DRAMATIC WRITING SYLLABUS

Mr. Zachary Pareizs | Theatre Building, Room 123, Black Box Theatre

**Curriculum**: Dramatic Writing is a course designed to cover both a Theatre requirement and senior Literature requirement. The course will cover poetry, prose, revision, stagewriting, screenwriting, and pitching. Students will leave the course with several completed writing projecst as well as a 10 minute play with the potential to be performed in our Words of Westside showcase on March 27 @ 6

**Units:** Initial Appreciation, Radio Play (intro to acting & intro to sound), Short Plays (continued acting & sound, intro to costumes, light, set, publicity, stage management, & more!), Theatre History (Greek)

**REQUIRED PERFORMANCE:** Students will be required to perform (as an actor, technician, or producer) in our Spring Words of Westside on March 27 @ 6pm. Students can either stay at school until the performance with Mr. Pareizs, or they may go home and return by 4:00 for call-time. If a student cannot attend, a parent or guardian must contact Mr. Pareizs ASAP to give the student ample time for a make-up assignment.

**Materials:** Students are expected to come to class prepared. Students will need daily:

* Their school assigned laptop

All assignments will be completed through Canvas with students using their school laptop. Students who are not prepared for the day may complete on paper, but they will need to scan the paper, turn it into a file, and submit on Canvas.

* Their script (when applicable)
	+ A pencil & highlighter (can be class provided).

**Grading:**

Minor Assignments:

* Homework assignments.
* In-class assignments.
* Asynchronous Day assignments
* Journal Prompts
* Quizzes
* Writing Assignments

Major Assignments:

* Tests
* Essential Paperwork for techies
* Rehearsal/prompt scripts
* Performances
* Portfolios

**Expectations of Work:**

Westside is supposed to be one of the best schools in the county, so I will be treating you as if you are the best students in the county. To have an A in the class (necessary to exempt the final), you must consistently exceed expectations. Turning in all the work and doing the bare minimum is NOT enough to get an A. That requires EXCELLENCE.

That being said, when grading creative work, I will not be grading the quality or content of your work. I will be grading your application of the standards, understanding of texts, and communication of your ideas. All creative critique will be given through a modification of the Liz Lerman technique, filtering through the artist’s intentions. For example, if there is an assignment to draw a costume sketch, you aren’t graded on the quality of your drawing but if you can communicate the ideas of your design using the drawing.

**Theatre Building:**

1. We are incredibly fortunate to have our luxurious state of the art theatre building. But with this privilege comes responsibility. Bathrooms especially should be
2. In order to account for the extra distance required to travel to the theatre building, students are allowed an extra two minutes to get to this class.
	1. All students are to wait in the lobby with Mr. Pareizs until all students arrive. Students are expected to chill in the lobby or use the bathroom, and we will walk to the classroom together.
	2. No matter how attuned you might get to when you are to leave class, Mr. Pareizs still is in charge of dismissal. Do not just get up and start packing when you think it is time. We will often be working to the very last minute.
3. If you are late coming to class, your best bet will be to knock on the classroom window. However, we may be having class in other rooms, so do your best to arrive punctually. If a student or Mr. Pareizs has to return to the lobby to let you in (without a pass) you will be marked as tardy.
	1. If no one appears to let you in, return to the front office and request they call Mr. Pareizs to let you in.
4. If you make a mess clean it up. Food, drink, and gum are currently allowed in the building, but if messes aren’t cleaned up, gum found on desks, etc., that privilege will be quickly revoked.
5. There are multiple rooms in the theatre building, and wandering is NOT permitted. We will be moving from room to room, depending on our day’s activities, and groups may be divided to rehearse in different rooms. Failure to be on task or outside of a designated location for rehearsal/class will result in disciplinary action. Repeated behavior will result in a write-up.
6. Immediate write-up will occur if a student lets in another person to the building without the express permission of Mr. Pareizs. Our building is the closest to the “real world,” so this is an EXTREME safety concern.

**Class Expectations:**

1. An ensemble must cultivate an environment of RESPECT! Each role in theatre is essential, and respect begets respect.
	1. Art is vulnerable, and this classroom needs to be a safe space for vulnerability. As such, any surprise/secretive recording or photos during class is EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN. There will be severe consequences.
2. Theatre etiquette must be observed during any class performance, lecture, rehearsal, or viewing. This especially includes no talking unless we are having an in-class discussion or work period.
3. Students are expected to come to class on-time and sit in their assigned seat, according to the seating chart if one is used. This is used for attendance and participation.
4. If a student needs to use the bathroom or water fountain, it should be quick, painless, and without disruption to instruction. Raise a finger to get the teacher’s attention, then aim a thumb at the door and either mouth bathroom or water. If the teacher nods, you are clear to go. A quick trip should take no longer than 3-5 minutes. Any longer may result in an investigation. Failure to respect bathroom guidelines will result in bathroom privileges being revoked.
5. Students are also expected to follow all established rules in the RCBOE Code of Conduct Handbook.

Cell Phone and Technology use in Class: RULE 16! RULE 16! RULE 16! NO CELLPHONES. They should be out of sight and out of mind. Students will be using their laptops in class, and when their work is completed, they may use their laptops as they wish. HOWEVER, they should not be pretending to work while secretly playing “Dress to Impress” or *Minecraft.* Headphones are not to be used in class.

Failure to obey these guidelines will result in the device being placed in a paper bag and stapled shut. Taking the phone out of the bag during class or repeated infractions will result in disciplinary consequences.

**Discipline Plan:** Students who choose not to follow the above rules (and all in code of contact) will be subject to the following discipline plan:

a. Counseling by teacher (Paper Bag with regard to cellphones)

b. Contact/attempt to contact parent or guardian

c. Referral to grade-level administrator

d. Suspension

**Communication:** There are numerous ways for students and parents to communicate with teachers. Remind, email, and Canvas, are all available. Please use these options to communicate and ask questions. They will be checked daily. (Except on the weekend.)

**Grades and Attendance--**It is my expectation that parents will regularly check Infinite Campus to monitor their child’s grades and attendance. In turn, you may expect that I will keep the information on this site updated. I will assume both students and parents are getting all grade and attendance information from this site. If you feel I have made an error, or if you have any questions about the information on this site, please contact me via e-mail and I will quickly check this for you.

**Assignments:** All assignments will be posted in the Canvas portal.

**Contacting me directly**: I am not able to make calls during the school day, so I will be happy to communicate with you personally through my e-mail, pareiza@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

You can also sign up for the class Remind to get updates and reminders or message me directly. Text the code for your class to 81010

•After-School Theatre Announcements: @WSThea Relearn/Reassess Form

•Period 1, Theatre Fundamental: @WSThea1

•Period 2, Advanced Mixed Theatre: @WSThea2

•Period 3, Theatre Fundamental: @WSThea3

•Period 5, Dramatic Writing (12th Grade Lit): @WSThea5

•Period 6, Theatre Fundamental: @WSThea6

•Period 7, Advanced Mixed Theatre: @WSThea7

**Make-up work:** Tests or assignments missed due to an absence may be made up. The student must look in canvas to see what is missed. Absent students have 5 days upon their return to submit missing work before the late work policy is implemented.

Any student who received an unsatisfactory grade on a major assignment may complete a relearn/reassess Office Form found on my website or by Scanning the QR code above.

**Late Work Policy:** Students will earn an "M" (which counts as a zero) in the grade book if work is not turned in on the due date. Every school day an assignment is late is -5%. This is capped at 5 school days and -25%. Work will not be accepted after this deadline.

Students experiencing extenuating circumstances should speak with Mr. Pareizs early on to allow for deadline accommodations.

**Missed a Day of Class?** You are responsible to look in Canvas to see what work, activities, readings, or screenings are missed. For instance, if you are sick and miss the scene of the play we are reading, you are responsible to read that scene on your own. If a student misses a screening, Mr. Pareizs will do his best to ensure a viewing link is on Canvas, but this is not always possible. In these cases, students are responsible for finding the screening on their own using the internet or library.

**Tutoring:** Theatre Fundamentals tutoring is available upon request. Right after school Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday is usually the best, but I will often be in meetings or rehearsals, so students should check in with me in person or via e-mail beforehand.

**Extra Credit Opportunities:** Students can earn extra credit for attending live theatre performances and writing a thoughtful review of the production, analyzing the performances, design, story-telling, and overall production.

Students participating in additional theatre productions, either through the school or other organizations, may also receive extra credit, provided they write up a thoughtful reflection on the experience.

**Content:** Theatre often tackles serious subject matter, and as such, students are expected to treat pieces with respect and courtesy. Performance is a vulnerable thing. When selecting pieces, students are expected to use common sense for our academic setting, with a blanket ‘no profanity’ rule. But I will review all pieces beforehand by to ensure each is appropriate for class and ties into our lessons.

**AI Usage:** No AI usage at all, especially for creative generative work. You are smart enough to do it on your own! I believe in you!

**Donations:** We are a new program constantly growing. We would greatly appreciate any and all donations of anything we could use for props, costumes, or scenery: furniture, clothes, old-school set dressing. The beauty of theatre is we can do a play or musical about anything from any era, so most any types of donations will work! We also accept donations of snacks both for concessions and our after-school rehearsals to help tide students over before coming home.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

I’m very excited to make wonderful theatre with you all!

Mr. Pareizs

pareiza@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

Please have your parents/guardians fill in the contact information below.

THEN they must sign acknowledging that they received and read the syllabus.

STUDENTS MUST ALSO SIGN AS WELL!

**Student Name (First and Last): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian (First and Last Name): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Preferred Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Preferred method of contact (please circle all that apply)**

 **Phone Email Text (Remind)**

**Does your student have internet access at home?**

**Yes No**

**Please ensure you AND your student have signed up for REMIND. Initial below when completed.**

**Remind**- Class Codes- text to 81010 OR download the app and create an account to add the class to your account. The app and account are free.

Period 1- @WSThea1 Period 3- @WSThea3 Period 6 - @WSThea6

**Initial HERE:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Comments: (Is there any additional info I need to know about your student?)**

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By signing below, you affirm that you understand the expectations of theatre class, especially the public performance on 3/27.

**Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Content Permission Form**

**PLEASE READ AND SIGN BELOW**

**The theater is used as a place of expression and entertainment. In some cases, there can be mature themes, language, or situations that are portrayed on the stage. As a Theater Fundamentals class your student may be exposed to some of these things. I commit, as the teacher of this course, to do my best to only use material that is necessary to the education of your student. All material will be either, G, PG, or PG-13 in nature. If, for some reason, we must show anything that falls into a more mature category, an additional permission slip will be sent home. Please indicate below if you give permission for your student to view/study material that may fall into the above rating categories. IF permission is not given, other arrangements will be made.**

**STUDENT NAME: (First and Last) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Check one:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, my student has permission to view G, PG, or PG-13 material in Theater Class.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No, my student does not have permission to view G, PG, or PG-13 material in Theater Class.**

**Parent (Guardian) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Any specific content concerns: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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