

# **ADVANCED DRAMA**

## **2017-18 CONTRACT OF PARTICIPATION**

Glad you can join us for Advanced Drama this year! Please read this contract carefully so that you understand the class requirements and expectations.

1. Advanced Drama is a play production class. Performance opportunities differ from year to year, but could include any or all of the following involvements: One Act Competition Plays, Holiday Showcase, Children's Theatre, Senior Directed One Acts, and Invitational Events Off- Campus. It is a full, busy schedule as we move from one production to the next. Each student is required to participate in each production in which he/she is cast in the role assigned.
2. While in production, there will also be additional classroom/course work that we will be working on to better prepare each individual. The expectation is that each student needs to fulfill these assignments by the dates that they are due.
3. To equip each student with an understanding of production values and of the work needed to accomplish masterful works, it is important that each student participate in aspects of technical theatre. A requirement of 20 hours of technical theatre-related duties (commonly called Tech Hours) are expected from each student. Each student is expected to attend the full strike (disassembling of the set, props, costumes, etc.) of the production in which he/she is cast. Tech Hours are accomplished outside of scheduled rehearsals. Rehearsals and strike do not count towards the 20 hours required. It is important to note that not fulfilling the required Tech Hours will negatively impact the student's grade.
4. Once casting is made and the production process begins, rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Though rehearsals occur in class, after school rehearsals are the norm and begin immediately. Each student will be given a rehearsal schedule for the production they are assigned. Active participation in an assigned production is expected and is reflected in the student's grade in class. Any student who quits a production or who is dismissed because of improper participation can expect his/her grade to be adversely affected. If such an instance should take place, the student risks failing the course.
5. Because rehearsals are mandatory, only excused absences from school on the day of a rehearsal will result in an excused absence from rehearsal. However, because the rehearsal period is limited in time and the directors are responsible for the overall production at large, the directors reserve the right to recast an absent student's role, solo, lines, etc. based on the needs of the production. Other than excused absences from school, there are no other excused absences. Missing one rehearsal for an unexcused reason often results in immediate dismissal from the production.
6. As per school policy a student must attend at least ½ day of school in order to participate in rehearsal or performances that day.
7. The Directors reserve the right to recast any role at any time for any reason. This action would not be without specific cause and reflection.
8. Each student must be on time for each rehearsal. Tardiness can result in dismissal from the assigned production.
9. Each student must dress appropriately for all rehearsals depending on the rehearsal. For example, dance clothes and dance shoes for choreography rehearsals, attire that allows for all types of movement without exposure, rehearsal costumes as needed and as provided, etc.
10. Each serious theatre student should always bring a pencil to all rehearsals regardless of whatever production or production company the student is involved. A pencil is used to take notes and record blocking (directions and information given by the Director or Stage Manager). Pencil marks can be erased/changed, thus the preferred writing instrument.

11. In the final two to three weeks of rehearsals some rehearsals may last until 11pm. Additionally, rehearsals before school are sometimes scheduled.
12. An off book (lines memorized) date will be given. It is an expectation that each student be off book by that date or risk being removed from the role. Each student is encouraged to have lines and blocking down for any given scene that has been blocked within the next few runs of that scene.
13. Each student may be required to purchase some personal costume pieces for productions in which he/she is cast.
14. A number of students will hold leadership roles within the structure of this class including Stage Management, Student Direction, Assignment Leader, etc. The cast and crew must treat each of these students with respect. Conversely, any student assigned to lead should treat cast and crew members with respect.
15. Each student will be required to attend at least one performance of every show produced at Milton this year. In other words: each student must see each show that he/she is not in, at least once.
16. Each student needs to complete and submit a Photo/Image/Voice Release Form that is signed by both the student and his/her parent/guardian. This form is due on August 21.
17. Time management is important and any student is forbidden from using theatre as an excuse to get behind in academic classwork. Effective use of time is wise. When not on stage at rehearsal, do homework and study for academic classes. For new class members, ask older members how they best manage their time.
18. All students in Advanced Drama are required to attend the following Theatre Conferences/Competitions:
  - Georgia Theatre Conference - Date TBD October 2017 – Augusta, Georgia
  - Region One Act Competition – Regions will be at Milton and hosted by Milton, Date TBD
  - \*State One Act Competition - Houston County High School, Warner Robins Date TBD
  - Georgia Thespian Conference – February 2018 Date TBD – Columbus, Georgia
  - \*SETC – March Date TBD – Lexington, KY.

There are varying costs associated with each of these trips. Some are overnight trips.

\*We will only be attending these competitions if we have a qualifying winning show.

19. A perk of being involved in this class is that several field trip opportunities will be offered during the school year. These trips might include going to the Alliance Theatre, a production at a nearby school or university, or a professional theatre experience. A student currently failing any class will not be allowed to attend field trips.
20. **Each student will be required to pay a Program Fee of \$150. Please note that this fee is due on Aug 21.** Some students choose to offset some or all of this cost by selling ads for our mainstage programs. Students who have not made payment by the due date or set-up a payment plan risk being dropped from the class.
21. **Only those participants who submit their Program Fee will be allowed to perform.**
22. It is an expectation that each student participate in fundraisers throughout the year. The fundraisers offset production costs. **If a student chooses to not participate in the fundraising activities, then he/she will not be allowed to attend our end of the year Awards Celebration, (known as DROM).**
23. A significant number of volunteers are needed in order to have a successful production. **A parent of each student in this class is required to volunteer in some capacity.** If you, as the parent, have not already signed up as a project leader or volunteer, there will be additional opportunities to sign up at the pre-production meetings. Mandatory parent volunteer hours are 20 hours per school year, per family.