

Introduction to Theatre

Room 408P

August 2025 - May 2026

Instructor: Kirie Walz

kwalz@bartlettschools.org

What to expect from this class:

- An introduction to the basic components of theatre.
- A study of plays, improvisation, technical theatre, and theatre history.
- Reading/viewing of one play each nine weeks.
- Broadening your overall knowledge of theatre.

What to expect from me, your instructor:

- Fairness toward you as a student and respect toward you as an individual.
- A comfortable educational atmosphere in which creativity and ideas are appreciated and encouraged, and disrespect and discrimination are not tolerated.
- The direction, motivation and information you need to succeed in this class!

What I expect from you:

- A respectful attitude toward your instructor, your classmates and the material we are exploring.
- Punctuality, preparedness and participation.
- Success!

What you will need:

- Several pens or pencils
- A notebook specifically for this class (ex. spiral notebook, a 3-ring binder)

How you will be graded:

Some grades will be weighted (counted more than once) during a nine-week period. I will advise students beforehand as to the weighted value of each grade. The following items will average together to determine the grade for each nine-week period.

- Homework/classroom assignments
- Class participation
- Written tests
- Performances
- Play critiques
- Co-Curricular Service Hours (**Honors Only**)

CLASSROOM POLICIES AND RULES

1. Follow class created social contract.
2. Be on time to all classes and other scheduled activities. **This means be in your seat when the bell rings or a tardy will be given.**
3. No gum, food, or drink will be permitted in the classroom except water bottles with a lid.
4. Always raise your hand to speak, and listen attentively when others are speaking.
5. Come to class prepared with required materials. Laptops should be sufficiently charged.
6. Come to class dressed appropriately (see student handbook for details).
7. No sleeping or putting your head on your desk. Be attentive and alert.
8. Complete all assignments on time. Points will be deducted for each day an assignment is late.
9. Come to class and other activities with an **open mind**, ready to participate, ready to learn and contribute!!!

HOMEWORK AND GRADING POLICIES

- Homework is designed as a reinforcement of skills and concepts that have already been taught in class. It will be assigned at the discretion of the instructor and must be completed by all enrolled students.
- All homework is due at the beginning of the next class period, unless the teacher designates otherwise. It is the student's responsibility to turn in their homework assignments.
- Late assignments will be penalized according to the following scale:
 - 1 day late – 10 point deduction
 - 2 days late – 20 point deduction
 - 3 days late – 30 point deduction
 - 4 days late – 40 point deduction
 - 5 days late – 50 point deduction
 - 6 or more days late – student will receive a zero for the assignment
- Students who are absent (excused only) on a day when an assignment is given will be allowed one extra day per each class missed. If the student does not complete the assignment in that period of time, the above late work grading scale will go into effect. Make-up work is solely the responsibility of the student.
***On the day the student returns to class, it is his/her responsibility to check with Mrs. Walz for missed work.
- All assignments should reflect the student's own work. There will be zero tolerance for academic dishonesty. If any student is caught cheating (as determined by the instructor), they will receive no credit for that assignment. **THIS INCLUDES PLAGIARISM – WHETHER IT IS ONE PHRASE, ONE SENTENCE, ONE PARAGRAPH, OR THE ENTIRE ASSIGNMENT.**
- Test grades and play critiques will be weighted twice when averaging the student's nine-week grade.

CO-CURRICULAR HOURS (HONORS STUDENTS ONLY)

As a portion of the Honors distinction of this course, students are required to serve 3 hours each quarter with the Panther Playhouse. Students may volunteer to assist with events on the Panther Playhouse calendar including mainstage productions. These hours will count as a test grade in each quarter. Mrs. Walz will send out information for opportunities as they become available.

LIVE PLAY CRITIQUES

Students will complete a total of three (3) play critiques over the course of the school year. The first play critique will be written on a play watched in class to teach students the requirements and expectations of this assignment. The remaining critiques will be completed on live theatrical productions seen outside of class time. For each production seen, there will be an assignment given to assess the student's ability to critique a live theatrical performance. Each critique will count as a test grade (weighted twice).

Any performances attended in addition to the required assignments will be counted as extra credit. A calendar of local and school productions will be posted on the bulletin board in the classroom. **STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO CRITIQUE A PLAY VIEWED DIGITALLY.**

SUGGESTED THEATRES TO ATTEND

Germantown Community Theatre	gctcomeplay.org
Harrell Theatre	harrelltheatre.org
Hattiloo Theatre	hattilootheatre.org
New Day Children's Theatre	newdaytheatre.org
The Orpheum	Orpheum-memphis.com
Playhouse On the Square (Circuit Playhouse)	playhouseonthesquare.org
Rhodes College	rhodes.edu/theatre/
Theatre Memphis	theatrememphis.org
University of Memphis	memphis.edu/theatre
Voices of the South	voicesofthesouth.org
All High School Theatre Departments	bartlettpantherplayhouse.org

DISCOUNT TICKET INFORMATION

- Playhouse On The Square offers a "Pay What You Can" night on the first Thursday of every show run.
- The Orpheum often offers a student rush for touring shows. Students may receive 2 tickets at \$20 each cash only. Tickets go on sale the day of the show at the Orpheum box office. You must show a student ID (report card, agenda book, etc.) to receive the student rush price. Tickets are sold on a first come first serve basis.
- Many theatres will give you free tickets for volunteering to usher. Contact theatres in advance to get more information
- I will make students aware of any other discounted ticket deals as they become available, but it is the student's responsibility to secure a ticket and attend a performance with ample time to complete the critique.

WHERE TO FIND CLASS CONTENT AND INFORMATION

Use of **Canvas** will be mandatory. All students in all grades will use the BCS learning management system called "Canvas". To access Canvas, students will log into the learning management system called "Clever", then click the icon for "Canvas", and will automatically be logged in. Students should see each of their classes listed in Canvas. There is a link to access Clever on my class website. Parents can sign up for an observer account to see Canvas courses.

School email use will be mandatory for students. E-mail will be an essential part of our students' daily routine. Students must check school email each day and respond to emails when appropriate. If any student needs to reset your school email (username and/or password) there is a link in the BCS App Store.

For those interested in information about the **Panther Playhouse**, our school's theatre, and how you can get involved outside of class, you can visit www.bhspantherplayhouse.org.

PARENT SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

If you feel moved to support our theatre classroom and the Panther Playhouse, feel free to check out my Amazon wish list below!

Class Amazon Wish List



The **Bartlett Theatre and Forensics Booster Club (BTFB)** is the school support organization that supports the Panther Playhouse at Bartlett High School. If your student plans to be involved with the theatre department after school and throughout high school, we highly encourage parents to join BTFB. The list of meeting dates for the year is listed below:

August 26	6:00 pm	BHS Auditorium
October 21	6:00 pm	Zoom Mtg
January 6	6:00 pm	BHS Auditorium