



"I believe arts education in music, theater, dance, and the visual arts is one of the most creative ways we have to find the gold that is buried just beneath the surface. They (children) have an enthusiasm for life, a spark of creativity, and vivid imaginations that need training – training that prepares them to become confident young men and women."

– Richard W. Riley, Former US Secretary of Education

## Course Description

Let's Play! Encore Co. is a production-based class in which students have the opportunity to participate in theatre productions year-round. In this advanced theatre course, students apply knowledge gained during the prerequisite theatre arts class, and students gain hands-on experience as they produce four shows for the community, continually developing their skills in acting and production work. After school rehearsals and performances are required parts of evaluation. Fall competition at district and state levels is optional but highly encouraged.

## Course Objectives

During the quest to entertain, enlighten and inform, students will create physical and vocal characters, develop confidence, build character interaction, understand staging techniques, and understand working with a director (including student directors). Students will explore a variety of acting styles through production work and differentiate between the author's contribution to the experience of theatre and that of directors, actors, and designers. Students will also aim to understand the audience's contribution to the performance; therefore, students are encouraged to attend field trips to professional/community theatre productions to discover and analyze theatre from the perspective of an audience member.

## Class Guidelines

This is a performance-based class, which means students must perform in order to receive a grade, which also means students must be in class to participate. (Because being involved in theatre is something you enjoy doing, your work ethic should come naturally. If it doesn't, however, you may need to find a new class at semester.)

### Participation: A definition

Though students may not be in rehearsal for the main stage production every day, they should be working on some type of performance, for example, independent project, daily structured improv performances, performing as an audience member, working on technical aspects of a production, etc. Students are expected to:

- Work with little supervision
- Be self-motivated
- Have dedication

## Grading Criteria

Student grades are based on the following:

- Daily Participation (see rehearsal guidelines) If you are absent, you cannot participate, therefore, I cannot give you a grade for that day. This can present a problem for you if you do not work while in class, and you tend to be absent quite often. You are allowed four absences without penalty per quarter. On your fifth and subsequent absences, for whatever reason—excused or unexcused—you will receive a zero for participation.



- Learning lines (when applicable) is imperative and work on the play cannot progress until you know your lines. Therefore, you will learn your lines on time or you will not be in the show. You must have an 'A' on all memory grades or you will become an understudy. Learn lines as written. "If it's not on the page, don't say it on the stage."
- Performance participation—Everyone is expected to participate in all after school rehearsals and productions, on stage or off. Actors do not miss rehearsals or performances for any reason—we even rehearse and perform when we don't feel good. If you miss a performance without notifying me, your grade will be negatively affected, and you will be dropped from the class immediately.

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## Earning a Letter

In order to earn a letter in drama, the following criteria must be met:

- 'A' level participation in this class (average of 4 quarters)
- AND
- Compete in the District III Drama Competition (Fall Showcase required)
- AND
- Qualify for the Idaho State Drama Competition OR Earn 10 Thinkin' Theatre Points

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## District IV & State Drama Competition—(optional)

- Theatre students at all levels are invited to showcase their talents and compete against other schools at the District III Drama Competition every November. Qualifying students advance to compete at the state level in the Idaho State Drama Competition held in December. Students can compete in technical theatre events as well as acting events.
- Competition is not a requirement for this course.

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## Casting & Seniority

- Casting is about selecting the right person for the part. A student may have many lead roles or he/she may never get a lead. Regardless of the acting position, students should do their best to make Encore Co. productions successful and have a great experience with this high school theatre company!
- Grade level has nothing to do with casting.

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## Understudies

- If a student loses his role as an actor, he becomes the understudy for that role, and he will not perform unless something happens to the replacement actor. However, he will continue to learn lines and rehearse the part when necessary in order to earn a grade. This will also prepare a student in the event he needs to fill in for rehearsals or performances.

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## Pride & Respect

- Each other
- Your director (s)
- Encore Co.
- Our space and supplies

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## Field Trips—(optional)

- Viewing a live theatre performance is an invaluable part of a student's educational experience in theatre. Every production offers new ideas for students to build on in regard to all aspects of theatre (acting, staging, lighting, makeup costume, sound, etc.). Seeing a production is to experience the culmination of what is being taught in the classroom, and these types of field trips are highly recommended to students. Four trips per year are offered to Boise theaters. These are not a required part of the course.

