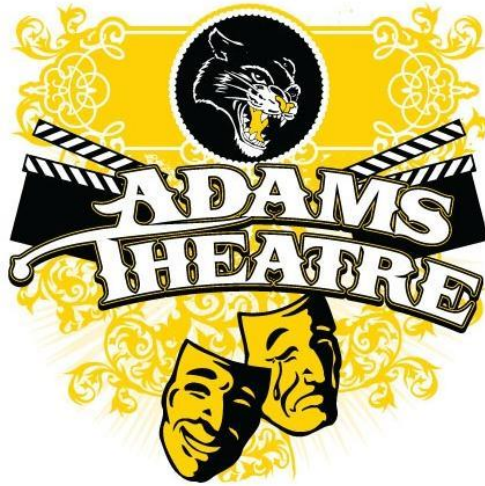


Adams Theatre Arts Handbook

**Adams Middle School
833 West Tarrant Road
Grand Prairie, TX 75050
972-262-1934 x 3023**

Lisa Stucker, Director



FORWARD

Welcome to the beginning of another school year!

The purpose of this handbook is to serve as a guide and a source of information for students and parents regarding the Adams Theatre Arts program. Information, policies and clear expectations are the basis for a successful school year and allow the teacher, parent and student to work together for the greatest benefit of the student.

The rules outlined on the following pages are simple and sound. By abiding by these rules, you are fulfilling an obligation to your school, to your fellow cast and crew members, to your family, and to yourself.

Please take special notice of the sections dealing with attendance at functions, grading system, uniforms, and important dates.

After you have reviewed this handbook, please sign and date the “Handbook Signature Page” to be returned to Ms. Stucker NO LATER THAN Friday, August 30, 2013. Your student has been sent home with this page, and it can also be found on the Adams Theatre Arts website.

Ms. Lisa Stucker, Director of Theatre Arts

lisa.stucker@gpsd.org

972.522.3023

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THEATRE ARTS WEBSITE

The Adams Theatre Arts website can be found at:

www.adamstheatrearts.pbworks.com

The website is updated weekly, and is the parents' and students' number one source for important information and documents relating to the Adams Theatre Department. Parents and Students can check upcoming project dates, print assignments and notes, and see a calendar of theatre performances taking place at Adams.

AUDITIONS

Auditions are used as a means placing actors in the correct class for the duration of the school year. Auditions are held in the spring semester by Ms. Stucker in the Theatre Arts classroom. If a student would like to be in an advanced class (Theatre II or Competition Theatre) next school year, it is never too early to start preparing!

The audition process may include:

1. A one-minute MEMORIZED monologue, researched and chosen by the student (may be humorous or serious in nature)
2. A cold reading from a script provided by Ms. Stucker
3. A trial class period with the advanced students

Students MAY NOT be scheduled into a more advanced class without an audition. Also, an audition alone does not guarantee placement in the requested class – student behavior and work ethic will be taken into account before placement.

ATTITUDE AND CONDUCT

Being a member of the Adams Middle School performing arts department is a privilege. You are representing your organization, your school and your community, therefore, your conduct is expected to be exemplary. Proper rehearsal and performance behavior will be expected at all times. Your attitude will affect your performance as well as that of the entire group. All students are expected to come to class each day prepared to learn and to allow others to learn. All students are expected to be on-task at all times in class as well as during any theatre sponsored activity. Failure to exhibit the proper attitude and conduct will result in a lower conduct grade as well as being placed on probation. Any infraction will be handled on an individual basis and may include parent contact and/or administrative referral. A second violation of any policy in this contract may result in an elective change and dismissal from the organization.

DAILY EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES

The following is the guideline to a successful Theatre Arts class. These guidelines should be followed.

1. Enter the classroom and/or stage area courteously and orderly.
2. Students will be seated quietly in their assigned seat and begin working on class Bellringer.
3. Students will be considered tardy if they are not seated in the proper chairs when Ms. Stucker begins class instruction.
4. Students will follow campus and classroom rules and expectations daily.
5. All Theatre Arts students should be prepared with the following materials in class on a daily basis:
 - 1" black 3-ring binder (Theatre I and II) or a 1 ½" black 3-ring binder (Competition Theatre)
 - notebook paper (college and wide ruled are both acceptable)
 - pencils and/or blue/black pens
 - any other materials required (i.e. project materials)
6. **ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD, GUM, OR DRINKS. Water in a clear plastic bottle is acceptable and encouraged; other food or drink is not allowed in a performing environment.**
7. Leave the stage and your seating area cleaner than you found it. If everyone does this, you will always walk into a clean and welcome learning environment.
8. We will use costumes, props, and stage make-up in all Theatre Arts classes. These are school property and will be treated as such. Failure to follow this expectation will affect your weekly rehearsal

grade, and may result in additional consequences. Theatre Arts property is not to leave the classroom unless expressly instructed by Ms. Stucker.

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

THEATRE I

Theatre I is an introduction to Theatre Arts. In this class we will cover many of the aspects of the theatre and theatre performances. There is no prerequisite for this course.

Required Materials

- 1" black 3-ring binder
- Notebook paper (college or wide ruled are both accepted)
- Pencils and/or blue or black pens
- Additional materials requested by Ms. Stucker – Theatre I students will have several hands-on projects throughout the year.

***As these projects come up, material lists will be sent home as well as posted on the website. These lists will go out weeks, if not months in advance so that you and your child can prepare to have these materials for class. If cost is ever an issue, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Stucker, and together we will find a solution that will best suit your family.**

Grading Policy

Theatre I grades are earned in the following ways:

- Written assignments
- Hands-on assignments and/or projects
- Written tests/quizzes
- Performances (individual, with partners, and in groups)

***Because Theatre Arts is an ensemble activity, active participation in daily classes and rehearsals is *required*. The effort put forth by each student in every rehearsal and performance will be reflected in his/her grades.**

Make-Up Work: ALL students are required to make up any/all assignments and performances they have missed. *It is the student's responsibility to make an appointment with Ms. Stucker to make up performances.* Students will have 2 weeks from the original due date to perform for a grade.

Attendance

Consistent daily attendance is imperative for student success in Theatre I. Not only will absences cause students to fall behind in assignments, many performance evaluations are done with groups or partners who are dependent on each other to be present the day of the performance.

Regardless of whether an assignment is individual or with an ensemble, if a student misses a performance day, that performance grade must be made up outside of class time. This applies to group performances as well. If a group member is absent on the day of a performance, that group must arrange a time with each other and Ms. Stucker before or after school to make up that grade. Students will have 2 weeks from the original due date to make up a performance grade.

Uniform

All Theatre I students are welcome to audition for any Theatre performance throughout the year. If a Theatre I student is cast into an Adams Middle School Production, he or she will wear an Adams Theatre Arts t-shirt as part of the cast. However, all students are welcome to purchase a t-shirt, and do not have to be part of the production in order to do so. T-shirts are \$15.

THEATRE II

Theatre II is designed to focus on the performing aspect of the theatre. Students can expect a rigorous course in which they will work closely with play scripts, and spend more time on stage performing. Theatre II students are required to have had Theatre I.

Required Materials

- 1" black 3-ring binder
- Notebook paper (college or wide ruled are both accepted)

- Pencils and/or blue or black pens
- Additional materials requested by Ms. Stucker – Theatre II students will have several hands-on projects throughout the year.

*As these projects come up, material lists will be sent home as well as posted on the website. These lists will go out weeks, if not months in advance so that you and your child can prepare to have these materials for class. If cost is ever an issue, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Stucker, and together we will find a solution that will best suit your family.

Grading Policy

Theatre II grades are earned in the following ways:

- Written assignments
- Hands-on assignments and/or projects
- Written tests/quizzes
- Performances (individual, with partners, and in groups)

*Because Theatre Arts is an ensemble activity, active participation in daily classes and rehearsals is required. The effort put forth by each student in every rehearsal and performance will be reflected in his/her grades.

Make-Up Work: ALL students are required to make up any/all assignments and performances they have missed. *It is the student's responsibility to make an appointment with Ms. Stucker to make up performances.* Students will have 2 weeks from the original due date to perform for a grade.

Attendance

Consistent daily attendance is imperative for student success in Theatre II. Not only will absences cause students to fall behind in assignments, many performance evaluations are done with groups or partners who are dependent on each other to be present the day of the performance.

Regardless of whether an assignment is individual or with an ensemble, if a student misses a performance day, that performance grade must be made up outside of class time. This applies to group performances as well. If a group member is absent on the day of a performance, that group must arrange a time with each other and Ms. Stucker before or after school to make up that grade. Students will have 2 weeks from the original due date to make up a performance grade.

Uniform

All Theatre II students are welcome to audition for any Theatre performance throughout the year. If a Theatre I student is cast into an Adams Middle School Production, he or she will wear an Adams Theatre Arts t-shirt as part of the cast. However, all students are welcome to purchase a t-shirt, and do not have to be part of the production in order to do so. T-shirts are \$15.

COMPETITION THEATRE

Competition Theatre is the top-most theatre class available. In this class, students will build an ensemble and work as a team on a daily basis. Students will be memorizing monologues and scripts all year, and will be held to higher expectations than that of Theatre I and II. These students will also have the opportunity to run for Student Officer, and are expected to participate in the UIL One Act Play competition. All Competition students are required to have had Theatre I.

Required Materials

- A 1 1/2" black 3-ring binder with plastic cover (Ms. Stucker will be making a cover sheet for each student)
- A 1" by 10" black 3-ring binder *without* plastic cover – these can be found at Office Depot and look like miniature binders
- Notebook paper (college or wide ruled are both accepted)
- Pencils and/or blue or black pens
- Additional materials requested by Ms. Stucker – Competition Theatre students will have several hands-on projects throughout the year.

*As these projects come up, material lists will be sent home as well as posted on the website. These lists will go out weeks, if not months in advance so that you and your child

can prepare to have these materials for class. If cost is ever an issue, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Stucker, and together we will find a solution that will best suit your family.

Grading Policy

Competition Theatre grades are earned in the following ways:

- Written assignments
- Hands-on assignments and/or projects
- Written tests/quizzes
- Performances (individual, with partners, and in groups)
- Attendance at tournaments, One Act Play, and the rehearsals prior to these events

*Because Theatre Arts is an ensemble activity, active participation in daily classes and rehearsals is required. The effort put forth by each student in every rehearsal and performance will be reflected in his/her grades.

Make-Up Work: ALL students are required to make up any/all assignments and performances they have missed. *It is the student's responsibility to make an appointment with Ms. Stucker to make up performances.* Students will have 2 weeks from the original due date to perform for a grade.

Attendance

Class

Consistent daily attendance is imperative for student success in Competition Theatre. Not only will absences cause students to fall behind in assignments, many performance evaluations are done with groups or partners who are dependent on each other to be present the day of the performance. Regardless of whether an assignment is individual or with an ensemble, if a student misses a performance day, that performance grade must be made up outside of class time. This applies to group performances as well. If a group member is absent on the day of a performance, that group must arrange a time with each other and Ms. Stucker before or after school to make up that grade. Students will have 2 weeks from the original due date to make up a performance grade.

After School Rehearsals

Prior to any major performance, we will have after school rehearsals from 4:30pm – 6:00pm. These rehearsals are *mandatory* for any student involved in the production. These rehearsals will be posted on the Adams Theatre Arts website, and information will be sent home with students in advance so that you and your child may make any necessary arrangements for transportation. An absence from rehearsal is detrimental to the team performance. Every member of Competition Theatre is vital to our success, and we count on each other as teammates on a daily basis.

**Unexcused absences from rehearsal will be dealt with on an individual basis, and may result in removal from the team.*

Tournaments

Oral Interpretation Tournaments are an excellent way for our students to express their creative talents, as well as to build connections with actors from other middle schools. We will attend four tournaments this year, and attendance at each is *mandatory*. Each tournament will count as a major grade for students, and will also give them an opportunity to learn from others and explore new ideas about Theatre.

Tournament dates are posted on the Adams Theatre Arts website. If any date changes, updates will be made to the website, and your child will be sent home with the new information immediately. The team will meet for tournaments at AMS, in Ms. Stucker's class room, and a bus will take us to the host school, regardless of travel distance. While most tournaments are here in our district, we travel together as a team for safety and to build team camaraderie.

**Unexcused absences from tournaments will be dealt with on an individual basis, and may result in removal from the team. Absences from two or more tournaments will result in immediate removal from the team – NO EXCEPTIONS.*

One Act Play

Once a year, Adams Theatre will produce a one act play for UIL competition. This event will be held at the end of the year at South Grand Prairie High School, and will be open for parents to attend. This is our biggest and most important event every year, and participation by all Competition students is required. Students who are not cast in the play will participate as members of the backstage crew. Rehearsals for One Act will be held during the Spring semester, and the Adams Theatre Arts website will be updated with more information regarding this event throughout the year. This performance will serve as a major grade as well as a portion of Competition students' final exam.

****Attendance at this event is imperative. Any absence from the One Act Play performance may put your child at risk for failing the class, as well as put the team at risk for disqualification.***

Uniform

Formal

During tournaments, students will be required to wear the following:

- Black suit – pants and jacket (or knee-length skirt suit for ladies)
- White button-up shirt
- Black tie (gentlemen only)
- Black socks (or hosiery with skirt suits)
- Black flat shoes (ballet flats for ladies)
- Minimal, neutral make-up
- Clean hair, out of the face (conservative ponytails and buns are acceptable)
- Minimal or no jewelry

This uniform will be clean and pressed and will be worn when students arrive at AMS the morning of the tournaments. Inspection of this uniform will be on September 30th with all necessary items present. Failure to pass uniform inspection may result in a student not being able to attend a tournament, which will put that student's grade at risk. If there is a financial concern with obtaining a uniform, please let Ms. Stucker know as soon as possible.

Informal

Competition students will also have opportunity to wear an informal uniform, such as after tournaments, or during One Act Play rehearsal. This will consist of:

- Adams Theatre Arts T-shirt (\$15 to be purchased from Ms. Stucker)
- Jeans (clean, no rips or holes)
- Tennis shoes or similar flats

While this uniform will be worn during informal events, students are still representing our organization, and it is expected that the entire uniform embody pride for the team and for AMS. Dirty and wrinkled uniform items are not a display of the hard work our students have put into our Theatre Arts program.

THEATRE ARTS FEES

Theatre Arts participation does require certain fees and financial commitments. Fortunately, during the 2013-2014 school year, the GPISD Fine Arts Department will be covering all tournament entry fees this year, and the Adams Middle School Theatre Arts Department will be covering the cost of royalties for any productions. Because of this, the only fee for this year will be that of the informal uniform t-shirt, at \$15, which is due on September 10th.

We know budgets can be tight and want to give you time to plan ahead for these financial obligations. Should you ever encounter a problem with any of the fees, please don't hesitate to contact Ms. Stucker for assistance. Your child's education is our number one priority and we will work with you to come up with a solution to benefit your family, your child and the Adams Theatre Arts Program. All checks must include a driver's license number.

PERFORMANCE ETIQUETTE

Listed on the Adams Theatre Arts Calendar are several opportunities for all students to see performances. Both high schools as well as the Fine Arts Academy will be putting on several productions throughout the year. Because performance is a major objective of any theatre production, audience etiquette must be learned and practiced.

1. While in the audience, one should remain seated until the end of the performance. Having people walk around is very distracting to the performers and to other members of the audience.
2. To allow others to enjoy a performance, there should be no talking during a performance.
3. At the end of each selection, the audience should applaud. Shouting or whistling is not acceptable.
4. Hats or caps are not appropriate attire for men at concerts.

STUDENT OFFICERS

As we hope to grow our Theatre Arts Program, we would like our upperclassmen to have an opportunity to lead. Theatre Arts officers must be of above average leadership ability; be dependable; show loyalty to the program, director, and other officers; be of good character; be able to accept responsibility; carry out assigned duties; be able to inspire the best work of the band and do the best work possible.

During the first week of school, students intending to run for office will campaign for votes from underclassmen with a short video, to be filmed in class. Students should prepare a short speech stating what they hope to accomplish this year within the Theatre Arts program, and how they intend to help younger students grow within the program.

Officers are:

- President
- Vice-president
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Reporter-Historian

All officers will be selected from the Competition class. These officers will meet with Ms. Stucker periodically during the year to discuss productions, recruitment of younger students, and to aid in marketing and advertising for the AMS Theatre.