

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
- Confidence and Poise
- Cultural/Global Awareness
- Social and Communication Skills
- Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking
- Abstract Thinking
- Self-Awareness and Resilience
- Empathy



Our Courses

Our courses are designed for high engagement in activities that allow students to learn foundational skills and build toward personal interest and expertise.

Foundational - Performance

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.

Foundational - 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.

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

Blues Studio (Theatre III)

- Prerequisite: Passing grade in Theatre II: Acting Methods and instructor approval or audition process
- This is an advanced year-long course for students who wish to challenge themselves in a highly collaborative and creative theatre environment.
- Students will explore different rehearsal processes and skills needed to support multiple performances and/or workshops for varied audiences throughout the year.
- Performance participation is required for earning a passing grade.

Technical

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.