



Laura C. Beck-Ard, MFA, MAT

Corvallis High School Theatre Teacher

Laura.Beck-Ard@corvallis.k12.or.us
541-757-3820

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our extended theatre family and tell you how excited I am to have your child in Introduction to Theatre. Our course meets every other day for the entire semester and during that time there are a few activities that I like you to be aware of and some that require a signed permission slip.

We will begin our technical theatre unit next week. This means students will begin periodic work in the scene shop using the school's power tools and backstage practicing with the rigging and lighting equipment. This usage involves safety training, certification, and supervised usage of the following equipment: corded drills, hand tools, rigging lines, counterweight systems, lighting instruments, sound equipment and the theatre catwalks.

While the students will be learning the proper terminology and use of the equipment, they will not be permitted to use anything without direct supervision. In addition, students must dress appropriately to maintain utmost safety standards. This dress includes shoes that cover the whole foot (flip flops or open toed shoes will not be permitted), clothing that allows the student to crawl around on the floor or crawl up a ladder without sacrificing modesty, and hair that is pulled back and out of the face. Safety goggles and ear protection will be provided when needed. Failure to comply with these policies will result in immediate removal from the shop or theatre and a subsequent failing grade on the day's activities.

All work clothes and this signed permission slip are due in class no later than next Monday 9/12. Students who do not have their permission slips or who are not adequately prepared in terms of dress and safety will not be permitted to being training and will consequently be a day behind.

Part of this course is watching and reviewing various theatrical forms from on-stage performances to movies and television clips. Some of the movies I generally show are Shakespeare in Love, Waiting for Guffman and Improv Everywhere. The first two of these films are rated R due to brief scenes involving either language or sexuality. The latter is a documentary and is non rated, though there is a brief scene where an angry person on the subway uses some inappropriate language and there is another sequence where a group of improv actors remove their pants and ride the subway in their underwear. I am trying to find edited versions of the movies, but have not located any yet. While I am pretty quick on the remote for fast forwarding though inappropriate scenes, I would still like your permission for your child to watch them. If you object then your child will be given an alternative assignment to complete in the library or shop while the rest of the class watches the movie. There won't be any test questions on the content of the movies, but each film is useful in illustrating different styles of theatre during our unit on theatre history.

Finally, all assignments including make-up work can be found in Pinnacle under the 'narrative' tab. If the assignment involves work out of our technical handbook, an electronic copy can be found at my website www.mizb.info under the 'theatre classes at CHS/CVHS' tab. I am available by telephone or email any time if you have questions or concerns. You may also find information about me, our class, theatre productions and travel program on my website mizb.info.

(Please sign and return the bottom portion. Keep the top portion for your records)

Please check the appropriate boxes:

Student's Name (Please Print): _____

- I give my child permission to use the CHS theatre equipment, using correct safety protocols and care YES NO
- I give my child permission to watch the R rated movies listed above: YES NO
- I have read and understood the class syllabus: YES NO

Your Name: _____

Your phone number: _____

Signature: _____

Your email address: _____