Welcome to 6th Grade Performing Arts
Smithton Middle School {2018-2019 Class Syllabus}

Mrs. Lauren Dotson • Room: Trailer E • Idotson@cpsk12.org • 573.214.3260 ext. 75708

This daily nine-week exploratory class introduces students to the basics of theatre arts topics which will include pantomime, script reading, improvisation, movement and audience behavior.

In this class you will...
- Understand and practice proper audience etiquette.
- Practice elements of public speaking.
- Begin to develop pantomime skills.
- Begin to develop improvisational skills.
- Begin to practice speaking on stage.
- Learn and practice stage directions.
- Generate an understanding of Ancient Greek Theatre.
- Write, direct, and act in an original adaptation of a short story.
- Create a mask that represents a character.

Class Assignments:
- Play Reading • Audience Etiquette Rehearsal • Daily Participation • Play Adaptation • Auditions • Class Rehearsal • Play Presentation • Character Mask

Classroom Expectations:
We follow all SMS guidelines for classroom expectations. Students will also follow the BIST behavioral plan that is in place at SMS. In addition, students will be expected to follow the DRAMA expectations listed below:

D - Demonstrate control of your body so no one gets hurt. Be Safe!
R - Respect your Peers and your teacher. Keep it positive!
A - Always try your best! Be responsible for your own learning!
M - Maintain a clean classroom. Help pick up during and the end of class.
A - Audience Etiquette which means politely watch, listen, and learn!

NO Gum, Food, Candy, And Non-Water Drinks

Materials needed:
- Notebook Paper
- A Pocket Folder
- Pencil / Pen
- Highlighter
- Supplies for Mask

Grading:
This class is a Pass/ Fail class. Most of the student grading will come from their participation in the lessons. Each day students will be introduced to new theater concepts and activities associated with those ideas. The students will earn 15 points each day. 5 points of this goes towards participation of in the daily warm up activity (sometimes this will be written, but most of the time it will be a physical activity reviewing the concepts from the previous day). The other 10 points come from participation in the lesson geared activities. These activities could include, but are not limited to reading, games, play writing, team building, mask making, discussions.

There are also projects which require students to put in extra time at home. Examples of this include a pantomime assignment and finishing their playwriting and masks at home.

A Little Something About the Teacher:
I have taught Speech and Theater for 12 years, 11 of which were for CPS. I am a native of Columbia. In 2000 I graduated from Hickman High School. Go Kewpies! I attended Missouri State University in Springfield, MO where I graduated with a B.S. in Speech and Theatre Education. I also have a Masters in Curriculum Instruction. I hope to spread my joy of Speech and Theatre to each student who walks through my door.