

# Theater Arts

## Course Flowchart and Course Descriptions

### PreKindergarten—Grade 8

The Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Part 100 specify that public school students are to receive instruction in the arts including Visual Arts, Dance, Music and Theater in grades PreK-K (CR 100.3(a)), and grades one through six (CR 100.3(b)).

Theater curricula in elementary and middle school **must align to *The 2017 New York State Learning Standards for Theater for grades P-8***, is cognitively and developmentally appropriate, and should be taught by a licensed Theater Education Teacher.

<b>General Drama</b> 05051	<b>Introduction to Theater</b> 05051	<b>Theater Arts</b> 05051
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#### 05051 General Drama

Designed to develop an appreciation for and understanding of the theater. This course makes it possible to introduce many subjects, stimulating the desire for further learning. Students learn the importance of drama and live theater.

- **Sample Coursework** may include (but is not limited to): Puppets, Storytelling, Reader's Theater, Acting, Stagecraft, Playwriting

#### 05051 Introduction to Theater

Introduction to Theater courses provide an overview of the art, conventions, and history of the theater. Although the courses sometimes include experiential exercises, they emphasize learning about theater rather than performance. Course topics include one or more of the following: basic techniques in acting, major developments in dramatic literature, major playwrights, the evolution of theater as a cultural tradition, and critical appreciation of the art.

- **Sample Course: A Whirlwind Tour of the World of Theatre**  
*Students will play many skill-building, thought-provoking theatre games leading into improvised skits and short scenes from plays. Students will create the technical aspects (scenery, costumes, props, and lighting) for current productions. They also become familiar with the actor's and "techie's" unique jargon. Students will learn about theatres in the area and are encouraged to attend professional productions. They are assessed on their use of movement and speech to play a variety of characters, their knowledge and use of theatre terminology, and their effectiveness in creating scenery, etc.\**

#### 05051 Theater Arts

Theater Arts courses focus on the study and performance of drama in its many forms. These courses review a wide range of scripted materials (such as plays, screenplays, teleplays, readers' theater scripts); dramatic criticism; techniques for creating original dramatic works; and the role of dramatic arts in society. Theater Arts courses typically require students to perform collaboratively and be involved in the critique of dramatic works.

- **Sample Course: Playmaking**  
*Each group of fifth graders will meet for one quarter of the year. They will play theatre games to build focus, observation and listening skills, and spontaneity. These games will often be paired with playwriting exercises. We will move into improvised scenes and stories and identify what makes good drama. The course will culminate in a medieval style play written and performed by the students in the classroom for their parents. Students are assessed on their application of playwriting skills, positive participation, using their knowledge of medieval European theatre, as well as speaking and moving expressively onstage.\**

- **Sample Course: Audition to Performance**

*The students will audition, rehearse, research, and perform in a one-act play. The one-acts are carefully chosen to challenge and fully involve each student and to give the opportunity to test one’s skills in observation, voice, movement, and working with others. Students will need help from parents in learning their lines early in the rehearsal period. Students are assessed on preparation for class, their grasp of the culture of the play, a character profile, and the development of their roles using appropriate speech and movement techniques.\**

*\*(Nichols Middle School 1250 Amherst St. Buffalo, NY 14216)*

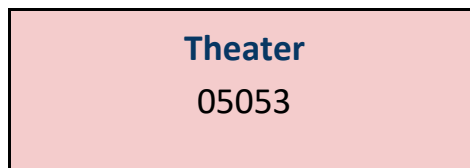
## Grade 9—Grade 12

The Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Part 100 specify that students in grades nine through twelve must have the opportunity to complete a unit of credit in the Arts; which may include Visual Arts, Music, Dance, or Theater to satisfy Regents diploma requirements (CR 100.5(a)3(v)). Students should also have the opportunity to begin a sequence in the arts in grade nine (100.2(h)).

### High School Comprehensive Foundation Course (HS I)

Courses used for the 1-unit diploma requirement should be comprehensive and foundational, should meet all 11 Theatre standards at the HS1 Level, and must be taught by a certified Theatre educator. High School Comprehensive Foundation Level courses foster a broad range of problem-solving and skill development, facilitating a deeper understanding of theatre that supports further study and encourages lifelong engagement.

*\*For a complete description of the Proficient (HSI) Level, please see the Standards Implementation Guide, p. 27, available at <http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/standards-instruction/2017-implementation-guide-9.2-.pdf>*



### 05053 High School Comprehensive Foundation Course: Theater (HS I)

Comprehensive courses are designed to increase students’ understanding and critical perception of Theater as an art form and the impact it has upon society. Students will explore all aspects of the Theater Arts. The class units include Ensemble Building, Theater History, Acting (movement/physicality, vocal technique, pantomime, improvisation, character analysis, monologue and scene work), Directing/Producing/Stage Management and Technical Theater (lights, sound, props, costumes, make-up).

### High School Elective Courses—Selected (HS II & III)

High School Accomplished and Advanced Level Elective course offerings enable students to complete a sequence in the Arts, and Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation and/or a (4+1) Pathway option. Advanced courses may be designed as ½-unit or 1-unit offerings, and some courses may be taken concurrently as scheduling allows. Depending on prior experience of the student and course placement within a sequence, some courses listed as HSII *Accomplished* may also meet the needs of students at the HSIII *Advanced* Level.

\*For a complete description of the Accomplished (HSII) and Advanced (HSIII) Levels, please see the Standards Implementation Guide, p. 27, available at <http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/standards-instruction/2017-implementation-guide-9.2-.pdf>.

These Course Flowcharts are guidance and suggest possible course progressions and do not include all possibilities. Districts should consider the needs of all students when planning arts coursework in addition to ensuring courses are appropriately aligned to the Arts Learning Standards at the Proficient, Accomplished, or Advanced levels.

<b>Acting/Performing</b> 05055	<b>Stagecraft</b> 05056	<b>Play Analysis</b> 05059
<b>Theater History</b> 05059	<b>Playwriting</b> 05058	<b>Directing</b> 05057
<b>Musical Theater</b> 05099	<b>IB Theater</b> 05062	<b>Independent Study</b> 05097
	<b>Workplace Experience</b> 05098	

### 05055 Acting/Performing

Acting/Performance courses provide students with experience and skill development in one or more aspects of theatrical production, by allowing them to concentrate on acting and performance skills. Introductory courses explore fundamentals, while advanced courses extend and refine technique, expand students' exposure to different types of theatrical craft and traditions, and increase their participation in public productions.

- **Sample Course: Acting**

*Students will explore the use of research, vocal techniques and body movement in character analysis and development. Each student will work on monologues, scenes and short plays. Each student will explore both classic and contemporary pieces. \*\**

- **Sample Course: Advanced Acting**

*Students will develop job skills needed to enter the field of acting. Students will prepare audition pieces, practice auditioning skills, and develop resumes and headshots. Students will also speak with a variety of professionals in the field. \*\**

*\*\* (Indian River CSD 32925 US Route 11, Philadelphia, NY 13673)*

### 05056 Stagecraft

Stagecraft courses provide students with experience and skills in one or more aspects of theatrical production, such as lighting, costuming, sound, set construction, makeup, stage management, and the use of computer applications to support these functions. Initial courses are usually introductory in nature, while more advanced courses emphasize improving technique, expanding students' exposure to different types of techniques and traditions, and increasing their chances of helping to mount public productions.

- **Sample Course: Stagecraft and Design/Advanced Stagecraft and Design**

*Students will explore different areas of technical design and stagecraft; including elements of design, the scene shop and tools, safety guidelines, lighting equipment and design, sound equipment and design, prop design, costume tools and design, make-up techniques and design drafting. Each student will research, design and build scale models and sketches of several different plays.*

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## 05059 Play Analysis/ Theater History

History, Literature of the Theater and Play Analysis courses explore in depth the structure, elements, and style of dramatic compositions, and, as an extension, how the dramatic literature influenced theatrical production and acting styles throughout history. Some courses may focus more on the literature component than on the theater (with increased emphasis on critique and analysis), but most courses connect these subjects, exploring their interrelationships. Major contributors (playwrights, directors, and so on) and the architecture of the theater may also be included as topics of study.

- **Sample Course: Play Analysis**

*Students will explore several types of genres in the theatre. Students will read plays and complete a plot analysis of each play. A class discussion will follow each reading encouraging students to backup their choices with research and examples from the play.\*\**

- **Sample Course: Theater History**

*Theater is the art of storytelling. In this course, students will examine the development of theatre from Ritual to the Realistic Period. They will explore the role of theater in the community, performance space, acting and technical contributions as well as the playwrights that used theater to tell their stories. Students will examine the human experience in various cultures and historical time periods.\*\**

*\*\* (Indian River CSD 32925 US Route 11, Philadelphia, NY 13673)*

## 05058 Playwriting

Playwriting and Screenwriting courses help students understand and employ writing principles and techniques to create original scripts suitable for theater, film, and/or television. These courses explore the appropriate techniques of each genre and may examine the creative writing craft, scene writing, and the creation of a production.

- **Sample Course: Playwriting**

*This class introduces the craft of writing for the theater. Through weekly assignments, in class writing exercises, and work on a sustained piece, students will explore scene structure, action, events, voice, and dialogue.*

## 05057 Directing

Directing courses focus on developing students' skills in translating a script into a final production and are usually taken after other drama courses. Directing courses enable each student to create an artistic vision and develop a personal aesthetic. These courses may expose students to different types of theatrical techniques and traditions. They also provide students with opportunities to direct the performances of others (in scenes or a full production).

- **Sample Course: Introduction to Directing**

*Students will explore the job of director including play selection, analysis, research, rehearsal scheduling, casting, blocking, character development and working with designers to create a production concept. (Indian River CSD 32925 US Route 11, Philadelphia, NY 13673)*

- **Sample Course: Advanced Directing**

*Using content and skills practiced in Directing 1, students will choose a 10 minute or One Act play to direct for presentation in diverse settings.*

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- **Sample Course: Playwriting**

*This class introduces the craft of writing for the theater. Through weekly assignments, in class writing exercises, and work on a sustained piece, students will explore scene structure, action, events, voice, and dialogue.*

## **05059 History & Literature of Theater & Play Analysis**

History, Literature of the Theater and Play Analysis courses explore in depth the structure, elements, and style of dramatic compositions, and, as an extension, how the dramatic literature influenced theatrical production and acting styles throughout history. Some courses may focus more on the literature component than on the theater (with increased emphasis on critique and analysis), but most courses connect these subjects, exploring their interrelationships. Major contributors (playwrights, directors, and so on) and the architecture of the theater may also be included as topics of study.

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## **05062 IB Theater**

IB Theater courses prepare students to take the International Baccalaureate (IB) Theater exams at either the standard (SL) or higher level (HL). IB Theater courses encourage students to examine the theory, history, and culture of theatre. These courses also help students develop the organizational and technical skills to express themselves through scripted performance, workshops, and independent project(s)

## **05097 Independent Study**

Independent Study courses, often conducted with instructors or artists as mentors, enable students to explore a particular theatrical form. Independent Study courses may serve as an opportunity for students to expand their expertise in a particular form or style, to explore a topic in greater detail, or to develop more advanced skills.

## 05098 Workplace Experience

Workplace Experience courses provide work experience in a field related to drama and the theater. Goals are typically set cooperatively by the student, teacher, and employer (although students are not necessarily paid). These courses may include classroom activities as well, involving further study of the field or discussion regarding experiences that students encounter in the workplace.

## 05099 Other Theater Course

- **Sample Course: Musical Theater**

Students will explore American Musical Theatre. Students will study the work of the actor/singer/dancer and use their gained knowledge to develop as performers. Students will prepare and present as soloists as well as members of small groups and larger ensembles. Students will prepare material for class presentation and critique. There will also be a focus on the audition process as well as musical theatre history and repertoire.

*\* Course Codes based upon National Center for Educational Statistics School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED)*

## Sample Theater Course Sequences

The following sequences are suggestions of possible course progressions. Districts should consider the needs of all students when planning arts coursework in addition to ensuring courses are appropriately aligned to the Arts Learning Standards at the Proficient, Accomplished, or Advanced levels.

### Sample 3 - Course Sequences:

#### Three Course Sequence (Focus: Performance)

**Introduction to Theater (1 unit)**

**Acting ( $\frac{1}{2}$  unit)**

**Working Actor ( $\frac{1}{2}$  unit)**

**Play Analysis ( $\frac{1}{2}$  unit)**

**Directing ( $\frac{1}{2}$  unit)**

#### Three Course Sequence (Focus: Design)

**Introduction to Theater (1 unit)**

**Stagecraft and Design (1 unit)**

**Play Analysis ( $\frac{1}{2}$  unit)**

**Directing ( $\frac{1}{2}$  unit) = 3 units**

#### Three Course Sequence (Focus: Acting)

**Introduction to Theater (1 unit)**

**Acting ( $\frac{1}{2}$  unit)**

**Working Actor ( $\frac{1}{2}$  unit)**

**Musical Theater (1 unit)**

#### Three Course Sequence (Focus: Playwriting/Directing)

**Introduction to Theater** (1 unit)  
**Play Analysis** (½ unit)  
**Playwriting** (1 unit)  
**Directing** (½ unit)

### **Sample 5 - Course Sequences:**

#### **Five Course Sequence** (Focus: Performance)

**Introduction to Theater** (1 unit)  
**Acting** (½ unit)  
**Working Actor** (½ unit)  
**Musical Theater** (1 unit)  
**Stagecraft and Design** (1 unit)  
**Play Analysis** (½ unit)  
**Directing** (½ unit)

#### **Five Course Sequence** (Focus: Production)

**Introduction to Theater** (1 unit)  
**Acting** (1 unit) **Working Actor** (½ unit)  
**Play Analysis** (½ unit)  
**Directing** (1 unit),  
**Stagecraft and Design** (1 unit)