Welcome to 8TH Grade
Smithton Middle School

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

This daily, semester performance-based course will advance student knowledge in the art of acting and the skills of the theater for those eager to see their name in lights! Here is a chance to shine! This class includes acting, radio theatre, stage combat, play reading, reader’s theatre, voice production, theatre history, technical theater and group presentations. Students will be required to participate in an outside-of-school (main stage) production, which includes group rehearsal time outside of school hours. **This course can be repeated for a second semester and year to year.

In this class you will...
- Review and practice proper audience etiquette, pantomime, improvisation, and memorization.
- Study and apply elements of theatre history.
- Rehearse, design, and present performances (both in groups and individually).
- Create, rehearse, and perform in an evening performance of a one act or reader’s theatre.
- Apply Stanislavski techniques to create a realistic character.
- Apply blocking to building a production.

Class Assignments:
Daily Participation • Memorized Monologue • Reader’s Theater Adaptation • Class Rehearsal • Evening Performance • After School Rehearsal • Production Design • Character Analysis

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:

- Demonstrate control of your body so no one gets hurt. Be Safe!
- Respect your Peers and your teacher. Keep it positive!
- Always try your best! Be responsible for your own learning!
- Maintain a clean classroom. Help pick up during and the end of class.
- 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

Grading:
Most of the student grading will come from their participation in the lessons. Each day students will practice theater concepts and by doing so will earn 15 points each day. 5 points of this goes towards participation of in the daily warm up activity. The other 10 points will come from either classroom rehearsals, preparing design projects, class discussions, script reading, and other theatre games and activities.

There will also be other projects which will require outside of class rehearsal time. Several will be done by the student individually. The final project will be a main stage production of either a reader’s theatre (first semester) or a one act (second semester) will require at least one day of after-school rehearsal and one evening performance in front of an audience. Students are required to attend both the after-school rehearsal and the evening performance to achieve a passing grade.

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.