

MUSICAL THEATRE SYLLABUS

Mr. Brad Friedman and Mr. Larry Rice

Welcome to Musical Theatre. The purpose of this class is to teach the history and structure of this most American form of drama through research, discussion and, above all, performance.

MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED

- a notebook or portfolio for carrying scripts or music and for taking notes
- a pencil for marking scripts or music
- water to drink

PERFORMANCE

70% of your grade is based on the work you do to achieve performance level on three projects. You are expected to attend all rehearsals and the performance:

- 1) Singing at the Drama Booster Pot Luck dinner on **Friday, Aug. 26**, at 6:30pm in the PAW. This year we will sing “Together Wherever We Go” from GYPSY and “Ring of Keys” from FUN HOME. Your parents are invited to this evening, and dinner will be served to everyone. (10%)
- 2) **Original Musicals** (around week 12): Using the classic composers of musical theatre, you will utilize what you learn about the structure and song choices of musicals in our class to create an original libretto that fits with the style of your assigned composer (his name is on the bottom of this page.) Your song choices will come from your composer’s songbook. (35%)
- 3) **The Showcase**: On **Wednesday, December 14**, at 7:00pm, we will have a winter gathering with parents and friends where you will perform some of my favorite scenes and songs from the twenty five years of musicals I have done at San Mateo High. (25%)

THE OTHER 30 PERCENT

You will need to write a report on your composer (more about that later) which will count as ten percent of your grade. The rest will be based on following the “Rules of an Artist” (see opposite side).

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

San Mateo High School produces three shows a year. This is a separate program from the classroom, but a lot of musical theatre students choose to take part in our shows, either as actors or crew members. Please go to our website – smhsdrama.org – and read the audition information under the “Students” section. And note these important dates:

EVITA: Auditions: August 22 – 23; Performances: October 20 – 23

THE MUSIC MAN: Auditions: October 31, November 1; Performances January 27 – February 5

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST: Auditions February 7; Performances: April 20-23

RULES OF AN ARTIST

1. **ATTENDANCE.** Nearly everything you do in drama class you do IN drama class! Unless you are sick, come to class on time every day.
2. **RESPECT.** Be nice to other students, the teacher and guests. Make positive choices onstage, in the audience, and in your interactions with others.
3. **TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.** Stay healthy in body and mind. In drama, making a mistake is the *very best way* to learn. Don't beat yourself up about it. Be safe. Don't wander or touch equipment in the theatre. If you ever have a question about what you should do, just ask!
4. **INTEREST.** Participate with a positive attitude in everything. Look over the "14 Ways Being a Drama Kid Can Help You As an Adult," and select some goals for yourself.
5. **STUFF TO BRING.** A a notebook, pencils and paper in case you need to write things down. Scripts you are working on. Props and costumes as needed. Stuff you can't bring or consume: chewing gum, food or any sort of beverage except bottled water.
6. **TECHNOLOGY.** In the PAC, no student may use technology of any kind unless given permission for a special assignment. Phones must be shut off and stored during all classes.