

**Ormond Beach Middle School
Theatre Handbook
Ms. El Shemi**

Welcome to Theatre at Ormond Beach Middle School! This class will teach basic theatre terminology and techniques, improvisation, monologue performance, script analysis, scene study, and much more. For our class to perform at its best, each of us will need to participate to the best of our ability. This includes acting in class and on stage in front of an audience when possible. You will be expected to perform in a group and solo setting. I urge you to challenge yourselves and your classmates as we work to obtain our goals.

This handbook includes important information regarding goals, expectations, classroom, and performance procedures. Please review this handbook and share it with your parents/guardians. Parental involvement is very important, and I urge every parent to be involved with our program. They can do this by attending and/or volunteering at performances, helping students practice monologues, or by helping to create costumes, props, and sets for our productions. **While parental involvement is strongly encouraged, please make sure to have a volunteer form filled out with the front office.** Due to Covid-19, we will not be able to have any parents on campus this year while students are rehearsing.

It is my goal to bring excitement to the stage and to provide each of you with meaningful experiences in a positive, supportive learning environment. I have high expectations for each student and look forward to helping you meet those expectations while helping each student find their inner theatre voice.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email or call me anytime. I look forward to meeting with all of you in the future!

Thank You!

Ms. El Shemi

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Classroom Rules & Expectations

1. Be respectful to the teacher, your classmates, and our classroom.
2. Follow all student handbook rules.
3. Follow directions the first time they are given.
4. Students will not bring gum, food, or drinks to class.
5. Maintain a positive attitude and participate actively by showing interest in your work.
6. Take pride in your accomplishments and show support for your classmates.

Goals

1. Students will be able to act through improvisation.
2. Students will understand the terminology of stage directions and movement.
3. Students will develop awareness of body language, facial expression, and gesture as a means of communication.
4. Students will have the ability to rehearse and perform on stage when the stage is available.
5. Students will understand the process and principles of character development.
6. Students will be able to perform monologues and group scenes.
7. Students will understand the function of sets, props, makeup, costumes, sound, lights, and publicity in producing a play.
8. Students will learn and execute rehearsal and performance etiquette.

Theatre Class Fee

It is my mission to make theatre accessible to every student. Every student should have the opportunity to participate in theatre events and money should not be a factor.

However, there are specific costs equated with the operation of a successful theatre program, and due to the current economic climate, those costs are falling back to the students more and more. Therefore, it is necessary to ask each student to contribute a theatre fee. Accommodations can be made if financial need arises, but concerns must be made known to Ms. El Shemi. Please know that every child will receive the same education, uniforms, and music regardless of payment.

Fees: \$60.00 per year

Fees may be paid in installments over the course of the school year. Please communicate with Ms. El Shemi if you would like to explore this option.

Consequences:

- Warnings/Time Out
- Parent Contact
- Loss of Privileges
- Lunch Detention
- Referral

Materials

- Pocket Folder with 3 Prongs- Provided
- BYOT for Canvas Assignments
- Pens and Pencils
- All scripts and books will be provided
 - Any lost or damaged books will result in charge of item price

Grading Policy

Formative grades count as 40% of the overall grade. This includes, but is not limited to:

Participation and Skill Reinforcement

- Classroom participation, contributing positively to class, actively taking part in the activities or rehearsal taking place, reflections, vocabulary knowledge, and cold readings.

90-100%	A	Exceeds expectations
80-89%	B	Consistently meets expectations
70-79%	C	Meets some expectations
60-69%	D	Below Expectations
59% and below	F	Consistently below expectations

Summative grades count as 60% of the overall grade. This includes, but is not limited to:

In-Class Performances

Theatre Projects

Writing Projects

Canvas Assignments

School-wide Policy on Technology: At OBMS, students must have their phone off and out of sight before entering the campus. Students are not allowed to use their device for personal reasons during class time. If a parent needs to reach a child, he or she should contact the school to relay the message. Parents should **not** text or call the child during class. This places the child in a situation that will subject him or her to disciplinary action. Further, the device should be stored in the backpack during class.

When the teacher uses phones or personal technology for instructional purposes, students will be directed to store the device before leaving the class.

Food/Drinks/Grooming: Food and drinks are not allowed in class or in the building. Water bottles are allowed in class if they do not become a distraction. Students may not have glass bottles on campus. Grooming and hygiene care are not appropriate for the classroom. Please take care of these in a private setting. This includes deodorant, perfume, cologne, and hairspray. The use of sprays can cause health issues for those with allergies or health conditions. The spraying of any products in the classroom will constitute an automatic referral.

Supplies: Our classroom is always in need of Lysol (lemon or unscented), tissues, hand sanitizer, band aids, white copy paper, mini hot glue sticks, highlighters, pens, sharpies, and tape. If you would feel drawn to donate any of these items, it would be so appreciated. Additionally, I have created a classroom wishlist on Amazon that includes some of these items, as well as some books and materials that we could use for our programs that I will post on the Facebook group and the Canvas page if you would like to donate any of those items.