

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to 6th Grade Drama! I am so excited to be working with your student this year and leading them on this journey of creativity, expression, and discovery. Throughout this year, your student will build confidence in public speaking and performance, develop teamwork and listening skills, and learn theatre vocabulary, stage directions, and basic performance and improvisation techniques.

Theatre as an art form is inherently collaborative, as is this class. As such, we must create and maintain a classroom community that fosters creativity and gives students the space to explore and discover without fear of judgment. To this end, your student will be expected to arrive on time for each class session and be prepared to work, having brought all pertinent materials (class notebook, scripts, pencils, and a highlighter). I have also created the following set of expectations for behavior in the classroom:

Teamwork is key

Have fun

Embrace challenges

Actively seek knowledge

Try new things

Respect your peers

Enthusiastically participate

Each day, your student will be assigned a grade for their participation. To earn a full grade for participation, I expect your student to actively engage with the material during class and follow the established classroom expectations. For each warning given in class, students will lose points. If students don't participate, they will be assigned half points for that day. For all other graded projects and performances throughout the year, I will send home a grading rubric with written expectations for you to look over with your student.

Drama is a hands-on, in-class experience, so homework may not be assigned after every class meeting. If or when there is homework, it will be light and shouldn't amount to more than 30-60 minutes per week. Throughout the year, students will be expected to memorize lines or blocking for performances, complete short reflection journals about in-class rehearsals and performances, and bring in simple props or costume pieces when needed.

Most of the work for this class will be done in the classroom, but there are a few ways I would appreciate your support at home:

- Encourage them to practice lines aloud. If possible (time permitting), sit with them and listen to their scenes and/or help them with memorization.
- Ask about what they're working on in class. Talking about what they are learning in class helps them to solidify their new understandings and discover new ideas.
- Celebrate their creativity and effort, not just the final product. Drama and performance can be intimidating at first, so make sure to encourage your student and remind them that the process is just as valuable as the result.

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with your student, and I am looking forward to a fun, supportive, and engaging year. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns at CMcdermott6@schools.nyc.gov or call me at school (718) 236-1344 or on my cell (310) 421-5702.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,
Ms. Colleen McDermott
6th Grade Drama Teacher

After reading this letter in full, please sign and have your student return it to me by the next class period.

Student name: _____

Guardian signature: _____

Date: _____