities and assignments. Additionally, it is expected that the majority of students will choose to get involved with theatre outside of the classroom and attend performances to see theatre brought to life (see theatre enrichment assignment below).**

- ❖ **Theatre Enrichment:** All students enrolled in Theatre II will be required to see one CHS (or participate) play per semester OR one play outside of Creekside (includes: another High school's production, a college production, a community theatre production, or professional show.)

## **THEATRE III**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

***Theatre III Honors:*** This course is designed for students with significant experience in theatre, and promotes depth of engagement and lifelong appreciation for theatre through a broad spectrum of teacher-assigned and self-directed study and performance. Students regularly reflect on aesthetics and issues related to and addressed through theatre, and create within various aspects of theatre in ways that are progressively more innovative. In keeping with the rigor expected in an accelerated setting, students assemble a portfolio that showcases a significant body of work representing personal vision and artistic growth over time; mastery of theatre skills and techniques in one or more areas; and evidence of significant oral and written analytical and problem-solving skills based on their structural, historical, and cultural knowledge.

### **UNITS OF STUDY:**

- Pantomime
- Performing in non-traditional ways
- Monologue and Scene Work
- Playwright and Play Studies
  - Thornton Wilder, Arthur Miller, Samuel Beckett, Neil Simon, Anton Chekhov, Tennessee Williams, Sarah Ruhl, Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw, and More
  - Influential and Important Musicals
- Media and Social Media in Theatre
- Acting Methods and their influence on playwrights
  - Stanislavsky, Strasberg, Adler
  - Absurdism, Realism, Naturalism, Expressionism
- Comparing Eastern to Western Theatre
- Playwriting and Technical Theatre
- Social, Historical, and Political Issues through the lenses of the theatre
- Theatrical Resume Building
- Two to Three Full Length Play Studies

**\*Students enrolled in Theatre III are expected to fully participate in all class activities and assignments. Additionally, it is expected that the majority of students will choose to get involved with theatre outside of the classroom. \*\*\*See the theatre enrichment requirement below.**

❖ **Theatre Enrichment:** All students enrolled in Theatre IV will be required to see two plays outside of class per semester. Students should see one CHS (or participate in) play per semester and one play outside of Creekside (includes: another high school's production, a college production, a community theatre production, or professional show).

## THEATRE IV

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

*Theatre IV Honors:* This course is designed for students with extensive experience in theatre and promotes significant depth of engagement and lifelong appreciation for theatre through a broad spectrum of primarily self-directed study and performance. In keeping with the rigor expected in an accelerated setting, students assemble a portfolio that showcases a significant body of work representing personal vision and artistic growth over time; mastery of theatre skills and techniques in one or more areas; and evidence of sophisticated oral and written analytical and problem-solving skills based on their structural, historical, and cultural knowledge.

### UNITS OF STUDY:

- Pantomime
- Performing in non-traditional ways
- Monologue and Scene Work
- Playwright and Play Studies
  - Thornton Wilder, Arthur Miller, Samuel Beckett, Neil Simon, Anton Chekhov, Tennessee Williams, Sarah Ruhl, and More
  - Influential and Important Musicals
- Media and Social Media in Theatre
- Acting Methods and their influence on playwrights
  - Stanislavsky, Strasberg, Adler
  - Absurdism, Realism, Naturalism, Expressionism
- Comparing Eastern to Western Theatre
- Playwriting and Technical Theatre
- Social, Historical, and Political Issues through the lenses of the theatre
- Theatrical Resume Building
- Portfolio Project and Directing
  - Theatre IV students will serve as student learning leaders for the Access Theatre Course.

**\*Students enrolled in Theatre IV are expected to fully participate in all class activities and assignments.**

**Additionally, it is expected that the majority of students will choose to get involved with theatre outside of the classroom. \*\*\*See the theatre enrichment and workshop requirements below.**

❖ **Theatre Enrichment:** All students enrolled in Theatre IV will be required to see two plays outside of class per semester. Students should see one CHS (or participate in) play per semester and one play outside of Creekside (includes: another high school's production, a college production, a community theatre production, or professional show).

## TECHNICAL THEATRE

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

#### *Technical Theatre:*

Students focus on developing the basic tools and procedures for creating elements of technical theatre, including costumes, lighting, makeup, properties (props), publicity, scenery, and sound. Technical knowledge of safety procedures and demonstrated safe operation of theatre equipment, tools, and raw materials are central to success in this course. Students explore and learn to analyze dramatic scripts, seeking production solutions through historical, cultural, and geographic research. Students also learn the basics of standard conventions of design presentation and documentation; the organizational structure of theatre production and creative work in a collaborative environment; and the resulting artistic improvement. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend or participate in technical work, rehearsals, and/or performances beyond the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.

### UNITS OF STUDY – TECH THEATRE:

- Parts of the theatre
- Who's Who?: Technical Theatre Roles
- Producing A Show/Publicity
- Theatre Safety
- Rehearsal/Production
- Directing: Casting A Show Staging and Blocking/Movement/Staging
- Costume Design and Construction
- Set Design and Construction
- Lighting and Sound Design and Implementation
- Characters Brought to Life – Makeup, Hair, and Costume
- Stage Management
  
- **This course will be hands on. All students are expected to fully participate in all projects and undertakings.** (\*This may require dressing for the class – not being dressed for the preannounced activity should not hinder participation. \*Students may keep “paint clothes” in the appropriate dressing room.) Students will be required to submit weekly logs.
  
- **Play Enrichment:** All students enrolled in Tech Theatre will be required to see one CHS (or participate) play per semester OR one play outside of Creekside (includes: another High school's production, a college production, a community theatre production, or professional show).
  
- **Workshop Hours/ Hands on Tech Hours:** All students enrolled in Tech Theatre II – IV will be required to complete at least 2 workshop/hands on hours in the spring semester. These hours can be completed by serving in a technical role for a school event or show or by helping during pre-production. (More information will be available about how this assignment will work thus year towards the end of the first semester).





# Creekside High School Theatre/Technical Theatre

- After reading the syllabus, please fill out the information below; submit to Ms. Fixel by Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. No need to print this page, all students will be provided with a paper copy of this page.

### Student Contract:

I have read and understand Ms. Fixel's classroom guidelines and syllabus; I am aware of the **tardy policy**, **electronic device policy**, grading policy, and all other policies regarding theatre class. I understand the consequences of failure to do what is expected of me in this class.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Class Period (s)

### Dear Guardians:

**\*\*The easiest and fastest way to contact me is through email.\*\*** Please do not hesitate to email me at [leia.fixel@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:leia.fixel@stjohns.k12.fl.us) if you have any questions or concerns. Also, be sure to check Schoology frequently for assignments, updates, and reminders.

I have read Ms. Fixel's syllabus and classroom guidelines for Creekside theatre/technical theatre classes and understand the class (classroom) policies and guidelines.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guardian Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guardian Email Contact

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guardian Contact Phone Number

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CHS Theatre Motto: "Create your own sunshine."**  
"A day without sunshine is like, you know, night." – Steve Martin  
"Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves." JM Barrie

