

# THEATRE ARTS

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Theatre Arts curriculum reflects and exceeds the current national and state benchmarks adopted to establish and maintain high standards in theatre education. An emphasis on linking hands-on knowledge to real-world situations and workplace skills is embedded into each course, along with the flexibility for adapting competencies to accommodate diverse learning styles and needs. Based on promoting active lifelong learners; encouraging broad, world-wide views; embracing emerging technologies and multi-media; nurturing alternative ways of knowing and learning; and serving the widely divergent needs of all students, the theatre arts curriculum was designed to utilize a large variety of standard and authentic assessment strategies. Theatre is basic to a balanced, academic, educational experience for all students.

Theatre education is a creative and critical thinking process that helps the student foster a healthy self-concept, develop intrapersonal skills, clarify his/her perceptions of the world, and nurture an awareness of themselves as physical, social, and creative beings. Because theatre is social in nature, it is a vehicle for students to develop interpersonal skills, cultivate empathy for others, explore relationships, and enhance communication skills as the art of theatre is a mode of expression which allows it to closely approximate daily life.

Theatre arts is an integral part of the academic curriculum which uniquely integrates major aspects of other fields of study into its own. Systemic and continued theatre arts experiences in education provide learners with opportunities to master basic skills, to investigate old and new ideas by inquiring, discovering, creating, exploring, and clarifying values. Theatre has wide educational implications within the school curriculum. Theatre is an activity which promotes unity, inquiry, critical and constructive thought, as well as skills of comparison, problem-solving, interpretation, judgment, discrimination, and research. The students are the creative force through writing, designing, constructing, performing, and evaluating the dramatic product. They are at once artists, technicians, and evaluators as they acquire an understanding of theatre.

Sharing is a natural outgrowth of the creative process. Theatre education provides an opportunity for students to integrate artistic and technical elements in order to communicate what they are learning with an audience. This is done while keeping the main objective a learning process for both performer and audience.

Theatre education on the introductory level is primarily an improvisational, nonexhibitional process that guides the student to express him/herself, as well as fosters individuality, spontaneity of expression, cultural diversity, and perceptive awareness. Theatre education promotes critical aesthetic thinking, builds imagination skills, improves critical thinking skills, in addition to providing students with the opportunity to share in a wide range of emotions and to make judgments concerning problem-solving situations. The theatre arts program creates an appreciation of all arts forms and other disciplines and allows for the transfer of ideas and skills from one discipline to another. The more familiar the student becomes with other disciplines the more expansive his/her expression becomes. The diversity of the theatre arts curriculum provides opportunities for the involvement of all students regardless of experience. While some students demonstrate special talents and should be assisted in preparing for professional theatre arts related careers, all students are entitled to share in theatre experiences which encourage them to develop their internal and external resources, to explore their creative potential, to investigate the social, multicultural, and historical context in which they live, and to expand their critical acumen. Students alternate as creators, observers, and evaluators. Theatre arts education is a vital and viable way of learning.