



PUTTING THE FUN BACK
INTO LEARNING!

Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome to the Drama Studies September Curriculum Guide,

This term the drama students will be looking broadly at what is theatre and the elements required to make a good actor. They are now beginning to learn techniques such as characterisation, still images, the use of props and working as an ensemble. The main focus this term is to build the students' confidence and their ability to collaborate successfully as part of a trusted ensemble. This skill set of collaboration, communication and self-confidence all link with the ADEC Student Core Competency Framework and will assist them in becoming 21st Century Learners.

Grade 3

The aim of this term for grade 3 will be to introduce the students to Drama as a subject and art form. They will be performing various short stories alone and in small groups, demonstrating their basic understanding of various dramatic elements including: voice levels, body shapes and mirroring.

As preparation, this month, grade 3 will participate in various practical activities and do an Ancient Egypt dance performance that will broaden their knowledge and understanding of performance art.

Grade 4

This term the grade 4's will be performing short snippets from their own lives, demonstrating their basic understanding of various dramatic elements including vocal and physical characterisation, point of view and warming up the body and voice for performance.

As preparation, this month, grade 4 will work on a short play that correlates with the work they do in class. Further details about this will follow.

Grade 5

The aim of this term for grade 5 will be to investigate all parties involved in the process of play making. We will look at staging and different sets as well as various acting techniques. They will perform short scenes from plays, demonstrating their basic understanding of various dramatic elements such as role play, rehearsal strategies and more.

This month, grade 5 will participate in various practical activities including performances based on stereotyping and different roles. It is important to broaden their skills and show a variety of character traits. Gesture and exaggeration will be focus areas throughout the term.

Grade 6

The aim of this term for grade 6 will be to perform a short scene from a play, demonstrating their basic understanding of various dramatic elements including: levels, spatial awareness, characterisation and the use of props. Explorative strategies will guide them further into the responsibility of the actor.

As preparation, this month, grade 6 will participate in various practical activities including 'slow motion emotion', (where they pick an emotion out of a hat and have to demonstrate to peers that emotion via facial expressions and body language), 10 second tableaux (create a series of still images including all 3 levels from pictures) and 'The Mirror' (learning to observe others and copy movements precisely).

Grade 7

This term Grade 7 are working towards performing duologues, which will be performed to their peers. In preparation for this, this month, the students will be participating in various practical tasks which involve trust exercises (to build trust within the ensemble), the exploration of emotions and how facial expressions can convey emotions. They will discover how, by using their bodies and imaginations, they can create characters and objects by closely listening and cooperating as one team.

We will look at selecting and preparing performance pieces for assessment and work together as a class to evaluate practical examples. This helps to identify where and what to improve on and how to take responsibility for individual work within a group.

Grade 8

This month Grade 8 are preparing to perform a scripted piece from a play. Students will begin to focus on the use of voice in order to create a character. They will study a monologue looking for clues as to who the character is from the script and will be given the opportunity to perform in front of their peers to discuss and critique what tone and pace works best for their given character.

Grade 9

This term Grade 9 are heading towards devising and performing an ensemble piece to their peers. In preparation for this, the students will be studying characterisation, script writing & devising, plot, the use of props, costume and staging. Prescribed plays will be read, analysed and studied for formal exams closer to the end of the year.

For this month, students will be looking at ritual and symbolism. They will explore how voice, body language and facial expressions are used to create different characters too. They will be taking part in various exercises in which they will demonstrate their ability and the use of constructive criticism between peers to evaluate their progress.

Assessment for this term will take the form of completion of a written assessment, which will outline the student's understanding of what constitutes theatre. A practical piece will be performed and filmed where the students can show off their creativity and understanding of relevant drama techniques.

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Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries, we will do our best to respond as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Miss Natasha & Miss Ronelle