

Intro to the Dramatic Arts Course Objectives

Performing Arts | 10 credits

In this class, students will explore various performance techniques to help them become well-rounded performers. They will also explore how to serve both God and others with their unique set of gifts. This class emphasizes both group and individual growth and development through group games, exercises and scenes and through individual monologues and/or songs. Through the course of this class, students will gain performance experience through in-class performance and a final showcase and revue!

The two main objectives for the students of this class are to develop the specific talents related to the performing arts and to gain a better understanding of the importance of their calling as an artist. In order to develop specific talents, students will learn how to use their breath, body and voice to fit a character and to tell a story. Students will learn how to portray different characters and how to find objectives through scene breakdowns and character study. By the end of this class, students will gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the dramatic arts and will have worked on material that can be used in audition and performance settings. Students will have the opportunity to identify and develop individual skills and to work with others toward a common objective.

Each student is individually crafted by God and has a unique set of talents and abilities. Students will explore their calling as an artist by identifying and cultivating these personal gifts and by discerning how to best use their gifts to serve God and others. Students will also have the unique opportunity to study the art forms of acting, theatre and storytelling through the lens of truth, beauty and goodness.

Exploring TRUTH through acting

Acting is all about truth. Through study of character and circumstances, students will gain a greater ability to portray and identify truth and to explore the human condition, through analyzing similarities and differences between themselves, others and their assigned character(s). Considering perspectives other than our own, as well as learning about the joys and trials of another, will also help students to grow in empathy towards others who are different from them.

Exploring BEAUTY in relation to art

Students will gain a greater appreciation for art and beauty through the study of both contemporary and classical monologues and scenes. By analyzing, enacting, and exploring beauty within a scene, monologue or another performing art form, students

will be better equipped to find and identify beauty in their own lives, in art and, ultimately, in the world that God has made.

Exploring GOODNESS in relation to storytelling and caring for the culture

Good art has the ability to impact people across cultures, generations and centuries. *Good* art addresses important questions and core issues about life such as love, loss, challenges, victories, sin and redemption. *Good* art can help people know they are not alone. Students will explore both what makes art good, and what it means and takes to create good art. Students will tackle questions such as “what are my specific talents, and how can I use these to serve other people?” and “How can we spread hope, light and God’s love by telling good stories through art?”

At the end of the first semester, students will have the opportunity to demonstrate what they’ve been working on in class through a showcase of various dramatic elements for family and friends.

At the end of the second semester, the class will culminate in a final Revue, where students will apply what they’ve learned through both group scenes and/or dance numbers and be able to showcase individual skills through monologues and/or songs.

Students will practice new skills and will prepare for these final performances by:

- Working on contemporary and classical monologues and scenes (individual work through monologues, and group work through scenes)
- Memorization
- Completing character breakdown question handouts
- Creating short scenes through a sequence of movements
- Writing 7 word stories and/or short poems
- Writing a short critique of a performance, looking for techniques learned in class and analyzing how the actors effectively or ineffectively applied them
- Rehearsal, rehearsal, rehearsal!