

# Montclair High School

## Course Syllabus

**Department: VPA**

**Course: Acting**

**Level: Academic Half year**

**Credits: 2.5 Visual/Performing Arts**

### **Course Description:**

This basic acting course allows students, regardless of their ability or future aspirations, to build their own self-confidence. The course will emphasize improvisation, vocal and physical skills, use of imagination and observation, sensory and emotional recall and scene and monologue work.

### **Standards:**

- **Standard 1.1: The Creative Process** – All students will demonstrate an understanding of the elements and principles that govern the creation of works of art in dance, music, theatre, and visual art.
- **Standard 1.2: History of the Arts and Culture** – All students will understand the role, development, and influence of the arts throughout history and across cultures
- **Standard 1.3: Performing** – All students will synthesize skills, media, methods, and technologies that are appropriate to creating, performing, and/or presenting works of art in dance, music, theatre, and visual art.
- **Standard 1.4: Aesthetic Responses & Critique Methodologies** – All students will demonstrate and apply an understanding of arts philosophies, judgment, and analysis to works of art in dance, music, theatre, and visual art.

### **Anchor Text(s)**

Not applicable

### **Supplementary Materials:**

- Scene and monologue books and copies
- Internet Resources

### **Units of Study:**

- Relaxation and concentration
- Action as a dramatic concept
- Physical movement and gesture
- Vocal control
- Improvisation and theatre games/exercises
- Working with a partner
- Script analysis
- Comic bits
- Monologue performance
- Scene performance

## Proficiencies:

By the end of this course, students will:

- feel comfortable on the stage.
- understand the importance of relaxation and concentration on the stage.
- begin using their voices effectively for the stage.
- begin using their bodies effectively on the stage.
- present an action clearly on the stage.
- read a script to find the actions and characters in it.
- begin to learn how to portray a specific character on stage by the use of movement, voice, gesture, posture, relationships, etc.
- work with other students in a give-and-take on stage.
- put these proficiencies together in performances of scenes.

## Evaluation & Assessment:

- **Performances (40%)** - include all monologues, scenes, and pantomimes which are memorized, prepared and rehearsed outside of class and presented in class or as part of the final performance.
- **Evaluation of Scenes**
  - Evaluation and assessment of scenes and exercises includes talent and aptitude for acting, but also includes the work done on the scene and/or exercise, the rehearsal done, the commitment to the work, how well the lines were memorized and how smoothly the performance went.
    - A Connected performance, clear understanding of process, original and thorough work.
    - B+, B Completing the task, a growing sense of process, exercise realized but not as fully as possible.
    - C or lower Incomplete work in rehearsal, performance, or class; absences, inability to understand and/or execute process/task, inadequate preparation or rehearsal.
    - D When a student takes his or her script onstage for a performance that should be memorized, the grade will be no higher than a D.
- **Class Work (30%)** - an integral aspect of the learning process, Class Exercises are in-class theatre games, acting exercises and other activities done in the class. This can include scenes created and performed in class.
- **The Acting Journal (20%)** is a weekly response journal, a page-long entry in which you respond to the exercises, scenes, work, etc., you do for this course. The student will hand in one entry each week, at the beginning of the week. The journal is a place for students to reflect on the work we do and discuss theatre in general.
- **Rehearsal and Participation (10%)** refer to in-class rehearsal when time is given for that purpose and to participation in all class activities, on-time arrival for class, and following class rules.
- **Final Scene (10% of the final course grade)** – The final exam in the course will be a performance of scenes, open to the public. The scenes will be presented on an evening just before the midterm or final exam period.

**Level Contracting Requirements:** *When appropriate, students can contract up for honors, as agreed upon by course instructor and Department Supervisor.*

Students may contract up for Honors credit for this class, if they are interested. Students will have to perform an extra monologue and an extra scene (with a partner who is also contracting up for honors). Speak to the instructor for more information.