

## Elementary Acting & Improvisation Syllabus

**General Goals:** to introduce and expand student's training in the basic elements of stage acting, increase their performance quality, and introduce skills to prepare for auditions.

### **Skills Introduced:**

<p>Define and Apply the Basic Elements of Acting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Memorization</li><li>● Projection</li><li>● Articulation</li><li>● Comprehension</li><li>● Observation</li><li>● Improvisation</li></ul> <p>Identify Basic Stage Directions: Upstage, Downstage, Stage Left, Stage Right, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Find, Memorize &amp; Perform a Monologue</li><li>● Create an acting resume</li><li>● Complete a Character Analysis Worksheet</li><li>● Complete a Scene Analysis</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Participate in Improvisation Activities</li><li>● Perform a scene with other actors</li><li>● Prepare for and perform at a mock audition</li></ul>
--	--	--

### **Classroom Etiquette to Introduce and Reinforce:**

- Entering Class Ready to go with 3-ring binder/notebook
- Using the bathroom before class only
- Raising their hands before sharing with the teacher or the class
- Trying all new skills introduced in class
- Assisting instructor with clean up of props, games, etc. at the end of class

### **Structure of Class:**

The first 5-10 minutes of each class is dedicated to answering any questions the students may have, warmups, reviewing the material from the previous class, and discussing the lesson for the day. The next 15-30 minute section focuses on the lesson itself; here, we will discuss the theory of the lesson, as well as a step-by-step process of how to implement the lesson. Discussion will also take place here. During the last 10-15 minutes of class, students will participate in a challenge that incorporates the lesson taught that day or the integration of new material with that which has already been taught.

### **Emphasis on Performance:**

Students are expected to rehearse outside of class. During class, the instructor may choose to have students perform in groups or individually, to assess what the student knows and what they need to work on. All the skills learned in class will prepare students to perform in an in-class "mock audition" near the end of the Spring semester. In this mock audition, students will present their resumes, perform memorized monologues, cold read scenes with other actors and participate in improvisation activities. The goal is to give students the experience of a real audition but also to show the instructor that the skills learned in class have been mastered. Guest instructors may be brought in to join the audition panel.

Students will also have the opportunity to perform in front of friends and family in the end of year showcase on Saturday, May 6th. Participation in the end of year showcase is not required but is strongly encouraged. Students can perform monologues and/or group scenes. The last 4-6 weeks of class will be used to rehearse and prepare for the showcase. A costume is not required. Students performing in the showcase should wear something black. Performances can be enhanced with the use of props as needed. All performances must be memorized.

### **Reinforcement:**

We emphasize positive reinforcement in class, using high fives, clapping/cheering, and offering praise to encourage good behavior and knowledge retention. If a student displays good behavior or work, we will often use them as an example for the class. This is a class that focuses on preparing students to perform. To accomplish this, students must participate in class activities. If the student does not wish to participate in class activities, the instructor will attempt to discuss the reasoning. If this becomes a recurring issue, the instructor will ask to speak to the parent after the class.

**Future Placement:**

Although we currently do not have a more advanced Elementary Acting & Improvisation class, all students are responsible for knowing each element listed in the syllabus and are encouraged to put these skills to work in our Springboard Variety Show program, school productions, and/or community productions.