Middle School/High School Stagecraft I

Teacher: Mr. Wheeler

**Course Overview:**

Length of Course: Full Year

Prerequisites: None

This course is designed to introduce the student to the many realms of technical theatre, AKA Stagecraft. In this course students will have hands-on experience in the backstage areas as well as class time to learn and study the different disciplines. Students will have the opportunity to work on class projects as well as lab time working on Davidson performances. During the school year students will get a full introduction and experience in all the areas of theatre so they may better determine if they would like to extend their knowledge into other Production Arts courses. **Students are required to wear close-toed/closed-heel shoes, no exceptions.**

**Course Requirements:**

Dress Code:

* All students are required to wear closed-toe/closed-heel shoes at all times when in this class
* Long hair should be pulled back into bun/pony tail
* Earrings/Jewelry should not be long and dangling
* Clothes must fit appropriately and shirt sleeves must not be loose
* Ladies, if you choose to wear skirts, keep in mind that there will be times when we are on the grid with people below us
* Keep in mind that your clothes will often get dirty or possibly get paint on them. I will try to inform you at least a day in advance if we will be painting, but I am not responsible for damaged clothing

Safety Equipment: Davidson provides the necessary protective equipment, however you may purchase your own personal safety equipment if you so choose

* Work Gloves
* Safety Glasses/Goggles
* Ear Protection/Ear Plugs
* Dust Mask

Tools & Equipment: Every tool, brush, or other piece of theatre equipment used by a student must be returned to its proper storage location at the end of the class period. This includes, but is not limited to:

* Hand Tools returned to the tool closet
* Paint Brushes and Rollers washed and hung to dry
* Paint Cans lidded and stored properly
* Power Cables coiled and hung up
* Lumber returned to the proper racks

**Grading:**

Grading for this class will be done in numerical fashion in correspondence with the Grade Scale for Davidson, which is as follows:

A – 90 to 100%

B – 80 to 89%

C – 75 to 79%

D – 70 to 74%

F – 69 or below

The areas in which you will be graded are:

**40 percent Class Participation/Projects**

This is a hands-on practical class. The only way to learn stagecraft is to do stagecraft. Therefore each day you will receive a participation grade. If I feel you are not are not fully engaged in the projects we are working on, you will lose your participation points for that day. Once an extended project is assigned, you may work after school to complete it, however these hours do not count towards your practicum time.

Each student is required to keep a journal. This should be either a composition notebook or one-subject spiral notebook. Use this journal to take notes on how tools are used and how projects are completed. Journals will be kept here in class except before a quiz or test.

**40 percent Quizzes and Tests**

During the year you will be asked to take quizzes and tests to ascertain your comprehension and progress in technical knowledge. The arrangement of tests will be as follows:

1 Test at the end of each 9 weeks (4)

1-2 Quizzes per 9 weeks as Mr. Wheeler sees fit (4-8)

**20 percent Practicum Time**

Throughout the semester there will be a set schedule of after-school practicum hours which we will use to complete the school production schedule. Each student will be responsible for working two (2) practicum shifts each nine weeks. If Mr. Wheeler, for whatever reason, must cancel a day’s practicum, that student will automatically receive credit for the work hours. Each student must keep track of his/her own time in shop on a provided hour sheet. At the end of each 9 weeks, Mr. Wheeler will examine these sheets to see if you have completed the shifts for which you signed up. It is your responsibility to track your work. If you work a shift, but do not sign the book, your work will not count.

In addition, there will be Saturday/Holiday work calls (1 or 2 each semester) as we move closer to production time. These days are broken up into morning and afternoon shifts. Each student is required, regardless of how many hours have already been accumulated in practicum, to work at least one of these Saturday shifts.