



Hello Theatre Parents!

Welcome to Wayside Theatre and thank you for supporting your child's participation in the arts. As you know, we are busy gearing up for a new school year, but I wanted to take a moment to highlight some of the countless benefits your students will experience in theatre. Below this letter is a class syllabus describing the expectations and an overview of the course. Please read the entire document and then [click here](#) to complete a brief form. By completing this online form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree with the class expectations.

Having a regular creative outlet is not just part of a well-rounded education – it is essential for a child's emotional health and well-being. Theatre games and activities provide growth opportunities for all types of learners. For example, kinesthetic learners engage their bodies through movement, linguistic learners dive into the written and spoken word, and spatial learners tackle set and costume design.

While many of the activities we do in class are fun, theater helps young people develop many of the skills necessary for success in today's world:

- **Self-Confidence:** Through theatre games, young performers discover how to take creative and emotional risks and learn to trust their abilities.
- **Literacy:** Students increase reading and writing skills at their own pace by immersing themselves in story, reading and re-reading scripts, memorizing lines, and writing their own monologues and scenes.
- **Communication:** During class performances, students learn how to articulate their thoughts and carefully listen to direction in order to improve their performances.
- **Imagination:** Theater is most dynamic when the imaginations of its participants are fully engaged. Students make countless interpretive choices in design and performance to create a detailed, fictional world for their audiences.
- **Empathy:** Through character work and story creation, young performers explore the lives of others. First-hand perspectives of new circumstances challenge prejudices and aid in the development of well-rounded students and citizens.
- **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving:** The amount of work required to perform an improvised scene makes all participants valuable troubleshooters. Whether inventing characters, adjusting staging to show off everyone's faces, or mastering a tricky scene, students have countless opportunities to creatively tackle challenges.
- **Self-Discipline:** Through learning lines and scenes, and completing projects on schedule, students acquire valuable self-discipline skills and become reliable and trustworthy members of an ensemble.
- **Public Speaking:** Whether performing for their peers during class or for their school and local community during a performance, students gain expertise and confidence speaking in front of a group.
- **Teamwork:** Theater requires extensive creative input from all its participants. Students build ensemble by working together in activities, scenes, and plays. Every role – whether in a game, onstage or behind the scenes – is vital for success. There are no small parts!

As you can see, your student will gain valuable life skills through his participation in theatre. We're looking forward to a wonderful year at Wayside! Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. The easiest and fastest method of communicating with me is school email at pdaniell@ems-isd.net I check this email

several times during the day and answer emails promptly, but you are also welcome to call and leave a message on my extension. Thank you again for your continued support of your child during this educational experience.

All For One,

Perry W. Daniell, M.A.

Theatre Director and Teacher
Fine Arts/Electives Dept. Head
Wayside Middle School
817-232-0541 ext. 5115
Office Hours: 12:20-1:07

Responsible, Believer, Adaptable, Connected, Communicator



Wayside
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Home of the Wildcats

Wayside Middle School exists to foster a lifelong love for learning that prepares our students for their future by partnering with faculty, staff, and the community to build relationships that guide students to realize their full potential for success.

The mission of EMS-ISD is to foster a culture of excellence that instills a passion for a lifetime of continuous achievement in every student.



Theatre Arts

Perry Daniell

pdaniell@ems-isd.net

Wayside Thesians on FaceBook

Office Hours/Conference Period: 12:20-1:07

Tutoring Opportunities: M-Th 7:45-8:15 A.M., Th-3:40-4:00 P.M. or by appointment

Class Materials (required every day):

- Binder
- School Planner
- Pens/Pencils
- Paper
- Journal (Composition Book preferred)
- Canvas will be utilized as a “file cabinet” for assignments.

Access to Canvas and Office365 tools is available to students through our [Single Sign-on Portal \(SSO\)](#). Students receive their SSO login during enrollment.

Course Description:

Designed as a performance-based course, students learn skills in speaking, acting, directing, production, design and technical theatre. Through studying theatre, students are provided opportunities to: (1) perform in large and small group casts; (2) interact with other students and develop teamwork skills; (3) develop and increase personal and academic discipline; and (4) develop a positive self-image.

Course Goals:

Students who complete this course successfully will:

1. be able to explore realities, relationships, and ideas through creative expression.
2. develop cognitive functioning and critical thinking.
3. improve communication and collaboration skills.
4. foster a broad cultural awareness and acceptance.
5. be better prepared for college, career opportunities, and workplace environments.

Student Evaluation:

The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Grade averaged 60% Major 40% Minor
- Major grades – tests (including six weeks assessments, projects, presentations, and performances); minimum **three** per six weeks
- Minor grades – quizzes, daily participation assignments, journals; minimum **four** per six weeks

- A letter system (S, N, U) is used to report a student's conduct based on proper/responsive conduct and citizenship; **however**, one of the Theatre TEKS, 5(A), is "The student will learn to apply audience etiquette at all performances." Audience Etiquette means classroom behavior during all presentations, instruction, and performances and, therefore, will be a daily grade each week.
- Per Board Policy EIA (LOCAL), "The District shall permit a student who meets the criteria detailed in the grading guidelines a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a failing grade. This policy applies only to initial identified major grades and does not apply to daily assignments, quizzes, six-week test, and semester final examinations. Upon reteach and retest, the new test, project, etc. recorded will be a high score of 70%.

Assignments, exams, expectations outside of the classroom:

Most of the work in Theatre happens during class time; however, memorization assignments such as monologues, scene work and play scripts will have to be rehearsed at home as well. Unlike traditional classes, theatre does require attendance to scheduled activities outside of regular school hours. The Texas Education Agency's policy states that music classes may require attendance to activities that meet outside of regular class time, and that grades may be given for these events per Commissioner's Rule 19 TAC 76.1001. It is important for parents and students alike to understand the time commitment for classes such as athletics and fine arts.

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

Attendance

Students are required to be present and engage daily in the lessons, complete and turn in assignments on time, interact with the teacher, and show progress in the learning. A student will be considered absent if the student is not present for more than 50% of the class period.

Daily attendance will be taken, and compulsory attendance will be followed. The normal truancy process will be followed (TEC, §25.092). Students must be present for 90% of the required days of learning to be promoted to the next grade level.

Tardy Policy

Because tardiness disrupts the classroom and negatively affects the learning environment, students should arrive punctually to each of their classes. Students have an adequate passing period to travel from one class to the next. Students will sign the Tardy Book upon arriving late to class. Tardies will be addressed by Mr. Daniell and campus administration in the following manner:

1. Warning from Mr. Daniell
2. Parent Contact (Email or Phone Call)
3. Teacher Detention with Parent Contact (Email or Phone Call)
4. Office Referral with Parent Contact

Make-Up Work

Students shall have time equal to days absent from class plus one day to complete all missed assignments. A student will be permitted to make up tests and to turn in projects due that were missed because of absence; however, a late penalty may be assessed on any long-term project in accordance with time lines approved by the principal and previously communicated to students. To be clear, this means that missing days (absences) during a long-term project, whether excused or unexcused, will not extend the due date of the project. In

addition, an absence on the due date of a long-term project will mean that the project is due upon the student's return to class. The student will be responsible for communicating with Mr. Daniell to obtain, schedule, and complete tests or work missed upon his return to class. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted will earn a grade of zero for the assignment.

Classroom Expectations:

“You never make yourself look good by making someone else look bad.”—Mr. Daniell

1. Listen and Follow Instructions
2. Raise your hand for help or to leave your seat.
3. Respect your classmates, your teacher, and yourself.
4. Be kind-Keep your hands, feet, objects, and comments to yourself
5. No food or phones during class.

Parents, please send your communications with your student through the main office phone at Wayside. The student's phone will be taken up if seen out during class time. Thank you.

Classroom Consequences:

1. Warning from Mr. Daniell
2. Audience Etiquette/Citizenship points deducted
3. Teacher Detention with Parent Contact (Email or Phone Call)
4. Office Referral with Parent Contact

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

- Discovering Self/Ensemble
- Terms and anatomy of theatre spaces
- Pantomime
- Improvisation
- Characterization
- Acting Techniques and Styles
- Play production
- Technical theatre, including lights, sound, costumes, makeup, publicity
- Theatre History
- Auditioning

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity values the work of individuals regardless if it is another student's work, a researcher, or author. The pursuit of learning requires each student to be responsible for his or her academic work. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in our schools. Academic dishonesty, includes cheating, copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee and considers written materials, observation, or information from students. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary and/or academic penalties. The teacher and campus administrator shall jointly determine such action.