

TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Larkspur, California

Course of Study

OVERVIEW OF DRAMA PROGRAM

The full drama program consists of a four-year sequence. Students may enter the program during any year of their school career, but all students must enroll in Drama 1/2 regardless of their grade classification. Upon successful completion of Drama sophomores, juniors, or seniors may be eligible to move to any level appropriate to their skills with evaluation and permission of the Drama 1/2 instructor.

Drama 1 and 2 (Beginning) **fall and spring semester: 5 credits each**

A course designed to introduce students to all forms of theatre including structure of drama, history of drama, pantomime, voice and diction, scene reading, improvisation, acting techniques exercises in projection and movement, memorized scenes, and analysis of dramatic literature from the standpoint of production. Students in Drama 1/2 perform in a one act play festival at the end of each semester as their final project.

Drama 3 and 4 (Intermediate) **full year: 10 credits**

The second-level course for drama students stresses voice, stage movement, dance, technical theatre, improvisation, stage terminology, and further preparation for advanced work. Some after school hours are required. Students in Drama 3/4 perform in one act play festival at the end of each semester as their final project. The successful completion of Drama 1/2 and/or the consent of the instructor is the prerequisite to enrollment.

Stagecraft 1 and 2 (Advanced Intermediate) **full year: 10 credits**

A course designed to expose students to basic theatrical production elements and design. During the course of the semester students will learn basic stagecraft techniques for technical production theatre. Students will learn the basics of theatre management. In addition, students will be exposed to basic design practices and will have the opportunity to follow a production from conception to performance. Students will apply their classroom instruction in a production setting.

Concurrent enrollment in Drama 5/6 is required. Successful completion of Drama 3/4 with a grade of "C" or better and the Drama 3/4 instructor's permission are prerequisites to enrollment.

Drama 5 and 6 (Advanced Intermediate) **full year: 10 Credits**

A course of study for students wishing to continue beyond intermediate drama and who may be preparing for theatre arts beyond high school. Production is the goal of the class with intensive work on character analysis, vocal technique, movement, stage combat, introduction to Shakespeare and movement. Production participation involves required hours for rehearsals, performances, work calls, crew, and workshops scheduled during a flexible eighth period that meets after school hours or on weekends. Hours are also required for committee work and running the student theatre company, Conservatory Theatre Ensemble (CTE). Students may have the opportunity to serve as junior interns to

provide decision-making, problem solving, and leadership for the student company, CTE, under the guidance of the drama instructor/s.

This course must be taken concurrently with Stagecraft 1/2. Successful completion of Drama 3/4 with a grade of “C” or better and the Drama 3/4 instructor’s permission are prerequisites to enrollment.

Drama 7/8 (Advanced Drama)

full year: 10 credits

Advanced drama courses are designed to build upon skills acquired in Drama 1-6. This course provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate competency at the highest levels, serving as role models and peer teachers to underclassmen. Specific advanced acting techniques and styles will be learned as well as advanced production preparation and performance. Students in Drama 7/8 will also have the opportunity prepare for work in the theatre community outside of high school which may include colleges and universities, community arts programs, conservatories, or the entertainment industries.

Senior Projects in Drama (Advanced Drama)

full year: 10 credits

An advanced course designed to give students opportunities to applying culminating knowledge and to apply skills that reflect their experience of the Drama 1-6 and Stagecraft 1/2 sequence. Students will conceive, develop, design, and implement projects in Advanced Drama. They will serve as producers of student productions and run all aspects of the student company, CTE, as needed. Students may have the opportunity to serve as senior interns to provide decision-making, problem solving, and leadership for CTE under the guidance of the drama instructors

Senior projects provide the advanced students with the opportunity to select an area or aspect of theatre in a focused, in depth concentration. Examples of self-selected focus may include acting, play writing, digital video, producer, production design, production, community outreach, arts administration, and assistant to the guest artist director. Production participation involves required hours for rehearsals, performances, work calls, crew, and workshops scheduled during a flexible eighth period that meets after school hours or on weekends. Hours are also required for committee work and running the student theatre company, Conservatory Theatre Ensemble (CTE). Successful completion of Stagecraft 1/2 and Drama 5/6 with a grade of “B” or better, and instructor’s permission are prerequisites for enrollment. This course must be taken concurrently with Drama 7/8.

Theatre Directing (Advanced Drama)

full semester: 10 credits

An Honors course designed to build upon skills acquired in Stagecraft 1/2 and Drama 5/6 and 7/8 which include theatre directing and entrepreneurship. Students are required to attend an after school seminar in directing and direct a con-act play during a Drama 1/2 or Drama 3/4 class during each semester. They must pass an examination with a “B” or better to direct with the instructor’s permission. Students will be required to spend after school hours and weekend hours as scheduled. They must have a period in their schedule to enroll in as a Drama 1/2 or 3/4 course where they act as student directors during the period.

Revised: 6/00