



Cavalier Theatre
Handbook

Example

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Contact Information & Important Links

Director: Christopher Rushing

Email: schoolemail@email.com Office Phone: ***-***-****

*Please note: Mr. Rushing only checks email Monday through Friday from 7:45am-3:30pm, and will make every effort to respond to your email within 48 hours of receipt. Should there be an emergency, please contact your student's subschool administrator.

[Woodson Theatre Department Website](#)

Woodson Theatre Merchandise: TBD

Woodson Theatre Twitter: [@wtwdrama](#)

Welcome to the 2022-23 School Year!

This is a year of change. The last year and a half hasn't been easy for anyone. We are all stepping into a challenging situation. The next year will be full of uncertainty. As I reflect on the first two weeks, things seem to be changing daily. I had many questions coming into this year.. Would students be ready to jump back in? How would we interact face-to-face? Will the blackbox be full of dust bunnies? I am happy to report that the students have brought an overwhelming amount of energy, enthusiasm, and openness to the classroom. In the way that they so often do, my students are showing me the endurance and tenacity that is at the heart of the saying "the show must go on"!

This year, my focus is connection and communication. In classes, students will revisit the basics of performing onstage. At its heart, Theatre is about communication and connecting with its community. We will be working on our acting tools, while focusing on what it means to be performing together. In our Theatre program this year, Cavalier Theatre, we'll be returning to the beloved basics of our program: the fall play, One Act, spring musical, Cappies, International Thespian Society, Cabaret, and Improv Club. As always, there will be plenty to do and see in Cavalier Theatre.

A gentle reminder to all of us, including me: the only Cavalier Theatre students who have completed a full, "normal" season are our seniors. This will be a year full of adjustments, as I take over for the incredible Ms. Hobson who retired last summer. We may hit a few bumps as we get things back up and running, but if the last year and a half have taught us anything it's that we are stronger and more capable than we think.

In this handbook, you will find tons of helpful information that will help you throughout the year. This information includes important dates that you can add to your calendar, course fee information, and more. Please note: some of the dates may change. **This is a living document** and updates will be added throughout the year. When a significant change occurs, you will be notified.

Thank you for choosing to spend some time in the department this year! I hope that it brings you joy, comfort, and just the right amount of challenges. Remember that you only get out of theatre class what you put into it - your effort and buy-in is important. You should know that this classroom is a place where effort is rewarded, failure is celebrated and recognized for the growth that it is, and hopefully students find it a safe haven from many of the stresses they experience in everyday life.

The quote for this year is "**Be curious, not judgmental.**" I *encourage* you to try things you never have before. Allow yourself to be uncomfortable and make discoveries within that discomfort. Reflect on the times when you may be standing in your own way of making discoveries and always treat your peers with the utmost of respect. This classroom is a space in which every voice should feel heard, respected, and valued. Don't be afraid to speak up even

when you aren't feeling brave. I believe you are brave just by being here and I'll support you in any way that I can to make this year a success for you!

Mr. Rushing, Cavalier Theatre Director

Course Descriptions

Theatre 1

Theatre Arts 1 is a foundation course that introduces students to dramatic literature, theatre history, technical theatre, artistic leadership, and acting. This course provides opportunities for students to experience and participate in the creative processes of performance and production. Course content emphasizes skill development and provides theatrical opportunities that enable students to determine personal areas of interest.

Theatre 2

Theatre Arts 2 integrates and builds upon concepts and skills from Theatre Arts 1. Through various modes of expression and performance, students explore dramatic literature, theatrical styles, and historical periods. Students will study and respond to a variety of theatre experiences that will refine their communicative, collaborative, analytical, interpretive, and problem-solving skills. Students will expand their artistic abilities and appreciation of theatre arts.

Theatre 3/4

Theatre 3: Students exhibit independence, discipline, and commitment to the theatrical process through their work on assigned projects. Advanced work in script analysis, character interpretation, and performance skills are expected. Collaboration with actors and directors is augmented by special assignments and opportunities.

Theatre 4: Students identify areas of special interest in theatre arts and initiate and complete major research and/or creative projects, such as playwriting, producing, directing, designing, and stage-managing. Emphasis is placed on in-depth study and completion of projects, assumption of leadership roles, and expansion of criteria for self-evaluation. Students will analyze and evaluate scripts, concentrate on vocal and physical dramatics, and undertake a special theatre project in their area of specialization.

Tech 1/2/3/4

Tech 1: Students apply technical theatre knowledge and skills by participating in practical aspects of the production process. Students will collaborate to execute a variety of technical designs safely and effectively, and develop management and public relation skills.

Tech 2: Students apply technical theatre knowledge and skills by participating in practical aspects of the production process. Students will collaborate to execute a variety of technical designs safely and effectively and develop management and public relation skills.

Tech 3: Students will engage in advanced work in technical theatre production through special assignments and opportunities. Emphasis is on the execution of individual design concepts through collaboration.

Tech 4: Students will identify areas of special interest in technical theatre. Emphasis is placed on in-depth study, assumption of leadership roles, and application of self-assessment to enhance skills and foster artistic growth.

Curriculum Overview

Theatre 1

- 1st Quarter
 - Ensemble Building
 - Storytelling and Voice
 - Shakespeare
 - Voice and Speech
- 2nd Quarter
 - Body and Movement
 - Pantomime
 - Wax Museum
- 3rd Quarter
 - Theatre History: Classical
 - Tech
 - Theatre for Social Change
- 4th Quarter
 - Theatre Styles
 - Final Performance Project

Theatre 2

- 1st Quarter
 - Ensemble Building
 - Voice
 - Viewpoints and movement
 - Shakespeare scenes
- 2nd Quarter
 - Comedy Styles: Clowning
 - Theatre History: American Theatre
 - Audio Storytelling
- 3rd Quarter
 - Theatre Critique
 - Immersive Theatre
 - Theatre for Social Change
- 4th Quarter
 - Theatre Styles
 - Scene Study/15-minute musical project

Theatre 3/4

- 1st Quarter
 - Ensemble Building
 - Shakespeare Scenes
 - Voice
- 2nd Quarter
 - Scenes - Directing
 - Acting for Film
 - Theatre History - Greek
 - Audio Storytelling
- 3rd Quarter
 - One Act
 - Stage Combat
 - Audition
- 4th Quarter
 - Puppets/Muppets
 - Acting Styles Vaudeville
 - Playwrighting - 10 minute play showing

Tech 1/2/3/4

- 1st Quarter
 - Team Building
 - Facilities Management, Safety and Operations
 - Production Work - Stage Design
 - *Midsummers*
- 2nd Quarter
 - Stage Make-up
 - Prop Design
 - Practical Design
 - *Wax Museum*
- 3rd Quarter
 - Theatre Tech History
 - Stage Management
 - Lights/Audio
 - Production Work
 - *The SpongeBob Musical*
- 4th Quarter
 - Production Work
 - *The SpongeBob Musical*
 - Costumes

Course Fee Breakdowns

Theatre 1 - \$22

- Journals.
- Theatre Masks materials
- Workshops - improv

Theatre 2 - \$27

- Journals.
- Clown Character materials
- Workshop - movement

Theatre 3/4 - \$45

- Make-up
- Puppet/Muppet materials
- Workshop

Tech 1/2/3/4 - \$35

Materials:

- Crescent wrench
- Safety Glasses
- Ear plugs
- Make-up
- Paint brush

Policies and Expectations



Class related announcements and communications will be shared exclusively through [Schoolology](#).

Student assignments, assessments, and projects will be submitted through Schoolology unless otherwise noted. Students will be able to check for grades and feedback in Schoolology. (See below for info about SIS.) The Schoolology gradebook is not the gradebook of record. Parent communication will also be distributed through Schoolology.

Class Norms and Expectations

- **No gum, food, or drinks in the classroom or auditorium.** Drinks with lids will be allowed in the classroom at the teacher's discretion.
- Please **arrive to class on time and prepared!**
- **Put phones away at the beginning of class. STUDENTS WHO USE PHONES DURING PERFORMANCES OR SHOWCASES WILL LOSE POINTS FROM THEIR GRADE**
- **Show respect for each other in and out of the classroom!** In order to create art together, we need to create a safe space. This means that any vent sessions should happen outside of the building, constructive criticism should be given only when requested, and we should recognize that any work we see in class is a work in progress and should be treated as such.
- **Follow all safety standards as laid out in class.** Failure to use equipment/spaces correctly will result in loss of privileges.
- **Follow all school policies as dictated by SR&R.**

Grading Policies

Homework Policy

Any homework assigned in class will be in the form of rehearsal time or work on class projects outside of class. Students will be given opportunities to rehearse class projects in Learning Seminar. Please note that the amount of rehearsal put in on the student's own time will be evident and reflected in the final grade for the project.

Late Work Policy

EXCUSED- When a teacher has decided to excuse an assignment, EXCUSED will be recorded and will have no impact on the averaged student grade.

TO MAKE UP- will be recorded if a student has work to make up. A “50” will serve as a temporary placeholder until the work is submitted or the deadline has passed. Parents are encouraged to monitor progress reports to ensure that all make up work has been submitted prior to assigned deadlines.

NOT TURNED IN- After the late work deadline has passed, a NOT TURNED IN will be recorded indicating a student has not turned in an assignment after being given reasonable guidelines in which to complete the work. A “50” will be assigned with this comment and averaged in the grade. This will be used to communicate with parents a pattern of work not being turned in.

As a live performance cannot be recreated, a make-up assignment project is posted on Schoology for students who miss a live performance with an excused absence.

Excused absences from performances include illness and family emergencies.

Students must communicate with the director at least a week in advance if they will be missing a performance due to a scheduled game/tourney/match. Practices for athletic teams are not considered excused absences.

Retake Policy

For any missed assignment, at least one new opportunity to demonstrate proficiency shall be provided to any student who scores below an 80 percent and completes corrective action determined by the collaborative team. **A student’s grade within a collaborative assessment such as a performance is not eligible for a retake.**

Retakes must be completed within the given quarter of the assignment. It is the student’s responsibility to arrange for a retake time and submit the required materials. A retake’s highest score starts at 90%, and may have additional deductions for being turned in late.

Quarterly Grade Calculation

40%	Assessment: Performance/Project	Create (Theatre): The student will develop artistic ideas and create theatrical works.
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		Design (Tech): The student will develop artistic ideas and design technical theatre works.
30%	Classwork: Rehearse/Technical Assessment	Rehearse (Theatre): Ongoing daily assessments of in-class rehearsals, students demonstrate memorization and at-home prep. Technical Assessment (Tech): Safety and tool assessments required for certification.
10%	Homework: Preparation and Practice	The student will prepare and put into practice key theatrical elements for Theatre works and designs.
10%	Quizzes and Student responses	The student will evaluate and respond to theatrical works.
10%	Test: Perform/Produce	Perform (Theatre): The student will apply artistic ideas and perform theatrical works and/or demonstrate understanding of key terms via a test. Produce (Tech): The student will apply artistic ideas and produce technical theatre works and/or demonstrate understanding of key terms via a test.

Final Grades

Each Quarter will be weighted as 25% of the final grade. There will be no traditional midterm or final, but each quarter will feature a project that demonstrates the skills and learned over the quarter.

Please note that, per the Visible Learning Guide model, grades correspond to levels of mastery in the following way:

- achieving mastery as an A- to A (90-100);
- approaching mastery as a B- to B+ (80-89);
- developing mastery is a C- to C+ (70-79)
- low level of mastery is a D- to D+ (64-69)

Assignments will be graded, and grades will be posted within 7 school days after the due date with the understanding that major projects/papers may require additional time to ensure quality feedback. Grades are entered directly into SIS in batches. While some grades might appear in Schoology, SIS will be the official record for all student grades.

2021-2022 Woodson Theatre Department Dates

Note: As we have learned from last year, the unexpected may happen. Some of these dates may change. These changes will be communicated to students as quickly as possible.

August

Monday, 30 - Parent Meeting

February

Wednesday, 2 - Improv Meeting
 Tuesday, 8 - ITS Meeting
 Wednesday, 9 - Improv Meeting
 12th - One-Act open performance
 Wednesday, 16 - Improv Meeting
 Wednesday, 23 - Improv Meeting

September

Thursday, 2 - ITS Interest Meeting
 Wednesday, 9 - Fall Show callbacks
 Tuesday, 14 - ITS - First meeting
 Wednesday, 15 - Improv Meets
 Friday, 17 - Student Tech Certification Due
 Tuesday, 21 - Cappies Meeting, 1st Fall Play Rehearsal
 Wednesday, 22 - Improv Meets
 Wednesday, 29 - Improv Meets

March

Tuesday, 1 - ITS Meeting
 Wednesday, 9 - Improv Meeting
 Wednesday, 16 - Improv Meeting
 Wednesday, 23 - Improv Meeting
 Wednesday, 30 - Improv Meeting

October

Monday, 4 - Booster Meeting (Voting!)
 Tuesday, 5 - ITS Meeting
 Wednesday, 6 - Improv Meets
 Wednesday, 13 - Improv Meets
 Wednesday, 20 - Improv Meets
 Wednesday, 27 - Improv Meets
 TBD- Tag Day

April

Tuesday, 12 - ITS Meeting
 Wednesday, 13 - Improv
 Wednesday, 20 - Improv Meeting

November

Friday, 5 - Fall Show @ 7pm
 Saturday, 6 - Fall Show @ 2pm and @ 7pm
 Tuesday, 9 - ITS Meeting
 Wednesday, 10 - Improv Meeting
 Friday, 12 - Fall Show @ 7pm
 Saturday, 13- Fall Show @ 2pm and @ 7pm
 Wednesday, 17 - Improv Meets

May (Testing)

Friday, 6 - Musical @ 7pm
 Sunday, 8 - Musical @ 6pm
 Wednesday, 11 - Improv Meeting
 Friday, 13 - Musical @ 7pm
 Saturday, 14 - Musical @ 2pm and @ 7pm
 Sunday, 15 - Musical @ 6pm

December

Wednesday, 1 - Improv Meeting
 Tuesday, 7 - ITS meeting
 Wednesday, 15 - Improv Meeting
 Thursday, 16 - Thespian Winter Party
 Winter Cabaret - TBD

June

Friday, June 3rd - End of Year Gala (tentative)
 Monday, June 6 - Cappies Gala

January

To Be Scheduled

Tuesday, 4 - ITS Meeting
Wednesday, 5 - Improv Meeting
Saturday, 8 - Play in a Day at Robinson SS
Wednesday, 12 - Improv Meeting

- Department Field Trip (Location TBD)
- Theatre Sports Tournaments
- VHSL Competition
- Cabaret
- Additional Booster Meetings

2021-2022 Woodson Theatre Season Info

A Mid-autumn Night's Dream



An Adaptation of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, this play will bring the Shakespearean comedy to life with an autumn twist!

Show Dates:

November 6 @ 7pm and @ 2pm

November 7th TBD

and

November 12, 13 @ 7pm, November 13 @ 2pm

Who Can Participate: Auditions are open to all Woodson students, crew positions are only open to members of the Tech 1/2/3/4 class as much of the production work will happen in class. Exceptions include the following positions: backstage crew/assistant stage managers.



Winter Cabaret - Frost/Woodson

This student lead cabaret is a collaboration with Frost Middle School. Students will audition with possible pieces and a selection process will occur.

Show Dates: December 17 - 7pm (tentative)

Audition Dates: First week of December. Due December 3rd (submit on Flipgrid)

Who Can Participate: Auditions are open to all Woodson students.

More information will be distributed in class and on the Woodson Theatre Schoology Group. 10 and 10, whomever would like to audition. Looking for songs, dances, monologues, scenes, comedy sketches, drag routine, etc

VHSL One Act - Theatre 3/4



Theatre 3/4 students select, dramaturg, design, build, and perform in the VHSL One act competition. This will involve going to another school as part of the regional competition.

Competition Dates: TBD - with a community performance in late Jan.

Audition Dates: TBD in class
More information will be distributed during class.



Directed by: Mr. Rushing
Music Directed by: TBD
Pit Director: TBD

Show Dates:
May 6, @ 7pm, May 8 @ 6pm and
May 13, 14 @ 7pm, May 14 @ 2pm, May 15 @6pm

Audition Dates: Feb 1, 2 3:30-6:00

Callback Dates: Feb 3rd 3:30-6:00 and Feb 4th 3:30-6:00 (if needed)

Who Can Participate: Auditions are open to all Woodson students, crew positions are only open to members of the Tech 1/2/3/4 class as much of the production work will happen in class. Exceptions include the following positions: backstage crew/assistant stage managers.

What to Prepare for Auditions: Please prepare 16-32 bars of a musical theatre piece of your choosing in the style of the show. Must be memorized and performed with accompaniment. Bring sheet music, an accompanist will be provided.

More information will be distributed in class and on the Woodson Theatre Schoology Group

Other Ways to Get Involved

Improv Club

Improv Club is an improvisation team like the popular TV series, *Whose Line is it Anyway?* Improv Club will meet regularly at a time and place TBD. This year Ms. Weiss will be leading Improv Club, with Mr. Rushing providing assistance and support. Anyone is welcome to come to improv club - you do not have to audition or sign up, just attend when you are able!

This year Woodson Improv Club will compete at improv competitions hosted at other FCPS schools. More information about these competitions will be shared at club meetings.

More information will be distributed in class, on the Improv Schoology Group page.

Cappies Critics

[The Cappies](#) is a writing and awards program that trains high school theatre and journalism students to be expert writers, critical thinkers, and leaders. Student critics vie to be published in local media outlets by attending productions at other schools and writing critical reviews. Each year, W.T. Woodson HS submits a mainstage show to the Cappies. The Cappies Critics team typically consists of 4-9 students. These students are required to go to a minimum of five shows per year to review. At the end of the year, critics vote, and the shows are celebrated at the Cappies Gala hosted at the Kennedy Center.

Students who were interested in Cappies have been given the opportunity to submit an application. Cappie students will be selected and notified no later than Wednesday, September 15th. **Students selected must attend the Woodson Cappie meeting in the Blackbox on September 21st, 3-4pm in the blackbox.**

International Thespian Society (ITS)

The International Thespian Society is an honors program that recognizes and celebrates student achievement in theatre. To be inducted, a student must have obtained at least 100 hours in extracurricular theatre and must have participated in at least two mainstage shows at Woodson.

There will be an ITS interest meeting on Monday, September 27th from 3:00-4:00 in the Blackbox. At this meeting we will also elect a class representative for the Freshman, Sophomore,

Junior, and Senior classes. Representatives will attend all officer meetings, which take place approximately once a month. Representatives do not have to be current ITS members to be eligible for election.

Theatre Arts Boosters

Parents/guardians are highly encouraged to be involved with their student in the theatre arts department. This year, we need a lot of help with volunteering for events and fundraising, especially after a year and a half of not being on stage.

The Theatre Arts Boosters are a parent organization that helps support Cavalier Theatre throughout the year. Booster responsibilities include coordinating volunteers for ticket and concession sales, securing sponsors for the season, helping coordinate meals for students during tech week, and more. Booster meetings are held in the Blackbox from 7pm-8pm once a month (new date/schedule TBD). The more students we have in Cavalier Theatre, the more adult support we need; we would love to see you there! For more info on Boosters or to donate directly to the department at any time, [click here!](#)

2021-2022 Cavalier Booster Board

This information is TBD

Syllabus Acknowledgement Form

Your student will have gone over this in class and have been asked to go over this handbook with their parent/guardian and to ensure that it is kept in a safe place that can be easily accessed throughout the course of the year. A digital copy of this handbook can be found on the student's Schoology Course page for this class.

Students

We will go over this handbook together in class. Please go over this handbook at home with your parent/guardian and complete the form linked below with your parent/guardian.

** Tech students and parents, please be on the lookout for an upcoming Parental Permission Form that will be sent out when students pass the safety exam.*

Parents/Guardians

Please review this handbook with your student and submit the form at the link below with your student. If you have any questions, please email Mr. Rushing at csrushing@fcps.edu

[Click here for the Syllabus Acknowledgement Form](#)

Please submit no later than Friday, September 24