

## **Cultural Performing Arts**

**Syllabus 2017-2018**

**Northwestern School Corporation**

**Instructor:** Mr. Jacob Everetts  
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This is an introductory fine arts class focusing on performing mediums, primarily in theatre, film, and music. The goal of this class is to provide a basic understanding of these performance-based arts, and their practical applications. Through technical and analytical approaches, students will learn and utilize appropriate media to demonstrate subject mastery.

Greetings parents and students,

My name is Jacob Everetts, your teacher for Cultural Performing Arts during the 2017-2018 school year. I anticipate a positive upcoming year with new challenges! Since this class is new, allow me to explain what this class entails (I understand there may be some questions). Our class will cover an art medium with which some may be unfamiliar, and that is why I am here to help! This class is all-inclusive, and there are a variety of projects for everyone, not just performance-based projects. Performing arts are all around us, in Movies, TV, Theatre, Music, and Literature. Creating all of them takes teams with all kinds of different skill sets!

Studying performing arts has shown dramatic results in furthering student-learning abilities. Just take a look at the skills you can learn:

- Social skills and team playing
- Self-esteem and confidence in work
- Analytical thinking
- Time management
- Carpentry, sewing, power tools, painting, acting, etc.
- Number reasoning and money management
- Creative writing and thinking
- Appreciation for art
- Language and communication
- History you may have never thought of.
- Understanding of the work put into music and movies we see everyday!
- The list goes on...

**Goals:**

The goal of this class is to provide a basic understanding of performance-based artistic mediums, primarily through Theatre, Film, and Music. History and concept lectures, modern usage, practical applications, and professional demonstrations will encompass the learning environment in this class.

By the end of this course, students will:

- Understand the basics of different performing art varieties.
- Learn practical appreciations for different cultural art forms.
- Know basic history of cultural performing art forms.

**Expectations and Requirements:**

Attendance, good behavior, and good workmanship are required to be successful in this class. The policies of Northwestern Schools will be enforced regarding behavior, grades, and attendance.

**Special Accommodations:**

If you require any special accommodations, let Mr. Everetts know as soon as possible. We will work diligently to accommodate whatever requirements needed in order for you to get the very most out of this class. This cannot happen until we work this out together, so please ask!

**Schedule**

This course will last 9 weeks. The lessons are split into single weeks mostly, as evenly as possible. There will be a test at the end of each week covering the corresponding lesson's material, except in the final week when students will show their final projects.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1- Introductions and History	The basics of this class, and overviews of what's to come. We'll also start with some history of performing arts.
2- Shakespeare and Playwriting	History, Poetry, Modern References to Old Literature.
3- Technical Theatre	Lighting, Sound, Stagecraft, Costumes, Props, and Makeup.

4- Acting 101	Monologues, Pantomime, Improvisation, Dance, Duet Acting.
5- Acting 101, continued	Acting and Reacting. Finishing content from the previous week.
6- Musical Theatre	Introduction and history, Acting to music.
7- Making Movies	History of movies, Producing films, Being a screen actor. Theatre business.
8- Theatre, Music, and Dance in the Modern world/Your project.	Modern day performing arts. Students are assigned final projects
9-Summaries and final project presentations.	Students will create and then present their final projects.

### **Grades:**

The grades in this class are formed based on 3 primary criteria:

- Participation (attendance, class activities)
- Quizzes
- Tests
- Final Project

Although this is a fine arts course, the grading is **objective**. This means that you will be graded based on given requirements that need to be met, rather than just if Mr. Everetts likes your work or not. However, work that is done in a timely manner, and with effort put forth (I can tell), will be given selective consideration.

Here is the breakdown for grades in this class:

- Attendance and participation: 50%
- Tests: 20%
- Final project: 20%
- Quizzes 10%

-Total: 100%  
(Not including extra credit)

### **Homework:**

I rarely give homework, so that is why attendance and participation are very important. Should you miss class, or lack participation, necessary work will need to be made up. Late work will be dealt with accordingly, but I typically give no more than half credit starting the day after it's due, followed by zero credit after that.

**Questions:**

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, PLEASE feel free to ask! I am here to help in any way I can, especially in this class type that's new to Northwestern. Cooperation will be the key to success for everyone!

**A little about Mr. Everetts,**

Just a quick note about me... I have been a teacher at Northwestern for 3 years, teaching art at Howard Elementary and assistant directing the theatre programs, after graduating from Ball State University. I have previously taught in Houston, Texas, and have worked as a professional actor in Illinois, Indiana, and Hollywood, California. I've been in many plays and several short movies, too. My IMDB page is under "Jake Everetts." I am looking forward to a new school year with this new class!

## Participation in Northwestern's Theatre Program

If you're looking for a more immersive experience, the elementary, middle, and high school produces numerous theatrical productions a year, and there are opportunities to participate for extra credit, experience, or fun!

For those who wish to delve further into the world of Theatre (or want a grade boost) there are opportunities to volunteer time working in a Northwestern School production. All students are welcome to participate, providing **you** are able to commit the necessary time and effort, **and** if there is room! Typically, involvement in a show requires several rehearsal hours after school, (depending on scheduling) and go for around a month. **Tech Week** is the week leading up to the show and usually requires more time allotted on your part, should you choose to participate.

Mr. Everetts will have opportunities available based on the current needs of whichever show is in production.

Like any artistic performance, a team is required to produce a show. We usually need:

**Actors**  
**Set constructors**  
**Designers**  
**Makeup Artists**  
**Soundboard operators**  
**Painters**  
**Costume Designers**  
**Etc.**

### **Before committing to a show:**

**-DO NOT** commit to a production without permission from a parent/guardian!

**-MAKE SURE** you've scheduled your time around rehearsals/play dates before committing to a show, and have reliable transportation. This is common courtesy, while saving the director and fellow actors from having to clean up a mess they didn't make...

-Dropping out of a show, for whatever reason, after committing your time, is highly discouraged, because:

- You'll lose respect with your fellow classmates (and me).
- I cannot give you good recommendations in the future.
- You will receive zero extra credit points.

I do realize life throws curveballs sometimes, and things happen that are out of our control. I will work with you on these, but you have to work with me as well. Serious health (hospitalization and contagious illnesses), and immediate family emergencies are examples. Credit based around such extraneous situations is at my discretion. So a positive attitude and willingness to work is key.

I cannot stress enough that participation in extra curricular Theatre is a serious commitment, just as any other sport or activity.

You may get a hold of me for any questions. Thanks!

Theatrically,

Jake Everetts