2023-2024 School Year

Theatre at WRHS

Maeghan Bishop:bishomae@usd437.net785-339-4238Nick Beasley:beaslnic@usd437.net785-339-4158

Matt Rosebrook: rosebmat@usd437.net 785-339-4176





Knowledge and skills that reach beyond the stage...

How can theatre benefit students?

"Soft" skills are no longer considered to be merely a bonus on a job resume, but rather a necessity for success. For example, a 2014 College Board study found that students who took arts courses for 4 years scored an average of 96 points higher on the SAT than students who took one semester or less of arts instruction.

Even if a student doesn't plan to pursue a career in theatre (although there are more of those opportunities than you might think), theatre arts provide immense opportunities for personal growth recognized as desirable traits in a wide variety of professional and academic fields:

- Literacy and Language
- Collaboration
- Innovation and Creativity
- Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking
- Abstract Thinking

- Confidence and Poise
- Self-Awareness and Resilience
- Empathy
- Cultural/Global Awareness
- Social and Communication Skills

Our Courses

Our courses are designed for <u>high engagement</u> in activities that allow students to learn foundational skills and build toward personal interest and expertise. Scan the **QR code above** to explore our program further!

While auditions for supporting roles in WaRu Theatre productions are open to all WRHS students, only students enrolled in a theatre course for at least one semester are eligible for casting in principal roles in our season productions on the WRHS stage.

Foundational

Introduction to Theatre (Theatre I)

- Prerequisite for all Performance courses
- **Counts for .5 Speech credit required for WRHS graduation
- Students gain an overview of theatre arts, including theatre history, foundational performance skills, conquering stagefright, memorization techniques, theatre production team and process, and basic scenic design.
- Includes 2 presentations and 2 short scene performances.

Performance

Acting Methods (Theatre II)

- Prerequisite: Introduction to Theatre
- Students expand and hone performance skills by exploring a range of techniques and methods, including audition skills, stage combat, multicultural theatre, movement work, play analysis, dialect and accents, and performing Shakespeare.

Directing for the Stage (Theatre III)

- Prerequisite: Acting Methods
- Students learn and apply the basics of direction. Students will serve as both actors and directors to produce scene performances throughout the semester.
- Includes eligibility to lead student-directed production as part of WaRu Theatre season.
- May be taken for credit multiple times (*Offered Fall Semester only)

Blues Studio (Theatre III)

- (formerly Blue's Players)
- Prerequisite: Acting Methods and application/audition process
- This mastery, workshop style course is highly collaborative and ideal for students looking to advance and mature as creative performers.
- Students explore "outside the box" in a variety of styles, including musical theatre, improv comedy, puppetry, mask work, film projects, playwriting, and dramatization of children's literature.
- This class will also showcase our theatre program to other schools in the USD437 district, and have input on show selection for each upcoming WaRu Theatre season.
- May be taken for credit multiple times.

Technical

Basic Stagecraft and Design (Theatre I)

- A combination of right-brain and left-brain skills! Students have a hands-on experience as they learn and apply fundamentals of theatrical design.
- Applied skills include stagecraft and set building, scenic painting, safe use of common construction tools and theatrical equipment, operation of light and sound equipment, props crafting, costuming, and stage effects makeup.

Advanced Stagecraft and Design (Theatre II)

- Prerequisite: Basic Stagecraft and Design
- **Counts for .5 Practical Arts credit required for WRHS graduation
- Students will be responsible for providing the technical and design support to WaRu Theatre productions. After-school participation is required 2-4 weeks per semester, along with minimal weekends.
- Students will develop advanced skills in their chosen areas of expertise, including our new digital scenic projection software and equipment! Students planning to pursue this in post-secondary study will develop a portfolio for scholarship interviews.
- May be taken for credit multiple times.