

# School District of Springfield Township

## Springfield Township High School Course Overview

### **Course Name: Broadway Musical Ensemble**

#### Course Description

The Broadway Musical Ensemble class offers students the opportunity to produce and perform a Broadway musical each semester. Students learn the proper vocal techniques needed to perform a variety of musical theatre genres. The students also develop self-critiquing skills as they refine their talents for the performances. Students are required to perform for the public and are assessed on their class participation, written pre-production assignments, and final performance.

#### Course Prerequisites

Student audition and/or teacher recommendation

#### Unit Titles

- Unit One: Introduce Musical Theatre Terminology, Choreography Skills, Vocal Skills, Script/Character Analysis; Write a one-act script based on a specific theme chosen by the class
- Unit Two: Set/Stage Direction Planning, Rehearsing Scenes, Dances and Musical Selections, Set Construction Work
- Unit Three: Dress Rehearsals, Performances and Formal Evaluations

#### Essential Questions

1. What research is needed to understand the subject matter of the musical show?
2. What research does each performer need to do to understand his/her character, the plot/theme, and the relationships of the other characters?
3. What are the major terms and skills needed to direct, choreograph, and produce a musical show?
4. How does the performer astutely evaluate his/her dress rehearsal as well as the final performance?
5. What is the correct musical theatre terminology when directing and/or choreographing a scene or musical number?
6. How does the performer portray his/her character/part through the singing, acting and dancing?
7. How does one produce a final performance that is enlightening/educational as well as entertaining?
8. How does one construct sets, props, etc., that are appropriate for the show?
9. How does the performer astutely evaluate the performance of fellow performers?

### **Big Ideas/Enduring Understandings**

Unit One: Introduce Musical Theatre Terminology, Choreography Skills, Vocal Skills  
Script/Character Analysis, Write a one-act script based on a specific theme chosen by the class

- Analyze a script/scene/character and transfer the acquired knowledge to the stage in the rehearsal/performance.
- Write a script which portrays the story and characters in an authentic manner.

Unit Two: Set/Stage Direction Planning, Rehearsing Scenes, Dances and Musical Selections, Set Construction Work

- Incorporate music and dance that will compliment the story plot.
- Effective rehearsal techniques are important components for producing a successful musical production

Unit Three: Dress Rehearsals, Performances and Formal Evaluations

- The ability to sing, act and dance in a musical theatre production.
- Achieve the knowledge needed to effectively evaluate a musical performance. (amateur or professional)

### **Key Competencies/Skills/Procedures**

Unit One: Introduce Musical Theatre Terminology, Vocal Skills, \*Script/Character Analysis, Set/Stage Direction Planning, \*write a one-act script based on a specific theme chosen by the class

(\*The class will either choose a musical script or write one of their own)

- Review script and/or subject appropriate for a musical theatre production
- Analyze assigned character(s)
- Edit and refine each scene until appropriate for the production.
- Identify appropriate theatre genre needed for directing responsibilities.
- Demonstrate the correct vocal skills needed to sing a musical theatre vocal selection

Unit Two: Choreography Skills, Rehearsing Scenes, Dances and Musical Selections, Set Construction Work

- Create a blocking diagram of scenes for directing responsibilities.
- Direct scenes and choreograph dance numbers using appropriate music theatre terminology.
- Design a set for the musical production

Unit Three: Dress Rehearsals, Performances and Formal Evaluations

- Rehearse and refine scenes, musical dance numbers, vocal production numbers and solo vocal selections
- Critique dress rehearsal performances and trouble shoot problem spots in the show

- Evaluate the final performance(s) through class discussion as well as a written evaluation form

### **Core Vocabulary**

Unit One: Introduce Musical Theatre Terminology, Choreography Skills, Vocal Skills  
Script/Character Analysis, Set/Stage Direction Planning, Write a one-act script based on a specific theme chosen by the class

*script, cold reading, characterization, imagery, vignette, libretto, timing, ad-lib, cue, stage directions, blocking, proscenium, head voice, chest voice, falsetto, belting, bel canto, vocal projection, vocal placement, resonance, break, catch breath, diction, phrasing, diaphragm*

Unit Two: Rehearsing Scenes, Dances and Musical Selections, Set Construction Work  
*production number, dance terms (i.e. jazz square), run-through, spike, wings, off-book,*

Unit Three: Dress Rehearsals, Performances and Formal Evaluations  
*critique, dress rehearsal, informal theatre, formal theatre*

### **Core Resources**

A variety of scripts and/or scenes chosen by the class

### **Pennsylvania State Standards Guiding Course**

#### **PA State Arts and Humanities Standards:**

9.1 Production, Performance and Exhibition of Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts

9.1.12A Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.

9.1.12B Recognize, know, use, demonstrate a variety of appropriate arts elements and principles to produce, review and revise original works in the arts.

9.1.12C Integrate and apply advanced vocabulary to the arts forms.

9.1.12G Analyze the effect of rehearsal and practice sessions.

9.1.12H Incorporate the effective and safe use of materials, equipment and tools into the production of works in the arts at work and performances

9.3.12A Explain and apply the critical examination processes of works in the Arts and Humanities. (analyze/interpret)

9.3 Critical Response

9.3.12A Know and use the critical process of the examination of works in the arts within each art form

9.3.12B Analyze and interpret specific characteristics of works in the arts within each art form

9.3.12D Evaluate works in the arts and humanities using complex vocabulary of critical response

*Prepared October 2010—MF*

*Approved--chr*