

Tech Theater

Mr. Cragun

christian.cragun@nebo.edu

Course Description:

This year-long class is focused on the behind-the-scenes elements of theater. This includes artistic design, set construction, lighting, costuming, sound design and board operation, scenic painting, make-up, and stage management. Developing these skills will also help students develop their creativity, leadership skills, and organizational abilities. This is a very hands on class that allows students to gain experience working with professional equipment.

Materials and Tools:

In order to fully participate in this class students will need to provide a few materials. I am working to acquire storage for the classroom for students who wish to leave their materials at the school. Failure to bring the correct materials may result in a loss of participation points.

- **Power Tools:** As part of this class students will be required to use power tools. All necessary tools will be provided for the students and they should NOT bring tools from home. Students will be instructed on the proper and safe use of each tool. If there are any reasons (e.g. medical) why you should not use power tools please let me know.
- **Safety Glasses:** All students will be assigned a pair of safety glasses. These are to be worn whenever power tools are used. Glasses will be returned at the end of the year. Failure to do so will result in a fee.
- **Close-Toed Shoes:** This is a necessary safety precaution. Students must wear close-toed shoes at all times during this class. They will not be able to participate if they neglect to have them.
- **Paint Clothes:** At various stages in the class, we will be painting set pieces. Students need to have a set of paint clothes on-hand to ensure that they will be able to participate.
- **Gloves:** These are not required, but as we will be handling lots of wood, some students might prefer to invest in a pair of work gloves. They will not be provided.

Expectations:

1. **Be in Class:** Theatre is a participatory art form, if you aren't in class, you can't engage with the material. Attendance is crucial.
2. **Participate in Class:** Showing up is only half the battle. Students must be willing to participate in all classroom activities, including warm-up activities, rehearsals, and performances. The amount you put in determines the amount you get out. Be excited to learn.
3. **Be Ready:** Our ability to progress in the classroom will be determined by the students' preparation. If a student neglects to bring the proper materials, or fails to prepare the needed material (including having proper work attire), it will impede our ability to continue working.
4. **Be Respectful:** This class allows for students to branch out and grow personally. In order for growth to occur, the environment must be one of encouragement and support. Students will be expected to work with their peers to create a safe environment for our learning.

Assessment and Grading:

- **Attendance:** Every class at SHS is required to include attendance as a part of a student's grade. This is calculated directly by Aspire. Because this class focuses so heavily on participation and hands-on experience, attendance will account for 20% of a student's grade.
- **Participation/Professionalism Points:** Because merely showing up is not enough to really learn in this class, students will also receive points on work days. Failure to participate or to work with their assigned group will result in a loss of points.
- **Projects/Portfolio:** Students in tech theater will work on a number of group projects including work for the school plays. These projects will need to be completed by deadlines set in class. All projects will also

documented by the student in a portfolio that will be checked each term. This assignment is designed to aid students looking to go into the workforce or to major in design in college.\

- **Service Hours:** This class works with the school to help run the auditorium. Students are required to give 20 hours of service outside of class per semester. This allows students the opportunity to work with a project hands-on and gives them practical experience running the sound and light boards. There is always plenty of work to be done for every student to be able to reach their 20 hours. I am willing to work with students to find times for them to complete these hours.
- **Strike:** Once per semester, students will be required to help take down the set that they built. Often times, this must take place closing night of the show. Strike is a late night that usually goes from 9pm-11pm. The dates for strike this year are November 24th and February 23rd. Please clear these dates now. Thank you.
- **Play Reports:** In order to gain a full understanding of what theater holds as an art form, students will be asked to seek out theatrical opportunities throughout each term as follows:
 - **Play Viewing Report:** Once per **semester** students will be required to go see a play and respond to it. Students are responsible to find a performance that works with their schedule, though I always make an effort to keep them informed on what is showing in the area. Plays can range from elementary school level to full Broadway productions. It must be a full-length play (Greater than 60 minutes) and it must be live (no video recordings). Ballets and operas do not count for this assignment.

If purchasing a play ticket is an issue for your family, please contact me early. There are a few free productions that happen throughout the year, and I always set aside a few tickets to the school play for families in need.

- **Extra Credit:** Students may turn in an extra play report for extra credit. While I encourage students to take this opportunity, the extra credit will not be substantial enough to make up for major assignments not being completed. It is not a means of getting out of class work entirely.
- **Grading Scale:**

F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A
<60%	60-63%	63-68%	68-70%	70-73%	73-78%	78-80%	80-83%	83-88%	88-90%	90-93%	>93%

Late Work and Absences:

As stated earlier, it is essential for students to come to class prepared with their work completed. Work that is handed in after the due date will be accepted at a discounted grade. Work will be docked **10% per school day** that it is late. All late work must be handed in at least one week before the end of term to be considered for credit.

If a student misses class for whatever reason, they are responsible to find out what they missed. If an assignment was due the day they were absent, it must be handed in upon their return to class, or it will be considered late. If an assignment was given during their absence, they will be given additional time to make up the work equal to the number of days absent.

Final Thoughts:

Theatre is a unique experience and the class will be different from many others that students take during their high school careers. Many students comment on how they enjoy having a break from what they see as the "typical" class. I love watching as students gain confidence and self-esteem. I love watching as their talent grows. This class can be something that students will remember for years to come. If there is anything that you feel that I should know in order to help you get the most out of this class, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks! And let's have a great year.