



## Westlake High School

Instructor: Mrs. DeDe Burke

## Theatre 2

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Welcome to Theater 2! It is my greatest hope that the coming term will be filled with many happy memories, and of course, a great deal of learning! Theatre Arts class will give you the incredible opportunity to develop your imagination and creativity individually, while working as a community in a collaborative environment. We are all here to grow, learn, and encourage each other, together.

Please take a few moments to review the policies of my classroom with a parent or guardian and sign and return the attached page by **September 15, 2017.**

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed for the more advanced theatre student who has already established a general background in the theatre. This Performing Arts Class will cover all aspects of theatre in more depth – the play, the audience, the actor, the production, theatre history/time periods and its components. Group and individual work will be used to develop more complex skills and understanding in movement, voice, story-development, conflict building, characterization, theatrical production techniques, historical theatre movements and theatre terminology. Improvisation and memorization are required and students will work (accruing service hours) on WHS Theatre productions and performances and the regular class hours and school day, on occasion. Theatre II or 2 is required to work or perform ten (**10**) Theatre Service Credit Hour per semester.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Demonstrate self-confidence through acquired performance skills and provide the student the opportunity to develop as a unified whole: emotionally, intellectually, and physically.
2. Create truth in imaginary circumstances
3. Understand and appreciate the performing arts through newly discovered knowledge
4. Discuss the meaning of theatre and its place in contemporary American Society
5. Demonstrate the knowledge of the play production process, including more advanced technical theatre applications
6. Understand, analyze, and apply knowledge of theatrical components to a theatre arts production and demonstrate the ability to critique the work
7. Develop advanced levels regarding stage presence, vocal projection, stage movement, diction, facial expressions, gestures, characterization, and improvisation skills
8. Obtain skills needed in advanced principles of the technical theatre production: directing, producing, stage management, house management, makeup design, etc.
9. Develop theatre arts vocabulary in relation to performing, theatre historical movements and technical aspects.

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Theatre II

### **GRADING**

All grading will be done on a point system. The overall grade will be the percentage of points accrued divided by points possible. Students who earn the following percent of the total points will earn the listed letter grade:

90-100% = A  
80-89% = B  
70-79% = C  
60-69% = D  
59% and below = F

Please note, due to the nature of this class, grading is highly subjective, so your best work is required.

Late work for written assignments only: 10% will be deducted for each day it is late.

### **MANDATORY ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. **Daily Participation** – Students can earn up to 10 participation points each day they attend class and participate in the daily activities, which can include exercises, improvisation, warm-ups, and various performance related activities. **This class is based on attendance/punctuality and participation.** If a student is absent, they will not receive participation points for that day. If a student has an excused absence, they will be able to make up their points doing an alternative assignment. **Alternative assignments** may be found on Google Classroom or Website, titled “Alternative Assignments”. Each assignment must have the date of absence on it. You will be given one day for each absence to turn in an alternative assignment. A student having six (6) unexcused tardies or truancies in any one class, per sub term, may be dropped from the course and assigned a grade of “F” (See WHS Code of Conduct and Discipline Guide).
2. **Classwork and Group work/projects** – Assignments will be given in class in order to apply principles and incorporate concepts. Some assignments will require group coherence and member attendance is crucial for success.
3. **Performances in Class** – Students will be asked to prepare scenes and monologues outside of class to be performed in class.
4. **Written Journal Assignments** – These are both in class activities and can also be assigned as homework.
5. **Performance/Play Critiques** – You are required to attend two (2) theatre performances in the term, either at WHS or outside organization and complete a compare/contrast critique on the performances. The critique will be a minimum of 4 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt font. **You will need to include ticket stubs with the critique.** Please check with me before viewing an outside performance, to make sure it is acceptable for class
6. **Theatre Service Credit Hours Completion** - ten (10) per semester.
7. **Written Skills Tests and Quizzes** – Covering performance and technical theatre vocabulary, concepts, and class material.
8. **Midterm and Final Performances** – Two contrasting monologues are to be performed for the midterm and a student directed scene will be performed for the final.

**Supplies for Class:**

- ✓ Spiral bound notebook or composition book for journal/notes
- ✓ 2 Pens (blue or black only)
- ✓ 2 Pencils with erasers
- ✓ Any scenes, monologues, plays, or small texts being used in class
- ✓ Agenda Book (optional)
- ✓ Highlighters (Yellow, Pink, Green)

**CLASS RULES:**

**P**unctuality is very important. I expect you to be in your seats when I take attendance. Time is precious and being early is on time. Professionalism is expected in this performing arts class elective.

**A**lways be prepared. Please bring appropriate supplies to class, but leave you electronic devices turned off and put away. If I hear or see a student talking on a cell phone or listening to an IPOD, I will take it away. Refer to the student handbook for rules and regulation on cell phone usage.

**R**espect each other. This can be a difficult class for some individuals and some of you might be shy. Stick to constructive criticism when critiquing individual's work and give each other the respect you all deserve. Our space needs to feel safe. Refrain from using language that hurts or offends others. Respect all individuals entering the classroom, whether that is a substitute, a guest speaker, or myself. Respect the space, both the classroom and the Theatre. The Theatre specifically is a shared facility that we need to take care of. It is a privilege to have and you are expected to take care of it. Do not use costumes, props, or touch equipment without asking my permission.

**T**ime does not dismiss you. I will be the only person to dismiss you from class. There might be times when we have a guest speaker and class might run over a few minutes.

**N**ever eat in the Facility. There is absolutely no gum, food, candy, and drinks allowed. Water bottles are appropriate.

**E**veryone is to be safe. Be aware of your surroundings and pay attention in class when moving or doing an activity.

**R**ehearse your lines, your monologues, your scenes, and your part.

**S**upport your classmates, all actors, scene partners, casts, crews, and the department.

***Agreement to follow rules and procedures:***

I (student), \_\_\_\_\_, have read the Classroom Management Plan and understand the expectations and rules for Mrs. Burke's class and will respect the facility.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent / guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, have read the Classroom Management Plan and understand the expectations and rules for Mrs. Burke's class.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent / guardian signature

Parents can check the Theatre Arts Website at  
Parents can check grades on Q: available at <https://q.conejousd.org>.

Parent email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student email: \_\_\_\_\_



WHS Theatre Arts  
**Donation Commitment Form**  
**2017-2018**

Since its inception, the Conejo Valley Unified School District and Westlake High School have strived to offer the most comprehensive array of enrichment programs, athletics and extracurricular activities, particularly those deemed the most valuable by our community. The WHS Theatre Arts Program is pleased to offer a comprehensive and enriching educational experience to every participating student. State law requires us to provide a public education free of charge. Subject to certain exceptions, the right to a free public education means we cannot require students or their families to purchase materials, supplies, equipment or uniforms for any school activity, to pay security deposits for access, participation, materials, or equipment, or to make donations to a class, activity or program.

However, the WHS Theatre Arts Program incurs expenses which are not covered by CVUSD. To pay for these important components of our program, we rely heavily on donations from parents and others, as well as various fundraising events. These donations directly benefit our students and make possible all of our planned activities and experiences — without this financial and logistical support from participating families we simply cannot maintain the quality program we want to continue to provide for our students. If we are unable to meet our fundraising goals, through both donations and fundraising events, it will be necessary to forego some of those activities and experiences.

Based on our planned activities and the projected costs of those activities, we are asking for a **voluntary donation from each family of \$150**. This requested donation is calculated by looking at the budgeted costs of the Program after subtracting out our receipts from the box office. Needless to say, we happily accept donations in the excess of the requested amount!

Please make any checks payable to the WHS Drama Department and put into a sealed envelope. Your student can bring the check directly to the Student Store or place it in the large manila envelope in Mrs. Burke's classroom. Your generous contribution will help to support this program. Thank you.

