

Middle School Exploratory Dramatics

The middle school Exploratory Dramatics standards are designed to provide students with an introduction to the study of theatre history, dramatic literature, and theatrical production. Through research, planning, scripting, production, and performance experiences, students will acquire skills in communicating ideas, critical thinking, and collaborative problem solving. This course prepares students for further theatrical study and nurtures an appreciation for the many forms of theatre.

Performance and Production

- M.1 The student will communicate ideas, using individual performances, group productions, or group projects to demonstrate teamwork, cooperation, and dependability.
- M.2 The student will create and build trust and develop listening skills through participation in theatre games and improvisations (e.g., solo and group characterizations, portrayals of characters in conflict, experiments in rhythm and imagery).
- M.3 The student will demonstrate acting skills by
 1. vocal production—projection and articulation;
 2. movement and gestures; and
 3. memorization.
- M.4 The student will work collaboratively and safely to select, create, and utilize the technical elements of lighting, scenery, costuming, makeup, properties, and sound.

Cultural Context and Theatre History

- M.5 The student will investigate a variety of societal roles, occupations, and relationships, using dramatic activities.
- M.6 The student will demonstrate how theatre is similar to and different from other literary genres, using storytelling, scene presentation, improvisation, or pantomime.
- M.7 The student will demonstrate an awareness of a variety of historical and cultural concepts, using dramatic activities.
- M.8 The student will identify drama as a major form of literature and identify elements of plot, character, setting, mood, and theme.
- M.9 The student will identify and describe theatrical resources in the community, including professional and community theatres, experts, and sources of scripts and materials.

Judgment and Criticism

- M.10 The student will give constructive and objective criticism of class performances, using appropriate theatre arts vocabulary.
- M.11 The student will demonstrate the ability to accept and incorporate constructive criticism in subsequent work.

- M.12 The student will read and analyze scripts and respond in oral, written, or visual form.
- M.13 The student will view, analyze, and interpret live theatre in regard to directing, design, acting, and artistic presentation, using oral or written responses.

Aesthetics

- M.14 The student will recognize and respond to the unique qualities of theatre, including
1. interaction of the audience and actors;
 2. immediacy of live performance;
 3. representation of life; and
 4. incorporation of the other arts.
- M.15 The student will define *aesthetics* and discuss how it is reflected in theatre arts and everyday life.