**Crosby**

**Middle School**



**Theatre Department**

**2019 - 2020**

**Handbook**

**Pam Myers, Theatre Director**

[**pmyers@crosbyisd.org**](mailto:pmyers@crosbyisd.org)

**Jess Hefner, Assistant Director**

[**jhefner@crosbyisd.org**](mailto:jhefner@crosbyisd.org)

***Return the last page to your Theatre Class by August 30th. This is your first test grade of the year.***

**Congratulations! You have been chosen to be a member of the**

**Crosby Middle School Theatre Department.**

My name is Mrs. Pam Myers and I have been the Theatre teacher, UIL One-Act play director, and UIL Coordinator at Crosby Middle School for 4 years. I am certified in Theatre K-12, English 4-12 and ESL. I have been a teacher for 9 years. I chose to come to Crosby in 2015 to take over the CMS Theatre program and we have been growing and doing wonderful new things ever since, including achieving second place at District last year. On a personal note, I have been married for 4 years and I have a baby girl, Ollie, who turned two last April, as well as a bonus daughter, Laila, who is 13 and goes to school in Friendswood. I also have two cats, Puck and Puma. I am looking forward to an exciting year of Theatre with you!

This handbook outlines the rules, policies, expectations, and opportunities

for theatre students and their parents/guardians.

**Program Philosophy and Objectives**

**It is my goal as your Theatre director that you learn and appreciate various aspects and applications of Theatre.** Just a few of the topics presented will be:

Improvisation Pantomime Monologues

Memorization Duets Group Scenes

Sewing Lighting Set Design

Costume Design Stage Directions Relaxation Techniques

Theatre History Breath Control Character Development

Enunciation Articulation Commedia d’el Arte

AS YOU SIGN THE FORMS AT THE END OF THIS HANDBOOK YOU WILL BE MAKING A COMMITMENT THAT INCLUDES:

1. being a member of the theatre department for the entire school year;
2. giving your best effort to improve as a performer and designer; and
3. maintaining a progressive, positive attitude toward theatre and school throughout the year.

**YOUR COMMITMENT TO THEATRE**

In order to be a member of any performing group, each person must decide if he/she wants to make the commitment of time and dedication. For all school activities, the faculty and administration work together to make sure that students have the opportunities to participate in multiple activities. However, non-school activities, appointments, and other conflicts must not interfere with a student’s commitment to Theatre or other performing groups, to the other Theatre class members, and to the rehearsal and performance schedule given to you at the beginning of each semester.

**GRADING & OBJECTIVES**

**What I expect of you:**

1. To attend class regularly
2. To be in the class before the tardy bell rings
3. Bring any required supplies, materials, or volunteered items
4. To complete written assignments on time and to your best ability
5. To keep an open mind to all topics and concepts presented
6. To respect those in class, their talents, and their learning time
7. To give 110% everyday

**Other Class information:**

1. Absences – If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed. If we are working on group scenes or performance assignments, please get with someone in your assigned group or see me after school for tutorials.

2. Long-term assignments are the exception to the late grade policy. If we work on something in class for more than two weeks and it is not turned in the day it’s due, it will be a zero and the student will not be given the chance to make it up. All other assignments can be made up and/or taken late, but there are four major assignments that fall into the long-term category: Theatre History Lesson (in class), Radio Theatre Project (in class), Movie Project (at home), and Play Analysis (in class). I will give students plenty of time to work on the projects so there is no added pressure for the time constraints, but it means students MUST stay on task in class.

5. I have a website and remind app that will display all information, syllabus and audition schedule, and assignments. Please check the CMS Website.

6. Many times I use movies and clips as part of the curriculum to show examples of different acting styles, scenery, history, or to illustrate cinematic concepts. Every effort is made to “sensor” parts for our young audience. Your permission will be required since most of these are rated PG-13 ☺.

7. Supplies: you will need one folder with brads and pockets that stays with each student and will be their responsibility to bring to class.

**PERFORMANCES & CLASS PARTICIPATION**

We have one outside performance each year. Attendance and punctuality to all performances and to all pre-scheduled rehearsals is **required**. Theatre Performances are extensions of the classroom and are the highlight of the learning process. In order to participate in these performances, students must attend all pre-scheduled rehearsals prior to the event. I will provide a rehearsal calendar for the dates of the performances and combined rehearsals when the time for the show approaches. This performance will be written, designed, costumed, and rehearsed primarily in class, with one culminating performance on the date noted below each semester. Participation in the show or some aspect of the planning will be worth one test grade.

*Winter Show: December 13th, 6:30 PM, CMS Auditorium*

**Grading System**

**40 % Daily grades: Participation, Daily Rehearsal Etiquette, Written Work, and required forms returned**

This includes all written assignments done in class or as homework. Students receive a daily grade for participation reflected in class, showing positive work ethic, being prepared, remaining attentive during class, and following instructions.

**60% Major grades: Tests, Programs, Rehearsals**

At the end of every unit we will have a major test of some kind, in which the student will perform or present a performance piece or take a written test over notes given during class lecture. The Student will be scored individually for their test grade. In-class performances are major test grades and will be treated as such, but no student will ever be asked to perform without first having been given enough time to prepare a piece.

**All performances and rehearsals are mandatory, and considered major grades**. If a student misses rehearsal or performance due to a *previously scheduled* event, they must bring a written note from that event sponsor at least **two weeks** before the scheduled rehearsal/performance. Any excused absence must be communicated to the Crosby MS Theatre director through a parent note or email. Excused absences include illness, family emergencies, and situations that are beyond the control of the student.

Any unexcused absence from a performance, program, or rehearsal will result in a failing grade for that event. The failure to complete a make-up assignment for an excused absence will also result in a failing grade for that event.

**Personal Conduct**

It is important that the conduct and appearance of all Crosby Middle Theatre students be exemplary, both in and out of the Theatre rooms. My expectations for my students are that they are respectful at all times, and are consistently a good example for other students at Crosby Middle School. Crosby Theatre Class members are expected to add to the chemistry of our group, act with character, and demonstrate competency. If they are not in compliance with the conduct request they will be removed from the class.

**After-School Opportunities**

We participate each year in the Texas Renaissance Festival School Days competition for group scenes, monologues, duets, and a one-act play, and those competitions are open to any students interested in competing on behalf of the school. There will be an additional cost for a shirt, after school rehearsals beginning in September, and three evenings that will be required for performances or travel from the festival. Auditions will be held August 26th through 29th for all students interested in participating, but it is not required to participate or even audition. There will also be another audition process for the UIL One-Act in December for the show in the Spring, as well as an audition period and subsequent rehearsals for our final show in May. Audition handbooks will be available beginning August 15th for our first production.

**Crosby Middle School Theatre Department**

**14703 FM 2100**

**Crosby, TX 77532**

Student Information

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Home Address Apt # City Zip

(\_\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Cell Phone

Emails: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent 1 Parent 2

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Grade Birthday

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Parent 1 Last Name, First Parent 2 Last Name First

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Parent 1 Work Number: area code & extension Parent 2 Work Number: area code & extension

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Person to reach in case of emergency Phone Number

**PLEASE READ THE HANDBOOK CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING BELOW**

* **I give my permission for my child’s picture to be displayed on our class website.**
* **I give my permission for my student to view PG-13 movies/clips that may be shown as part or examples of the Theatre curriculum.**

**“We have read the Crosby Middle School Theatre Department Handbook and our student has permission to participate in Theatre and all Theatre activities within the guidelines as stated.”**

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Parent/Legal Guardian Signature Date

**“I have read the Crosby Middle School Theatre Department Handbook and agree to abide by all policies stated.”**

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Student Signature Date