

Drama 1 AB Syllabus

2026-2027

Mrs. Abigail Paxton Jeffries

RM 403 • (559) 327-3000

abigailpaxtonjeffrie@cusd.com

Buchanan Drama Website: <http://bearstage.org/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Drama 1AB is an **introductory course** designed to develop basic acting skills while providing the student with a background in theatre arts. Students in this class will **perform memorized scenes** from published plays and **develop their own improvised scenes**. **Historical** perspective and **analysis** will also be covered and students will learn to analyze and assess the **aesthetic and technical properties** of their own work as well as recognized artists.

PRIORITY STANDARDS

This is a National Core Arts Standards-based course (with careful, selective attention to appropriate ELA Common Core Standards). All standards will be taught, with a special emphasis on the following (<https://www.nationalartsstandards.org/>):

CREATING

- Anchor Standard #1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
- Anchor Standard #2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
- Anchor Standard #3: Refine and complete artistic work.

RESPONDING

- Anchor Standard #7: Perceive and analyze artistic work.
- Anchor Standard #8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.
- Anchor Standard #9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

PERFORMING/PRESENTING/

PRODUCING

- Anchor Standard #4: Select, analyze and interpret artistic work for presentation.
- Anchor Standard #5: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.
- Anchor Standard #6: Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.

CONNECTING

- Anchor Standard #10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
- Anchor Standard #11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

For your overall academic success, it would be beneficial to have the following items (if you need assistance obtaining these items, please contact me):

- a **folder** for Drama Class or a place in your binder to keep things
- access to a **computer** with **internet access**
- use of your **school email**, **google drive account**, and **google classroom**
- a planner or calendar to keep track of the agenda and assignments and important dates
- **pen**, **paper**, and a **highlighter** for written work during class time

****This class will largely function in person. However, some assignments will be submitted online, and some digital work may be assigned.**

CLASSROOM CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS

- Students are expected to be on time and ready to learn when the bell rings. This includes preparedness of any and all assignments that are due that class period. Students entering the class after the bell will be marked “tardy” in the attendance record.
- **BE RESPECTFUL AND RESPONSIBLE.** Any behavior in which a student engages must be appropriate. This means no references to **drugs**, **alcohol**, **sexuality**, or other **unsuitable issues**. Anything considered unkind or inconsiderate is unacceptable.
- **Profanity** is not tolerated.
- Phones are absolutely not allowed.
- **Be positive and willing to try!** Listening to instructions and follow them the first time they are given! *There are **no** excuses!*

CELL PHONE POLICY

Unless under the direction of staff (for specific instructional or curricular purposes), students may not use electronic devices, including cell phones and/or earbuds, in classrooms. Devices should be turned off and **stored according to the teacher’s directions**. Devices may not be used in restrooms, locker rooms, or other spaces where students have an expectation of privacy. Students are expected to place their phone in the assigned space at the front of the class in it’s assigned place.

BATHROOM POLICY

This rule is subject to change at any time without warning.

You may use the bathroom as needed; when you leave. **Only one student is allowed to use the restroom at once time**; be considerate of your classmates.

Class time is for academic learning; passing periods, break, before and after school, and lunch are for taking care of personal needs.

EATING AND DRINKING

Food in class is okay as long as it is not a distraction to the learning environment.

You are expected to clean up your messes.

OVERVIEW OF ASSIGNMENTS

Students are expected to participate in a broad spectrum of assignments in the theater arts realm. The majority of topics will be covered; assignments are subject to change or modification or can be added or deleted at anytime during the year at the discretion of the instructor.

Daily Participation:

Students are expected to *voluntarily* participate in daily classroom assignments and activities to receive full credit (10 points each class meeting). **This is an “all or nothing” assignment.** Severe misbehavior can result in a loss of participation points. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to see Mrs. Paxton Jeffries for an assignment to make up these points. Points can also be removed for being off task.

****These points will be entered at the end of each week as a cumulative assignment for the week.**

Acting: Voice and Movement

- Tableau/Pantomime
- Improvisation
- Storytelling
- Scenes and Monologues
- Characterization
- Auditioning

Musical Theatre

- Voice
- Dancing/Choreography
- Auditioning

Writing and Theatre Projects

- Critiques
- Play Analysis
- Reading and written homework assignments
- Standards-Based Quizzes and Tests
- Multimedia projects & presentations

Technical Theatre

- Directing and Design

Historical Context

- Theatre History
- Careers of stars, playwrights, directors, and designers

EVALUATION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Student work will be evaluated on the basis of quality, range of style, depth and complexity of thinking, creativity and originality, and mechanical correctness.

LATE WORK POLICY:

An assignment is considered late if it is not turned into the teacher by the designated due date.

ALL late assignments will be awarded **50% of what the assignment deserves**. An assignment worth 10 points can not receive more than a 5/10 if it is late.

I will not accept work past the grading period in which it was assigned.

If you are absent, it is *your responsibility* to contact the teacher to obtain any and all missed materials and information. The website calendar is also an excellent way to keep track daily of what is happening in class and what is for homework. Assignment deadlines are non-negotiable.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Students will be expected to complete assignments to the best of **their personal ability** to display learning. Cheating violates this belief and will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating will automatically fail the assignment and be subject to school and district penalties.

Plagiarism is the act of using another person's work and submitting it as your own. This behavior is **unacceptable**. Anyone caught plagiarizing will automatically fail the assignment and be subject to school and district penalties.

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit assignments may be available throughout the school year, but extra credit assignments will not be accepted **unless that student has turned in all of the class's required assignments**. Extra credit can account for no more than 2% of your overall grade.

GRADING POLICY

Your grade will be weighted according to category and determined as follows:

Participation in Daily Projects: 40%

A = 100-90%

Written Assignments: 30%

B = 80-89.9%

Performances: 30%

C = 70-79.9%

D = 60-69.9%

F = 0-59.9%

There will be no rounding of grades (i.e. in order to earn an A-, a student needs to have a 90.0%).

****NOTE: Parents and Guardians—** Any grade lower than a 70% is not considered passing; I will frequently phone home with information about Drama 1 assignments if this percentage applies to your child. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have concerns regarding your child's progress in my class.

**The complete syllabus is on Google Classroom.
I can also email directly if you prefer.
Due August 20 or 21, 2026**

AGREEMENT/ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORMS

Drama 1 SYLLABUS

I have read and discussed the syllabus. I understand the requirements and expectations of the course and agree to meet, or help my child meet, those requirements and expectations.

Student Name (please print): _____

Signature _____ Date _____ Period: _____

Parent Name (please print): _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Contact

Best way to contact (circle one): CELL / EMAIL / HOME

Please write number or email address of choice here: _____

In the space below, please provide any additional details I should be aware of this year: