

**WELCOME TO MRS. MCVICAR 'S
INTEGRATED PERFORMING ARTS
CLASS SYLLABUS 2022-2023**



Instructor: Mrs. Jennifer McVicar (AKA "Mrs. Mcv")
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"EVERY DAY HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE THE GREATEST DAY OF YOUR LIFE."
-LIN MANUEL MIRANDA

WHAT IS THIS CLASS ALL ABOUT?

My class is an interactive, activity-oriented, project based, two- year commitment course designed to introduce students to the art of Theatre, basic acting, and aspects of performance. We will cover the principals of improvisation, theatre history, stage blocking, monologues, acting, character development, short dramas, basic make-up, basic stage craft and much more! Ultimately, this is a performance class integrated with Art, Music, Dance and Social Studies. Therefore, your participation in reading, writing, rehearsing, and memorizing are vital to have success in this class. **We are all** expected to participate and work diligently **together** toward an excellent product.

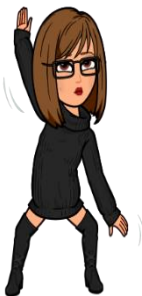
CLASS FORMAT

While primarily a hands-on, minds-on, on-your-feet class, expect daily assignments, projects, papers, and both solo and group performances. Usually, I give you enough class time to complete assignments, but you will occasionally have homework or may need to meet with a partner/group outside of class.

PS. IF YOU HAVEN 'T MET ME YET... HERE 'S A LITTLE BITMOJO!

(ABOUT ME THAT IS...)

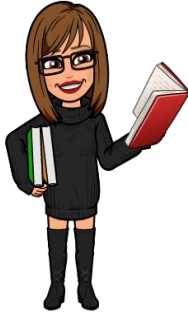
I'm Mrs. McVicar (aka, McV') and this will be my 25th year teaching for WCS! Before MSVPA existed, I taught at Wilde Elementary. There wasn't a grade level that I hadn't taught at least once from Kdg-5th! While there, I created an after-school Drama Club that became quite popular. Every year we wrote an original production and would often have over 100 students perform! It was truly an experience I will cherish forever and one that led



me to MSVPA! I was fortunate to be a part of creating MSVPA and am proud of the work we've done for the past 8 years! I'm looking forward to seeing all the creative excitement this year will bring.

SKILLS YOU WILL EXPLORE & ACHIEVE IN THIS CLASS

- **CONFIDENCE**- Take command in any situation and learn from your mistakes through practice.
- **CREATIVITY**- learn how to think creatively through role-playing. Some people call it "out-of-the-box thinking", and it's a skill that comes in handy in all aspects of your life!
- **DEDICATION**- You practice dedication through preparation and delivering a result. You must show up on time, develop good work habits and put forth a great effort to deliver a successful show.
- **BODY LANGUAGE & OBSERVATION** - The theatre teaches nonverbal communication. You'll learn how to show emotions through body language and how different movements are interpreted by others.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY**- Learn how important your role is to a group activity. If you are late with your lines or don't prepare at all, it affects the overall outcome. .
- **TEAMWORK**-This is an essential part of performing. Period! 😊
- ***** **RECEIVING/GIVING CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK**- Receiving criticism is difficult, and is an essential skill gained through performance. It is necessary you learn that feedback is just another part of the learning process, not something that should be taken personally.
- **CRITICAL PROBLEM-SOLVING**- Another essential skill in the theatre arts. You will explore the use of objectives, obstacles, & choices made in and out of character. You will also recognize and appreciate diverse backgrounds and points of view



REQUIRED SUPPLIES

- 1' binder
- Writing utensils: pencil, pen, highlighter
- Smile

***In class, we will be creating an interactive notebook. The notebook is important to completing assignments and learning the objectives for the class.*

GRADES

You will be graded on the following categories:

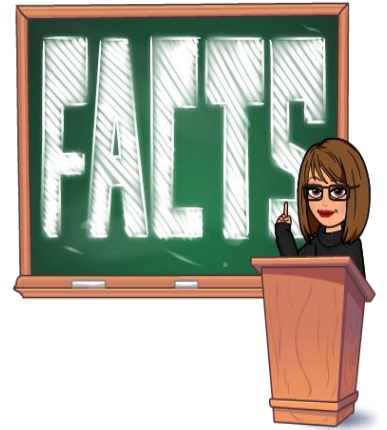
Performances- Throughout the year students will be required to perform a variety of performances pieces. Since we spend weeks and sometimes months on these rehearsals, each performance will count as a weighted grade based on how long we have been rehearsing.

Quizzes/Test - Students will have occasional quizzes and tests that will consist of various question formats.

Evaluations- Students will complete performance critiques for their peers. These evaluations are to serve as constructive criticism to improve future performances. Audience grades may be given as part of the evaluation grade.

Daily Work- Students may be given daily assignments and activities that correspond to the lesson or project that they are learning.

Participation-The more you participate the more you will achieve. Students will be graded on overall participation.



***** PLEASE NOTE MSVPA ARTS TEACHERS GRADEBOOKS ARE NOT COMBINED THIS YEAR! *****

RULES, GUIDELINES & ETIQUETTE

All members of our MSVPA program are expected to behave in an exemplary manner, both at school and when traveling. Your behavior reflects our entire program. Failure to adhere to the classroom guideline will affect your class grade, and lead to disciplinary action.

- My classroom rules are simple. Just remember to be:
 - **Be Respectful-** Respect the teacher, your peers, and this school. Not everyone has the same views or acting experience so be respectful of other's ideas, opinions, and performances. Please think before you speak.
 - **Be Responsible-** Take responsibility for your own learning, by allowing me to teach you and others in the classroom.
 - **Put in the effort-** Work hard and put honest effort into your performances. You cannot allow theater to help you grow if you do not try. If you try you will do great in this class.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

- **Assignment Policy: Make-up Work:** You will be allowed one day for every day that you miss, (up to one full week) to turn in any missing assignments. If you know beforehand that you will be missing class, please see me before that day so you do not fall behind on any new material covered. It is **your responsibility** to get materials and notes for days you are not in class.
- **Homework:** will be assigned various times throughout the year; it is the student's responsibility to get these assignments in on time. Some homework assignments will not be written, but performance-based activities. It is important that all assignments be completed.
- **Attendance Policy:** Being in class is extremely important, especially if we are working on partner or group performances. You are considered tardy if you show up after class has begun within the first five minutes without a valid pass. If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will be counted absent.
- **Bathroom Policy:** You don't need a pass. You may exit WITHOUT the company of others, when using the restroom. If it becomes excessive or you are gone from class too long, we will change the policy.

- **Electronic Devices:** Cell Phones, iPods, iPads or listening devices will only be used for educational purposes during class time. Only with permission!
- **GUM/Food and Drink Policy:**
Food and drink are only allowed in the main classroom if it is not a distraction to other's learning. **Water is the ONLY thing allowed in the stage area unless otherwise established by a teacher. GUM is not an option in any MSVPA space at any time! Just don't!** 😊 Also, if trash is not disposed of daily in any MSVPA classroom, then the privilege to eat and drink will be taken away from the entire class.

USE OF CLASSROOM MATERIALS

- **Bookshelf:** You may use any of the reading materials on the bookshelves when we are working on a project, they are relevant to. You are not to take any of the books or decor home with you. Do not play with items on the bookshelves without permission.
- **Furniture:** You may SIT on the furniture during the class period but may not lay down on it. If you abuse the privilege, it will be removed from the classroom.
- **McV's Costumes/Props, Stage area and Materials:** Please don't touch it if it's not yours. This includes items that belong to peers.

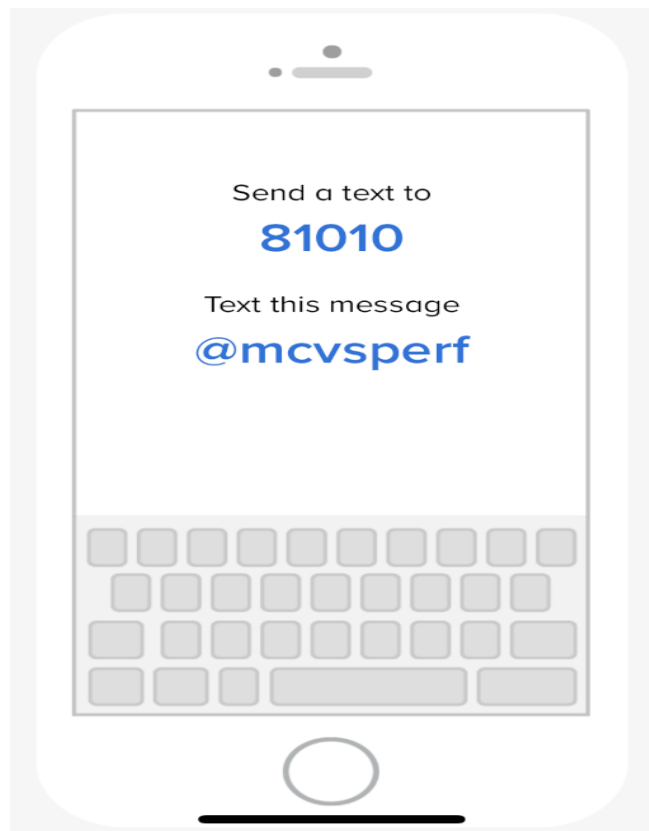
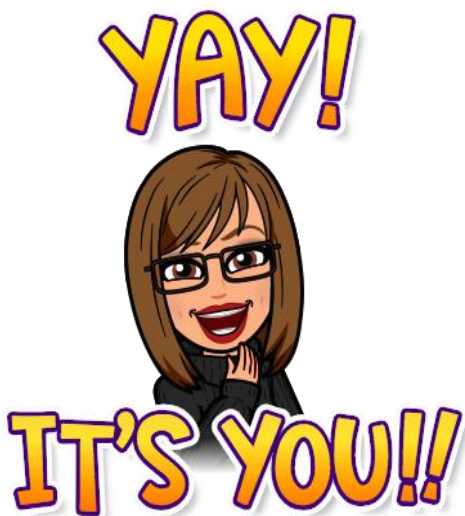
ADDITIONALLY:

- Use your locker...lock up your stuff...especially your backpack... that is why lockers are assigned to you.
- No personal hygiene during class! THANK YOU!
- WE are always in a NO JUDGEMENT Zone. **No exceptions!**
- This is a safe space where people can express themselves and take a risk by exposing themselves in front of peers. We show respect for each other in a couple of ways. . . .
- APPLAUSE! -Always clap for your classmates' performances, no matter how they do!
- No inappropriate language or content including innuendos. (Look it up 😊)
- Stay organized! You will have a lot to manage at two different schools or two different programs. Plan Ahead!
- **If you have a performance conflict, you must report it right away. I cannot solve issues if I don't know about them!!!**
- **I'm always open to discuss any conflicts or concerns you may have. See me after class, send an email/ remind and I will get with you as soon as I can.**



COMMUNICATION:

Please take a moment to sign up for my “REMIND 101” this year! The class title is called McV’s Performing Arts 8! I use remind to communicate with parents and students often, so It’s important that you sign-up. See me if you have any trouble. Thanks 😊 If you already signed up last year.... SORRY this one is new!



MSVPA CASTING POLICY

The staff at MSVPA believes that students develop and accomplish more when they participate in performances in front of a live audience.

*That said, our MSVPA program is not designed, exclusively, for the purpose of production. We hope to give our students a well-rounded experience and a little “taste” of all things performance. **This scope and sequence, content and class make-up will vary each year to provide a two-year program balance.***

*Our MSVPA team makes every effort to allow each student an opportunity to appear on stage in a meaningful way. This does not guarantee any student a leading role. **All roles are given based on a justifiable audition, class conduct and participation.***

*Our MSVPA teaching staff takes pride in preparing **all of** our students for the audition process. No production is pre-cast. **Every role is vital, to a production. The experience of competition and the audition/ casting process is fundamental to everyone’s performing arts training.** Not receiving a particular part can be a painful experience, however this disappointment is a key piece of every performer’s acting development. Given the opportunity, the staff will find performance and or technical experiences for each MSVPA student.*



MEDIA VIEWING

We study many different styles of performance at MSVPA. We try and use a variety of Medias to help express these different styles. Often, we use video and audio clips, or full movies to teach with.

PARENTS, PLEASE FIND BELOW my request for your permission to allow your child to view materials that may have no rating G, PG and/or PG-13 ratings. We will always use discretion and will only use media that we feel adds value to your child's learning experience. Please sign and return the attached slip and have your child return it to school. The slip must be returned either way.

If your child is not allowed to view the media options, we will provide an alternative assignment and be sure he/she is not present while viewing.

Syllabus Signature Sheet

Please share this syllabus with your parents.
Completed form DUE:



Student's Name : _____

Media Viewing Permission

Check One:

() I give permission for my child to view various rated material related to the arts curriculum.

() I DO NOT give my child permission to view various rated media material related to the arts curriculum.

Is there anything I should know about your child in order for me to help him/her be successful?

My child has shared the syllabus with me, and I have read and discussed the policies with my child.

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Email : _____

Parent Phone # _____

