

## **Middle School Theatre Arts Standards and Benchmarks**

### **Standard 1: Demonstrates competence in developing scenes or scripts**

#### **Benchmarks:**

##### **Grade 6:**

- 1.1 Improvises dialogue to tell stories
- 1.2 Creates characters, environments (e.g. place, time, atmosphere/mood), and actions that create tension and suspense

##### **Grade 7:**

- 1.2 Creates characters, environments (e.g. place, time, atmosphere/mood), and actions that create tension and suspense
- 1.3 Refines and records dialogue and action
- 1.4 Creates improvisations and scripted scenes based on personal experience and heritage, imagination, literature, and history

##### **Grade 8:**

- 1.2 Creates characters, environments (e.g. place, time, atmosphere/mood), and actions that create tension and suspense
- 1.4 Creates improvisations and scripted scenes based on personal experience and heritage, imagination, literature, and history
- 1.5 Constructs imaginative scripts (using setting, conflict, climax and developed characters) that convey story and meaning of audience

### **Standard 2: Uses Acting Skills**

#### **Benchmarks**

##### **Grade 6**

- 2.1 Uses variations of locomotor and non locomotor movement and vocal pitch, tempo, and tone for different characters
- 2.2 Uses basic acting skills (e.g. sensory recall, concentration, focus, breath control, diction, body alignment) to develop characterization that suggests artistic choices
- 2.3 Understands the control of volume, tone, pace, and intonation in the development of speech

- 2.4 Understands the principles and elements of expressive movement (i.e. coordination, spatial awareness, kinesthetic and gestures) to express ideas]
- 2.5 Interacts as an invented character in improvised and scripted scenes

### **Grade 7**

- 2.1 Uses variations of locomotor and non locomotor movement and vocal pitch, tempo, and tone for different characters
- 2.2 Uses basic acting skills (e.g. sensory recall, concentration, focus, breath control, diction, body alignment) to develop characterization that suggests artistic choices
- 2.3 Understands the control of volume, tone, pace, and intonation in the development of speech
- 2.4 Understands the principles and elements of expressive movement (i.e. coordination, spatial awareness, kinesthetics and gestures) to express ideas]
- 2.5 Interacts as an invented character in improvised and scripted scenes

### **Grade 8**

- 2.1 Uses variations of locomotor and non locomotor movement and vocal pitch, tempo, and tone for different characters
- 2.2 Uses basic acting skills (e.g. sensory recall, concentration, focus, breath control, diction, body alignment) to develop characterization that suggests artistic choices
- 2.3 Understands the control of volume, tone, pace, and intonation in the development of speech
- 2.4 Understands the principles and elements of expressive movement (i.e. coordination, spatial awareness, kinesthetics and gestures) to express ideas]
- 2.5 Interacts as an invented character in improvised and scripted scenes
- 2.6 Understands how descriptions, dialogue, and actions are used to discover, articulate, and justify character motivation
- 2.7 Invents character behaviors based on the observation of interactions, ethical choices, and emotional responses of people

## **Standard 3: Designs and produces informal and formal theatre pieces**

### **Benchmarks**

#### **Grade 6**

No New Benchmarks at this level

#### **Grade 7**

- 3.1 Selects and organizes available materials that suggest scenery, properties, lighting, sound, costumes, and makeup
- 3.2 Visualizes and arranges environments for classroom dramatizations

#### **Grade 8**

- 3.1 Selects and organizes available materials that suggest scenery, properties, lighting, sound, costumes, and makeup
- 3.2 Visualizes and arranges environments for classroom dramatizations

## **Standard 4: Experiences/directs scenes and productions**

### **Benchmarks**

#### **Grade 6**

- 4.1 Plans and prepares improvisations

#### **Grade 7**

- 4.1 Plans and prepares improvisations
- 4.2 Plans visual and aural elements for improvised scenes

#### **Grade 8**

- 4.1 Plans and prepares improvisations
- 4.2 Plans visual and aural elements for improvised scenes
- 4.3 Exhibits ability to lead group while listening and encouraging the ideas of others

**Standard 5: Understands how informal and formal theatre pieces create and communicate meaning.**

**Benchmarks**

**Grade 6**

- 5.1 Provides rationales for personal preferences about the whole as well as the parts of dramatic performances
- 5.2 Knows how alternative ideas can be used to enhance character roles, environments, and situations

**Grade 7**

- 5.1 Provides rationales for personal preferences about the whole as well as the parts of dramatic performances
- 5.2 Knows how alternative ideas can be used to enhance character roles, environments, and situations
- 5.3 Articulates the meanings constructed from one's own and others' dramatic performances
- 5.4 Understands how the wants and needs of characters are similar to and different from one's own wants and needs

**Grade 8**

- 5.1 Provides rationales for personal preferences about the whole as well as the parts of dramatic performances
- 5.2 Knows how alternative ideas can be used to enhance character roles, environments, and situations
- 5.3 Articulates the meanings constructed from one's own and others' dramatic performances
- 5.4 Understands how the wants and needs of characters are similar to and different from one's own wants and needs

**Standard 6: Understands the context in which theatre is performed today as well as in the past.**

**Benchmarks:**

**Grade 6**

- 6.1 Understands how social concepts such as cooperation, communication, collaboration, consensus, self-esteem, risk taking, sympathy, and empathy function as a component of role playing and in the theatre in general

### **Grade 7**

- 6.1 Understands how social concepts such as cooperation, communication, collaboration, consensus, self-esteem, risk taking, sympathy, and empathy function as a component of role playing and in the theatre in general
- 6.2 Identifies, describes and practices the function of various methods of reflection (discussion, journal writing, writing in role)
- 6.3 Knows ways in which theatre reflects life

### **Grade 8**

- 6.1 Understands how social concepts such as cooperation, communication, collaboration, consensus, self-esteem, risk taking, sympathy, and empathy function as a component of role playing and in the theatre in general
- 6.2 Identifies, describes and practices the function of various methods of reflection (discussion, journal writing, writing in role)
- 6.3 Knows ways in which theatre reflects life

## **Standard 7: Works with others**

### **Benchmarks;**

#### **Grade 6**

- 7.1 Contributes to the overall effort of a group (i.e. demonstrates respect, takes initiative, establishes goals, engages in active listening, etc.)
- 7.2 Uses conflict resolution techniques (i.e. communicates ideas, resolves conflicts, identifies goals and values important to a group, understands impact of criticism, negotiates, etc.)
- 7.3 Works well with diverse individuals and in diverse situations  
Displays effective interpersonal communication skills (i.e. empathy, politeness, constructive feedback, uses non verbal communication, etc.)

#### **Grade 7**

- 7.1 Contributes to the overall effort of a group (i.e. demonstrates respect, takes initiative, establishes goals, engages in active listening, etc.)

- 7.2 Uses conflict resolution techniques (i.e. communicates ideas, resolves conflicts, identifies goals and values important to a group, understands impact of criticism, negotiates, etc.)
- 7.3 Works well with diverse individuals and in diverse situations
- 7.4 Displays effective interpersonal communication skills (i.e. empathy, politeness, constructive feedback, uses non verbal communication, etc.)
- 7.5 Demonstrate leadership skills

## **Grade 8**

- 7.1 Contributes to the overall effort of a group (i.e. demonstrates respect, takes initiative, establishes goals, engages in active listening, etc.)
- 7.2 Uses conflict resolution techniques (i.e. communicates ideas, resolves conflicts, identifies goals and values important to a group, understands impact of criticism, negotiates, etc.)
- 7.3 Works well with diverse individuals and in diverse situations
- 7.4 Displays effective interpersonal communication skills (i.e. empathy, politeness, constructive feedback, uses non verbal communication, etc.)
- 7.5 Demonstrate leadership skills