

CHS Stagecraft Syllabus and Class Policies

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Course objective: Stagecraft is designed to give you a basic understanding of design, construction and/or use of theatrical scenery, properties, lighting equipment, sound equipment, theatrical rigging systems and the proper and **SAFE** use of hand and power tools associated with these areas. This is a hands-on class and all students are expected to participate. There will be reading assignments and other special materials on which class discussions will be based.

Function of Stagecraft:

The main function of this class beyond the objective stated above is to learn by doing. To provide the necessary technical support to our main stage theatrical productions, music and dance concerts and all other events that happen in the CHS Theater. This class will be a combination of classroom lecture/work and hands-on real-world experience. There are certain days that everyone must attend class and the remainder of your class hours will be accomplished by providing technical support for the school events for which you will sign up.

While it is intended that every student in this class work on crew for the main-stage production, if you audition for and are cast in the main-stage production, there is an alternative track that can be discussed on an individual basis.

Additional Outside Class Requirements:

In addition to your required class lectures and events, you must:

- See at least ONE theatrical production and write a technical critique of the lighting, scenic, and costume elements of the show.
- Participate in at least one work-call. (You may attend additional work calls to make up your required hours.)

Shop Safety:

OUR safety is the most important consideration in Stagecraft class. If done improperly, many activities in class can cause severe injury or death. You must obey all safety rules and policies and pass our safety test before you will be allowed to work in the “Scene Shop”. Additionally, several individual tools may require that you pass a test before you will be allowed to use them. You must at all times in Stagecraft class:

- Wear closed-toe, low-heel shoes. No open-toed shoes or shoes with high heels. Tennis shoes are OK, boots are preferred.
- Jewelry must be removed before operating any machinery
- Long hair must be tied up away from the face
- Eye protection must be worn when operating any motor-driven tools
- Medications. You must not use any tools if you are taking medicines that affect your ability to operate the tools safely. (For example, many cold medications cause drowsiness.)
- Do not work in the shop alone.
- Wear clothing you don't mind getting dirty. – If you wish, you can bring a set of paint/work clothes or coveralls and leave them at school. If you aren't prepared, you will not be able to participate and therefore receive no participation points for that class meeting.
- Obey all other safety rules and policies as explained in the CHS Theater safety policies

-Any purposefully dangerous behavior that threatens the safety of anyone in the shop will result in your being expelled from the class. DO NOT horse around or use the tools for any purposes for which they are not designed.

Attendance:

Students are expected to be in their seats and ready to go when the tardy bell rings, or they may be marked tardy. If a student has an excused tardy (i.e. teacher conference), they must bring a signed & timed note on arrival. School policy on absences and tardies will be strictly upheld.

Stagecraft class moves fast; being absent WILL affect your grade.

Grading: Stagecraft is a participation class. Therefore participation is the largest part of your grade –AND– the easiest for you to control. This grade will evaluate your performance in class each day. Students are expected to start promptly, follow safety procedures, work cooperatively, finish tasks and clean-up at the end of each class period. Points will be deducted for absences, tardies, disrupting class, and failing to participate.

Grading breakdown:

Class participation	50%	Projects/Quizzes	20%
Outside class hours	20%	Final	10%

How to do Well in Stagecraft:

Attend class and be willing to get involved. If you come to class but are not prepared to participate in the discussions or are apathetic towards your shop work, it will adversely affect your grade.

Do well on the quizzes. We'll review for each before it's given. If you're still having trouble, please talk with me. Don't go into ANY exam unprepared.

Turn your projects in on time. Working in the theater requires meeting deadlines. Don't be late with anything!

Show off. You have to be assertive and demonstrate your knowledge and skills in class. Demand perfection from yourself as you complete your projects. Don't settle for less.

Responsibilities:

Mine: To give you good, accurate information and plenty of opportunities to expand your understanding of Stagecraft.

Yours: To ask questions when you don't know something.

Mine: To give you opportunities to use your knowledge in real-world situations.

Yours: To understand that in these situations, other people are counting on you to take your work seriously. Your careless mistakes affect others.

Mine: To make sure we have a safe environment in which to work.

Yours: To make sure we have a safe environment in which to work.

Classroom Decorum:

This class is based on mutual respect and trust. We will all treat each other in a civil, respectful manner. Effective communication and proper attentiveness is an absolute requirement:

- Use of cell phones, iPods, and similar devices for valid educational purposes (research etc.) must first be approved by your instructor. If you take advantage of this for an unexcusable reason, your device will be confiscated and taken to the office in accordance with established school policy.
- Do not bring food or drinks into the shop/theatre EVER. Water in a sealable container is the ONLY exception. Snacks during work periods may be acceptable with prior approval from your instructor.
- If you must leave during class for an approved, excused reason (Dr's Appt. etc.,) notify your instructor prior to the beginning of class.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.