

Syllabus

“Academy Kids” Elementary Theater

Heritage Academy
A University-Model® School

The mission of Heritage Academy, a Certified University-Model® School, is to partner with Christian parents to prepare college-worthy, character witnesses for Jesus Christ.

I. Course Content and Purpose

Students in this course will be introduced to the different aspects of theater and receive instruction on the basics of drama, so they may progress in their ability to observe, improvise, develop characters, follow instructions, and work as team members while using their creative energies in order to become wise and effective communicators.

There are no prerequisites for this class.

II. Worldview Integration

Heritage Academy is committed to teaching subjects in such a way that students develop a biblical worldview out of which to think and act. The following, foundational Biblical truths undergird the exploration and study of this Elementary Theater course:

- God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things (Colossians 1:16-17). God made us for His pleasure, to reflect His image, and to thrive in relationship with Him (Genesis 1:26-31; Revelation 4:11).
- Since God made us to reflect His image, we as humans are gifted with unique capacities for engaging in complex communication and complex analytical thinking. We have been wired to explore, create, draw conclusion, and communicate (Genesis 1:26-31).
- God does not want us to be deceived, which causes damage to us and to our communion with him and others, and can eventually lead to painful destruction and death (Proverbs 3:5-8, John 10:10, James 1:17).
- God creatively and effectively communicates His truth and His love to us through His works, His Word, His Spirit, and His Son, so that we may live in the wisdom of His truth and love and have life (Romans 1:20; Hebrews 4:12-14; John 14:6; John 1:1; Hebrew 1:1-3).
- Through exploration of the different aspects of theater and drama basics, we may develop and refine our own skills for communication so that we may become agents of renewal on the earth who accurately discern truth, and who truthfully, skillfully, and creatively craft written and spoken words for the sake of blessing our own spirits, God’s, and others (I Corinthians 10:31; II Corinthians 5:20).
- By thoughtfully exploring the thought-patterns, choices, and decisions of literary characters, we may learn to recognize and predict consequences that are related to thought-patterns and choices and may reap new insights for wise living and for worship (Proverbs 13:20).

III. Required Texts/ Materials

Notebook for Journaling

Pencils/Colored Pencils

Costumes and Props (The cost of costumes will be kept to a minimum.)

IV. Student Responsibilities and Course Guidelines

A. Attendance

Attendance is imperative as skits and plays cannot be produced if a student is absent. Students are expected to attend class and contribute positively to the theater environment.

Attendance may be required for additional practices prior to a production.

All students will be required to participate in the class productions. These will be held during Heritage Academy's Winter and Spring Showcases, and may be held at other venues as opportunity arises.

Tardiness is disruptive to other class members. Please arrive on time and prepared. All absences and tardiness are considered unexcused unless accompanied by a note from a parent or guardian. Please remember that three tardiness generate one absence. See Heritage Academy's Family Manual for attendance requirements for non-core subjects.

B. Absences and Late Work

When an unexpected absence must occur, please be sure to notify the school office and the instructor of the student's absence as quickly as possible, preferably before the involved class occurs. This contact may occur by phone or by email.

C. Student Conduct and Preparation for Learning.

For the sake of promoting a safe and focused learning environment, the student is expected to do the following throughout the course of the semester:

1. Arrive on time to each class period with the appropriate class materials available for access (e.g., organized notebook with dividers and filed materials, paper, writing tools, texts, and other tools as directed).
2. Arrive ready to listen, learn, take notes, and participate in teacher-directed classroom discussions and activities.
3. Ask for clarification or further explanation when a concept or direction remains unclear.
4. Demonstrate a spirit of cooperation, kindness, and respect toward the teacher and fellow classmates in keeping with Heritage Academy's Code of Conduct.
5. Help keep the classroom area clean and orderly.
6. Cooperate with the parent-educator and the Heritage Academy teacher to complete homework in a timely fashion.
7. Communicate concerns regarding schoolwork to both the Heritage Academy teacher and the parent-educator, so that these concerns can be addressed quickly.
8. On the whole, conduct himself or herself in a manner that is worthy of Christ and reflects the life of Christ. (Holy Spirit in him/her: ". . . that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great

endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light” (Colossians 1:12).

D. At-Home (Satellite Classroom) Investment

Daily home-assignments will be outlined on the weekly Home-Communication Sheet the student will receive each Monday. The student can expect to invest approximately 3-4 hours each week completing coursework at home in preparation for class periods. Course assignments may include any of the following:

- Reading and Post-Reading Activities**

- Writing assignments** - Journaling

- Memorization Work**

- Dialogue:** Students may be instructed to discuss and/or explore certain topics or concepts with a parent. These assignments will be given purposefully and should not be dismissed.

F. Grades

A grading scale of Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory will be used.

V. Parent Responsibilities

A. Embracing the University Model

University-Model Schooling at Heritage Academy is driven by two guiding principles:

To preserve and strengthen God-ordained family relationships;

To offer students the opportunity to achieve a high degree of academic excellence.

Heritage Academy operates as a University-Model School®, designed for families who want their students to flourish from a life anchored in the home yet still gain from the best aspects of Traditional, classroom education. Parents, please consider ways you may maximize the benefits University-Model Schooling offers to your family. How can you as parents utilize the at-home study time this model provides to nurture deeper relationships and impart the faith, values, and life-patterns you desire your student to embrace.

B. Fulfilling the Parent Role

Within a University-Model School®, every parent commits to fulfill a specified role related to the course in which their student is enrolled, as prescribed by the course’s description. Each role identifies specific responsibilities that the teacher relies on the parent to perform, thus facilitating effective home/school partnership whereby students are assured of receiving needed support. For this course, the designated parent role is that of “Private Tutor.”

Courses involving this role are made successful because each student has a private tutor (the parent) at home, who is willing and ready to assist. Weekly communication sheets will provide parents’ guidance from the instructor, outlining homework assignments and any recommended follow-up study/instruction over covered material that is needed. Ways that parents can help their student review or prepare for the next class may also be indicated.

C. Monitor Gradelink and View Seven-Week and Thirteen-Week Gradelink Reports

As your student earns grades for various projects and homework assignments, these will be

recorded on Gradelink.com for you to view at your convenience. Gradelink reports, which will include parent-directed comments related to your student's behavior and progress in class, will be ready for parents to view at the seven-week and thirteen-week point in the semester. Please contact the office if you have not received your Gradelink login information.

D. Parent/Teacher Fellowship

Please take time to come to Parent/Teacher Fellowship scheduled during the 7th week of each semester. This time allows a brief opportunity to connect face-to-face and discuss your student's progress, making the most of the partnership that is so vital to students' success within the University Model®.

VI. Contacting the Instructor

Teacher contact information will be provided on the weekly communication sheets that will be distributed in class; it may also be found in the school directory.