

SOJO MIDDLE SCHOOL THEATRE DISCLOSURE/SYLLABUS

Stage Tech (1 Semester, .5 credit)

Teacher Information

- Mr. Shawn Kidd
- School phone (801) 412-2900
- shawn.kidd@jordandistrict.org (preferred method of contact)
- Rm 710 (Choir room) and Kiva (Auditorium)
- Website: <https://sites.google.com/jordandistrict.org/sojochoirtheatre/>
- There are no prerequisites for this course

Course Description

This is an introductory course to the “backstage” aspects of working in the theatre. Students learn how to use the lighting instruments and control module, microphones, and the sound mixer. Students also learn how to safely use power tools and hand tools to build the set and props needed for the fall musical production. Students will have opportunities to take care of the technical responsibilities of a production.

Student Learning Objectives (SLO)

At the successful conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe and demonstrate how to use lighting and sound equipment in a theater production
- Use power tools and hand tools to construct basic scenery
- Describe and demonstrate the skills needed to be a stage manager of a live theater production
- Organize and plan how props will be used in a live theatre production

Textbook(s) and Class Resources (print and other media):

- There is no set textbook for this course. Students will work from scripts, online resources, and other materials provided by the teacher.
- Online videos (mainly YouTube) of theatre performances, topics in theatre history, careers in theatre, and other theatre-related topics.
- G-rated films and PG-rated films or excerpts from films (with prior notice to parents for PG-rated films-please see the attached disclosure acknowledgement/media permission form)

Classroom Rules/Policies:

Drama classes require good participation (individually and as a group) and a great attitude. Attendance is important for each student and for those with whom you are working and performing. If you know that you will be gone frequently or are uncomfortable or unwilling to participate in class activities and performances, you should not continue in this class.

- **Ready in Five:** When we are doing work individually or in small groups it can sometimes get noisy while people are practicing lines or having discussions. When Mr. Kidd needs your attention he will say, “Ready in Five, Four, Three, Two, One” and students are expected to quickly finish their activities or conversations and be quietly ready for instruction. Students who are not ready may receive a re-focus form to complete and

parents/guardians may be contacted. Continuing disruptions will result in a parent conference and/or office referrals.

- **Four on the Floor:** Please keep all four legs of your chair on the floor. Do not touch anyone else's chair. Students who do not keep the legs of the chair on the floor or who pull on other students' chairs will lose their chair for the rest of the period. Recurring violations will result in parent contact and/or office referral.
- **No Food, Drinks, or Gum:** Water in a water bottle is fine, but no other food, snacks, drinks, or gum are allowed in class without teacher approval. If you have a documented medical need to have food in class, please let Mr. Kidd know on the Disclosure Acknowledgement Form attached at the end of this document.
- **No Phones or Electronics:** No phones, earbuds, headphones, or other electronic devices should be out without teacher permission. "Out" means visible, such as in a student's hands or sitting on the chair next to them. This includes your school-issued laptop. If we are using the laptop or personal electronics during class for instruction, Mr. Kidd will let students know. Students who have their phones out during class may have them taken and sent to the office according to school policy. (Please let Mr. Kidd know if a medical exception is necessary for cell phone use.)
- **Be Respectful:** This includes being respectful of the teacher, the classroom equipment, materials issued to you, and other people. Profanity, name calling, teasing, bullying, racial slurs, or other language that is demeaning or disrespectful to others is not allowed. Students who chose to be disrespectful to the teacher or others may be asked to complete a re-focus form, have parents/guardians contacted, or be referred to the office.

Grading Policies:

- This course follows the school-wide grading policy. 80% of your quarterly grade is determined by your scores on assessments and 20% is determined by your scores on practice assignments.
- Most assignments and assessments will be completed during class, but there will be occasional homework. Examples include (but are not limited to) reading and analyzing scripts, drawing designs, and creating plans and charts.
- Assignments are graded on a 4, 3, 2, 1, 0 standards-based grading scale:
 - 4=Student demonstrates mastery and applies the knowledge (A/A+)
 - 3=Student demonstrates mastery (A-) of the tested material
 - 2=Student can show some knowledge or partial understanding (C)
 - 1=Student cannot demonstrate knowledge of the content (D)
 - 0=Student did not attempt the assignment (F)
- Please see the school website for an explanation of the conversion process from standards-based grading scale numbers to letter-based grading. If students have a score of 3 or 4 on most assignments, they are doing well in the class.
- Late work is accepted until the day BEFORE the last day of each quarter.
- Extra credit is not allowed. Students who are interested in raising their grade should make sure all assignments are completed. If there are no missing assignments, they may make arrangements with Mr. Kidd to redo assessments (tests) or practice assignments for a better grade.

Required Course Supplies

To successfully complete this course, you will need:

- Chromebook (provided by the school)
- pencil and pen

Recommended but not required

- colored pencils
- 1 or 2 highlighters

Course Requirements

- This course is designed to be a hands-on course that gives students practical skills in running a production. Students are expected to be available to work the technical aspects of the production. All students need to complete at least 15 hours of “lab” time outside of class hours (7.5 hours each quarter). This can include helping during auditions, observing rehearsals to plan technical aspects of the show, attending/working tech rehearsals, working the performances (in a technical or management capacity), or working on the set outside of class time. Auditions and rehearsals for Newsies are after school M-Th in September, October, and November. The performances are November 10, 11, 12, 14, and 15. Students may also fulfill their lab hours by working as lighting or sound technicians for other performances at the school, such as band, choir, orchestra, or dance concerts or student assemblies.
- Students are expected to participate in activities such as set construction, demolition, painting, moving scenery and equipment, and keeping the backstage area organized. Students should bring a set of clothing that can get dirty and that they can wear while painting. Student’s grades can be negatively affected if they are not willing to participate in the class activities because they did not bring appropriate clothing for participation. Students are welcome to bring clothing at the beginning of the semester and store it at the school. It should be taken home and washed as needed.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided for students to use as necessary. This includes safety glasses or goggles, hearing protection, and gloves. Students should wear closed-toe shoes when working backstage. Long hair should be tied back and loose jewelry should be removed. Students who do not wear appropriate PPE may not be allowed to continue working with tools and it will negatively affect their grade.
- Students will not be allowed to use power tools and hand tools until they have passed both written and practical tests demonstrating that they understand the proper use and care of tools and appropriate safety protocols. If students fail to follow these practices they will not be allowed to use them and their grade may be negatively affected.
- Please let Mr. Kidd know if a student has allergies to latex paint, glue, or any other allergies you suspect may prevent the student from participating fully in the class.
- Horseplay, “goofing around,” or any other unsafe activities are not allowed. The equipment students use is expensive and students need to use it safely at all times.
- Food or drink is not allowed backstage for the safety of the technicians and performers.

Additional Information

- **Canvas:** Some of the assignments for this course must be submitted through Canvas. Students are expected to log into Canvas frequently and to submit assignments by the due dates listed. Not all assignments will be done through Canvas, and the Canvas gradebook should NOT be considered accurate since it does not show all class assignments.
- **Skyward:** The official gradebook for this course is the one in Skyward. It will contain the scores for all graded assignments in the class. Although Mr. Kidd tries to grade assignments in a timely manner, occasionally Skyward will flag an assignment as missing that actually has not been entered yet. This will be shown with an asterisk (*). Students

are welcome to check with Mr. Kidd if they have submitted an assignment that does not have a score to make sure it was received.

- Students and parents are welcome to email Mr. Kidd at any time, but should not expect an immediate response to emails outside of school hours, especially late in the evening.
- Auditions for NEWSIES JR are September 6 and 7. Callbacks are September 8. Participation in Newsies is NOT required, but students in the Stage Tech are welcome to audition. Students who are cast in Newsies are still expected to fulfill their 15 hours of lab time as part of their grade for this class. More information about the show is available on the class website.

Parent/Guardian Disclosure/Syllabus Form

SOUTH JORDAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
Course Name: Intro to Theatre
Instructor: Mr. Shawn Kidd
Email contact: shawn.kidd@jordandistrict.org

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I look forward to teaching your student in the coming semester. Thank you for taking the time to read the course disclosure. Never hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

Instructions to Parent/Guardian: After carefully reading the disclosure, detach this (entire) page and return it with your student.

Student's Name (print) _____

Period student is registered for class: _____

I have read and reviewed the disclosure (please circle): Yes No

Parent/Guardian Name (Print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (Sign) _____

Date: _____ Parent/Guardian Phone # _____

E-mail Address _____

My student may watch the following G and PG-rated films (this list is used for all Mr. Kidd's classes. Your student will only watch some of these):

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| The Sound of Music (G) | Emmet Otter's Jug Band Christmas (Not Rated, |
| Hello, Dolly (G) | Jim Henson's Muppets) |
| Fiddler on the Roof (G) | A Christmas Carol (Not Rated, musical starring |
| You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Not Rated) | Kelsey Grammar) |
| Newsies (PG) | The King and I (G) |
| The Music Man (G) | Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (G) |
| Singin' in the Rain (G) | The Wizard of Oz (G) |
| That Thing You Do (PG-original theatrical | West Side Story (Not Rated) |
| release) | Fantasia 2000 (G) |
| Beethoven Lives Upstairs (Not Rated) | My Fair Lady (G) |
| | WALL-E (G) |

Parent/Guardian Signature _____