

The Arts: Theater

Theater Arts

Theater Arts I: Introduction to Theatre Arts (.5)

Theater Arts II: Basic Acting (.5)

IB Theater Arts HL/SL Year 1 (1)

IB Theater Arts HL/SL Year 2 (1)

Harrison provides students with the opportunity to engage in theatrical performance and composition through Theater Arts I & II, and the IB Theater Arts SL/HL sequence. This rigorous program of study allows students to gain an understanding of theater history, text analysis, playwriting, and performance.

THEATER ARTS I: INTRODUCTION TO THEATER ARTS

*Course No.: 875 Grades Offered: 9-12
Credit: 0.5 (Alternate Day Full Year)*

Students learn about the fundamentals of acting, directing, theatrical design, play production and playwriting. The course begins with an introduction to theater games, ensemble building, and storytelling techniques. Students view live and video-taped performances, read, act out, and analyze plays in order to become familiarized with theatrical vocabulary and various modes of storytelling such as tableaux, radio plays and shadow puppetry. Students work in groups and as individuals to bring stories to life on stage. Each year, students take a field trip to view at least one live theatrical production. The course culminates in a presentation of original student work at our One-Act Festival.

THEATER ARTS II: BASIC ACTING

*Course No.: 873 Grades Offered: 10-12
Credit: 0.5 (Alternate Day Full Year)
Prerequisite: Intro. to Theater Arts or Departmental Approval*

Building upon the idea of storytelling in Theater, students in the Basic Acting class engage in activities that allow them to express themselves orally and physically, and to interpret both classic and contemporary texts. The theories and techniques of Constantine Stanislavski, Viola Spolin, Vsevolod Meyerhold, Patsy Rodenberg and Sanford Meisner are explored. Students engage in analysis and presentation of contemporary and classical monologues, as well as the presentation of contemporary scenes. Students also work in groups to prepare presentations for the Spring One-Act Festival.

IB THEATER ARTS HL/SL YEAR 1

*Course No.: 930 (SL) 931 (HL)
Grades Offered: 11 and 12 Credit: 1.0
Prerequisite: Theater Arts II: Basic Acting or Department Approval*

IB THEATER ARTS HL/SL YEAR 2

*Course No.: 935 (SL) 936 (HL)
Grade Offered: 12 Credit: 1.0
Prerequisite: IB Theater Arts SL/HL Year 1*

IB Theater is a two-year course of study designed for the student who wants to deepen his/her theoretical and practical knowledge of Theater. The course aims to challenge students' traditional idea of Theater and to explore its purpose throughout time, and in the 21st century. This is a hands-on course giving students opportunities to experience the roles of the actor, director, designer and playwright. Each year will culminate with the realization of original student theatrical productions.

During the first year of this two-year course, students will conduct in-depth studies of various theatrical traditions. They will explore important theories and practices in their historical contexts including Commedia dell'Arte, Realistic Theater, American Musical Theater and Asian Theatrical traditions. Students collaborate to create an

ethnographic theater piece to present at the Spring One-Act Festival.

The second year begins with the study of the One-Person Play, during which time students each write and perform their own one-person theater piece. Students then explore Augusto Boal's Theater of the Oppressed, and the theories of Bertolt Brecht and Jerzy Grotowski. The course also covers theories in theatrical design and physical theater techniques. The course culminates in an independent theater project that is presented at the Spring One-Act Festival.

At the end of this two-year course of study, all students complete IB internal and external assessments.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities include:

HHS Footlight Players (Spring Musical)
HHS Playhouse (Fall Drama)
HHS Playhouse Student-directed Spring Drama Production