

Prosper High School Eagle Theatre Company

Handbook
2019-2020



**“There is Magic in Theatre and Theatre is Magic.
Blessed are those who create that Magic!”**

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Mission Statement

The Prosper High School Theatre Arts program and its instructors are dedicated to the development of individuals who are aesthetically aware, artistically disciplined, and devoted to a life long association with the performing arts, either through direct participation in, or as a culturally enlightened audience member.

- 1. Team work, problem solving, self esteem and reassurance*
 - 2. Life long learners and appreciation of Theatre*
 - 3. Outstanding performance and technical ability through training*
 - 4. College preparation for success in a post high school opportunity*
-

Class Rules:

Respect Yourself Respect Others Respect the Space Respect the Process

Be On Time

NO GUM or Food allowed in carpeted rooms! Be open to everything!

Grade Breakdown:

Formative 40%

Formative assessments are any assessments that are given to assess student learning throughout the grading period. This category will include homework, participation, quizzes, labs, projects, performances, daily work, etc. and can be further divided by changing the weight of an assessment.

Summative 60%

Summative assessments are cumulative and designed to assess mastery throughout the grading period. This will include major tests, performances and projects.

GUIDELINES FOR THEATRE ARTS CLASSES

Syllabus

Course Description:

Through classroom exercises and production work, students will:

- A) Gain theoretical and practical knowledge of acting and live performance, learning basic acting and performance techniques.
- B) Develop techniques to appreciate and evaluate the qualities of theatrical literature.

***All students will perform in a stage production for public audiences at the end of the spring semester.**

Required Materials: Binder with Pockets, Pen and Pencil, 1 large box of tissues, and refillable water bottle.

In addition to the above required materials, all advanced classes will require a personal Ben Nye or Mehron Makeup kit, closed toed rehearsal shoes, and movement clothes for rehearsal*.

Other Requirements

1. The only way to fail this class is by not being actively involved in class and by not doing the assignments. If you follow instructions, demonstrate a desire and effort to improve and to learn, you should be pleased with your grade.
2. Attitude is very important in theatre. In order to be successful in this class, you must eliminate “I can’t”, “I won’t”, and “I don’t” from your vocabulary. If you are trying your hardest, I will do everything I can to help you.
3. In this class, you will be graded on individual ability and potential, rather than how your performance compares with the rest of the class.
4. At the end of the spring semester, the Theatre 1 class will be participating in a presentation of class plays. Advanced Theatre will be performing a children’s production in March. Each student in the class will be expected to participate as an extension of the curriculum.
5. Attendance of Prosper High School theatrical performances **will be required**. You will write a critique about each show you attend. If you cannot attend a performance, an alternative assignment is available. It is your responsibility to speak to me prior to the event to arrange for the alternative assignment. The assignment will be the day after the last day of the show performances. **I will not accept late alternative assignments.**
6. **Students in Theatre II, III, IV or any level of Theatre Production are required to be able to participate in all after-school productions.** Please see the calendar for specific dates and times. In addition to participation, these students are also required to log ten

(10) hours of shop/tech time within the school year to fully understand the scope of theatrical productions.

7. Due to the study of Tony and Pulitzer prize winning plays, advanced students may encounter mature subject material in the form of plays, monologues or movie clips. If an individual feels uncomfortable with the material, we encourage the student to speak to us privately and accommodations can be made.

Standard Response Protocols are as follows:

- “HEY PROSPER!” - You respond with “Hey What?” and remain quiet.
- “Hold!” means everyone freezes & stays where they are.
- “Heads up!” means potential danger in the area but under control & be aware.
- “Clear!”: means get out of the way.
- “Clear the Rail!”: means get away from the loading rail.
- “Batten coming in/going out!” means a rigging pipe is moving in/out of the stage area.

Acknowledge with “Thank you!” and stand clear.

- “Thank you (amount of time)” is the response when given a specific amount of time until curtain, places, cleanup, etc. from the director/stage manager.

- “Continue”: means resume work or where you left off.

GUIDELINES FOR TECHNICAL THEATRE 1

Syllabus

Technical Theatre One is a course in which the students learn the necessary skills to produce a theatrical production. They will have “hands-on” experience in regards to the backstage side of Theatre. Students will be building scenery, sewing costumes and wiring both lights and sound for the production of a show.

Students can expect to learn how to:

- Safely use power tools such as table-saws, drills, miter-saws, etc.
- Build various scenery (walls, stairs, windows, etc.)
- Paint scenery in various styles used in Theatre.
- Basic sewing skills.
- Apply theatrical makeup
- Learn about theatrical lighting and equipment.
- Learn about sound equipment.
- Create and/or find props necessary in a production
- Handle rigging necessary for a show (i.e. knot tying and safety precautions)
- Break down a script for use in running a theatrical production
- Basic Stage Management and Theatrical Management skills
- Basic vocabulary, parts and types of stages

This course will be comprised of sketchbook-journals, “in-class” projects, written papers, quizzes, and exams. In-class participation grades will be given regularly to students based on their effort in class (see the Weekly Participation Rubric in this packet). **Similarly each student will also be expected to participate in an after school production by working a minimum of 20 hours of after-school time.** This can be accomplished by working on crews during a performance or throughout the rehearsal process. The requirements and grading for this production will be explained in class. It is expected that 10 hours be completed in the fall and 10 hours completed in the Spring.

Due to the more dangerous activities in this class (using power tools), the classroom Rules of Conduct (explained later in packet), will be strictly enforced. There really can be no room for error in this regard. The slightest amount of distraction could result in injury.

There are a few supplies that will be used frequently in class. Every student enrolled in a Technical Theatre class must provide:

- Safety Glasses
- Tape Measure
- Leather Gloves
- Paint Clothes and shoes
- Closed toed shoes

Paint Clothes are just old clothes you don't mind getting paint on. Safety gloves, leather gloves and ear plugs can be purchased at any home improvement store, Wal-Mart or even the dollar store. Please have these supplies at the school by September 3rd.

GUIDELINES FOR TECHNICAL THEATRE 2

(STAGECRAFT/COSTUMING/THEATRICAL MAKEUP)

Syllabus

Technical Theatre Two is a course in which the students learn the necessary skills to lead others in the production of a theatrical production. They will have “hands-on” experience in regards to the Management side of Theatre Production. Students will be using the latest software to generate plans and organizational paperwork necessary to oversee the production of a theatrical performance. The students will transform theatrical designs from drawings to schematics into the final implementation in a real space environment.

Students can expect to learn how to:

- Break down a script for use in running a theatrical production.
- Digitally proportion weight for distribution in a theatrical counterweight system.
- How to generate construction plans for scenic construction.
- How to sew from patterns for use in costume construction.
- How to generate schematics for proper placement and focusing of theatrical lighting.
- Digitally generate, record, and mix sound to create an effective soundtrack for a theatrical production.
- Digitally manipulate graphic art to create and publish materials necessary for a successful Publicity campaign.
- Designing Costuming
- UIL Design Competitions

This course will be comprised of “in-class” projects, written papers, quizzes, and exams.

In-class participation grades will be given regularly to students based on their effort in class (see the Weekly Participation Rubric in this packet). Similarly each student will also be expected to participate in two after school productions, ideally one a semester. These after school hours tie in directly to your classroom grades because this is a co-curricular class. **A minimum of twenty (20) hours per semester are expected for all advanced technical theatre students and will be a summative grade.** The students will be utilized in the management of other students conduct so their reliability and self-motivation will be a factor in grading. The detailed requirements of grading for this production will be explained in class.

Due to the more dangerous activities in this class (using power tools), the classroom Rules of Conduct (explained later in packet), will be strictly enforced. There really can be no room for error in this regard. The slightest amount of distraction could result in injury.

There are a few additional supplies that will be needed by all students. They are:

- Clothes (see below)
- Sketchbook (Michaels or Hobby Lobby)
- Theatrical Makeup will need to purchase a personal makeup kit by Ben Nye or Mehron
- Personal facial cleansers
- Sewing Kit for students in Costuming

New students will also need to provide the supplies listed on the Tech 1 syllabus. Don't forget closed toed shoes, paint clothes and all black clothes for shows.

GUIDELINES FOR PRODUCTION THEATRE COURSES

(Acting, Musical & Technical)

Syllabus

Production Theatre Courses are the courses for students who exemplify and promote the mission of the Prosper Eagle Theatre Company. Students enrolled in these courses are considered the varsity members of the department.

Students will exude artistic vision, leadership and critical thinking in the highest echelon to become a member of the Production courses.

Production students can expect to learn how to:

- Draw freehand
- Draw using structural drafting as a medium to communicate construction
- Use the Elements of Design
- Research the basic and advanced needs of a play and interpret them for the stage
- Communicate design ideas through the medium of Renderings as a whole
- Paint using watercolor
- Properly critique theirs and others designs
- Design Scenery, Costumes, Makeup, Lighting, and Graphic-Design
- Produce Public Relations documents such as Press Releases, Programs, Posters, etc.
- Create a cohesive design concept and marketing strategy
- Become effective team leaders through production construction

This course will be comprised of “in-class” projects, written papers, quizzes, and exams. In-class participation grades will be given regularly to students based on their effort in class (see the Weekly Participation Rubric in this packet). Similarly each student will also be expected to participate in two after school productions, ideally one a semester. These after school hours tie in directly to your classroom grades because this is a co-curricular class. **A minimum of twenty (20) hours per semester are expected for all advanced technical theatre students and will be a summative grade.** The requirements and grading for this production will be explained in class.

Advanced students are also HIGHLY encouraged to be active members of the Thespian Club as leaders and peers.

In addition to the supplies needed by the Technical Theatre One and Two students, an Advanced student will need the following:

1. a Sketchbook,

Some art supplies will be needed throughout the year, but the type of supplies depends on the medium the student chooses to work with.

Rules of Conduct

Society: ... group of persons associated for a common purpose or interest, as a club or community; group of people forming a community and having common interests, traditions, and culture; a group of people who are in agreement to abide by certain standards and rules for the benefit of all (also known as a Social Contract).

Standards

- A sense of family is incredibly important to Prosper Eagle Theatre Company and respect is the key to maintaining this kind of family environment. Please be careful to be respectful of your peers and teachers at all times.
- Students are expected to participate in all theatre activities with a supportive spirit.
- Negative verbal or nonverbal actions are inappropriate behaviors. Students are expected to maintain a mature level of behavior at all times while representing the Prosper Theatre program.
- Students are expected to treat all directors, instructors, substitute teachers, clinicians and administrators with dignity and respect and are expected to respond with a positive attitude toward instruction and constructive criticism. This includes all casting decisions made by the directors. Not everyone can have the part they want and tough choices must be made. Please behave in a professional manner.
- Cell phones are only allowed in class if prompted by a teacher, but are completely prohibited during a rehearsal.
- Gum, food and drinks (except bottled water) are prohibited in carpeted classrooms.
- Students are expected to take proper care of costumes, props, the facility, etc. including putting them back.
- Students are expected to clean up after themselves and maintain a sanitary environment.
- “Rough-housing” of any form is prohibited.
- Students are expected to refrain from the use of profanity and/or obscene gestures.
- Harassment/Hazing of any form will not be tolerated.
- Use of illegal or recreational drugs, and/or tobacco products including any vaping and alcohol is prohibited.
- To participate in a Prosper Eagle Theatre Company Production, you must be enrolled in a theatre class.

Chromebook:

If you use a chromebook, you will be expected to reserve it by using your phone as collateral. You will exchange your phone for the chromebook and check it out from a teacher. The cart will then be locked. When you are finished with the chromebook you will need to return it to the teacher that you checked the chromebook out from and your phone will be returned to you. Any use of the chromebook will be strictly for the use by theatre students and will be returned immediately after its use. If you fail to follow protocol, privileges may be revoked.

Consequences:

If you CHOOSE not to follow the standards as listed above, you have CHOSEN to enjoy any number of consequences. The directors will assign those consequences based on the severity of the action. This could be as minor as a detention or as severe as removal from the department.

Requirements for After-School Productions

During the course of the semester in Theatre, you will be required to participate in various after school functions. All Theatre Arts classes are required to attend performances at Prosper based on the requirements noted in the syllabus. They are also encouraged to audition for theatre productions.

Rehearsals:

After school rehearsals for shows will be limited to 8 hours total during Monday through Thursday. Saturday rehearsals TBA as needed, will be posted on the Call Board but are very rare. Be sure to check updated production calendars for when rehearsals are scheduled. After school construction for Tech will be limited to the same times as the rehearsals until **Tech Week** with one Tech Saturday prior to performances. Check the attached calendar and the **Call Board** for updates.

As a show gets closer to opening, we will have a Saturday Rehearsal called a “Cue to Cue.” These rehearsals sometimes last up to six (6) hours long. Please come prepared to stay for the entire rehearsal. This is a time when the tech students learn to manipulate the lights, sound, scenery, etc. in conjunction with the actors for the performance.

After the “Cue-to-Cue,” there will follow a series of Dress Rehearsals leading to the opening night of the show. There may be times when these rehearsals may run until 9:00pm. Students involved with these shows will be required to attend the ENTIRE rehearsal so that we can perfect the coordination between techs and actors.

The show itself will more than likely run until 10 pm for evening performances and 5 pm for matinees. However, please keep in mind that these show times are primarily on Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Again, please check the posted calendars for exact dates and times.

Participation in a production is a requirement for all Prosper students wishing to be part of the Thespian Honor Society and is a primary portion of the semester grade for Theatre Tech. Make note of all scheduled performances and required extra rehearsals. Any conflicts or absences should be submitted and approved in writing prior to the scheduled construction, rehearsal, or performance. If a student should need to miss a rehearsal, construction, or performance, prior contact via email or phone call must be made. PLEASE NOTE that this **does NOT** automatically excuse the missed constructions, rehearsals and/or performances. Since “the show must go on...” an absence may jeopardize any role or part that the student may have been cast in.

Weekly Classwork Rubric

Each week, every student will be given a weekly classwork grade. Students will be rated over all in the following areas:

- ✓ Did the student participate fully (work the whole time)?
- ✓ Did the student treat his/her classmates with respect?
- ✓ Did the student treat his/her teacher with respect?
- ✓ Did the student correctly use safety rules?
- ✓ Did the student use creativity/problem solving in his/her work?
- ✓ Did the student show enthusiasm for class work?
- ✓ Did the student participate in all activities?
- ✓ Did the student follow instructions?
- ✓ Did the student exhibit mastery of the week's skills?
- ✓ Did the student engage in discussions?

This is separate from any after school activities and will be graded as such. If you ever wonder why you may not have received a 100 for a weekly classwork grade, check up above.



Late Grades

1. **Work will be accepted one day late for a maximum grade of 80%.** Late is defined as anything that arrives in my hands after I've announced all papers must be in. People with **excused absences** will not be penalized for turning work in late; however, the number of calendar days (not class periods) absent = number of days given for make-up work.
2. Students who have been absent are to check the posted assignment list and consult with a responsible peer upon their return to class. With permission, notes and other information may be shared quietly during journal-writing time. If you still have questions, I will be happy to answer your questions before or after school.
3. Theatre in class performances and projects are due for **all** students on the first day scheduled. When called upon, the student will perform to the best of his or her ability. **If unprepared, the next day a student will start with a grade of 80%. There will only be one late day given.** If you are absent on the day prior to the performance, you will still be expected to perform on the assigned due date.
4. Each calendar day that the assignment is late, will be a deduction of 10%. Keep in mind that this is not class periods, this is **calendar** days. You will need to find your teacher and physically turn it in to them, or submit it electronically. Please do not place anything on their desk or under a door.
5. Tests and projects are due for all students on the date scheduled, even those who are absent on the day prior to the due date. Please plan ahead.
6. I recommend that you obtain the phone number of 2 or 3 classmates that you may call to fill you in when you are absent. This class is very activity and discussion oriented, and what you miss will not be explained in any textbook. A friend can be a valuable resource.
7. Remember: always attempt to do the work or the performance, even if you aren't too sure of yourself. You never know what you can do until you try.
8. Extra Credit will be given for written critiques on any live performances you see. However, in order to receive extra credit, you must have completed **ALL REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES**. Proof of performance must be submitted with the critique—ticket, playbill, etc.

UIL Eligibility



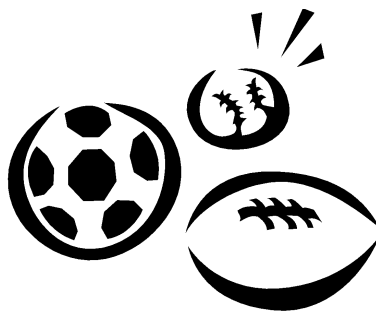
Theatre activities are governed by the policies of the Prosper Board of Trustees, Texas Education Agency, University Interscholastic League (UIL), and the individual schools (Prosper High School)

Texas Education Agency's "no pass/no play" rule governs all "extra-curricular" activities including any theatrical event that charges admission. This generally will encompass all after school theatrical events on campus with the exception of theatre class graded shows or any other admission free performance.

Students must earn a 70% or above in all classes including all Pre AP courses and electives to maintain eligibility status except courses listed in the official TEA guidelines. Other details concerning eligibility will be communicated regularly in class.

This means if a student is deemed "Ineligible" they can only attend a performance if they are a paying patron. These students can not be backstage offering support.

The class plays at the end of the year are a non-paying event and are considered part of the curriculum; therefore eligibility is not an issue with participation in this project. All theatre arts students are required to participate.



Thespian Honor Society

The International Thespian Society is an Honor Society for Theatre students. It is by invitation only through eligibility based on points. We are Troupe 6800.

The International Thespian Society is comprised of student elected officers. Within the society, the students organize and enjoy dances, parties and field trips aimed at improving the ensemble relationships within the theatre department. The troupe travels annually to the State Thespian Convention to participate in workshops, activities, and auditions for scholarships. If students qualify at the state level, they will be eligible to travel to the annual National convention in Nebraska during June.

Becoming a Thespian Society member is not difficult and once joined you are a member for life. To become a member, a student must earn 10 points (see the Thespian Point List) and pay a one time due of \$35.



Thespian Point System

	One Act	Full Length		One Act	Full Length
Acting			Video producer/director	3	4
Major role	4	8	Assistant vocal director	2	5
Minor role	3	5	Orchestra or band director	3	6
Walk-on	1	2	Assistant orchestra or band director	2	5
Chorus	1	3	Choreographer	4	7
Dancer	1	3	Assistant choreographer	3	5
Understudy	1	2			
Production			Writing		
Stage manager	4	8	Original play (produced)	5	8
Stage crew	2	4	Orig. radio script (prod.)	4	6
Lighting technician	3	6	Orig. TV script (prod.)	4	6
Lighting crew	2	3	Orig. play (unprod.)	1	2
Set designer	4	5	Orig. radio script (unprod.)	.5	1.5
Set construction crew	3	5	Orig. TV script (unprod.)	.5	1.5
Costumer	3	6			
Costume crew	2	5	Miscellaneous		
Properties manager	3	5	Oral interpretation		2
Properties crew	2	3	Duet acting scenes		2
Sound technician	3	5	Participation in theatre festival or contest		3
Sound crew	2	3	Attending a performance or festival		1
Video editor	1.5	2	Assembly program		1
Video crew	1.5	3	Haunted House	1 per two shifts	
Makeup manager	3	5			
Rehearsal prompter	2	4	Officers		
Pianist	3	6	President		6
Musicians	2	3	Vice president		
Business			4		
Business manager	4	6	Secretary		5
Business crew 2	4		Treasurer		4
Publicity manager	3	5	Clerk		4
Publicity crew	2	3			
Ticket manager	2	4	Website develop/maintenance		4
Ticket crew	1	3	Other		2
House manager	2	4			
House crew	1	2	Award	Total Points	
Ushers	1	2	Honor One star		30
Programs	1	3	Thespians Two stars		40
Program crew	1	2			
Directing					
Director	4	8			
Assistant director	3	6			
Vocal director	3	6			

Two Star Honor Thespians Letter in Theatre and can wear Honor cords at graduation.

The Official High School Thespian Point System is a publication of the International Thespian Society. ITS is a division of the Educational Theatre Association. For more information about EdTA and ITS programs for students and teachers, contact us at:

Voice: (513) 421-3900

Fax: (513) 421-7055

Website:
www.edta.org

EdTA/ITS
2343 Auburn Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-2815

Letter Sweaters

Students wishing to Letter in Theatre must actively enrolled in a theatre class and meet three of the following criteria:

- Be academically eligible.
- Be a member of the International Thespian Society.
- Have received a minimum of 60 points from the International Thespian Society.
- Be cast as an Actor, Technician or Alternate for UIL OAP
- Audition/Interview for a Production Class and be enrolled.

Once these areas have been met, students will be given an opportunity to purchase their Letter sweaters and can earn patches as they progress through the department (at the appropriate times of the year).



Safety

Please be aware that in Theatre as well as life, all things can happen. This being said, accidents can and do happen. Students (Tech and Actors) will be taking a safety test in class to assure their knowledge in and around the Theatre space as well as the use of tools available in the theatre. The students will be required to make a perfect score on the safety test before they will be allowed to work in the theatrical spaces.

However, in case an accident does occur, please complete the attached contact information as well as the release of all claims and medical release form. If something does happen, the student will be taken to the school clinic. The nurse on duty will make the best decision for care of your child and you will be contacted immediately.

We will do our best to keep your students safe and secure. Please understand that due to this safety training, the school, school district or its employees cannot be held liable for injuries.



Advanced Theatre Auditions

The following rules apply to everyone interested in being in an advanced theatre course:

- (1) Enrollment will require commitment and dedication in class, as well as some before-school, after-school, weekend and evening time.
- (2) Theatre is an activity that requires both ability and effort. A student's age, number of years of experience, or seniority have no impact on determining their placement. This is no different from other arts or sports groups.
- (3) Students will be expected to attend all shows throughout the school year. Work, a vacation, participation in other after-school activities, etc., WILL NOT be seen as an excused absence. *Out-of-school theatre events are part of the class grade.* Students will know at least two weeks in advance about all out-of-school commitments. A calendar for the entire year will be made available the first day of school.
- (4) Students who miss rehearsals or performances, fail to work in class, are disruptive in class or are habitually ineligible may be removed from the show and or course at the director's discretion.
- (5) Placement auditions will be conducted by the course appropriate Teacher. Students will audition for class placement at the end of each semester to be placed into one of three ability-based classes. Performance quality, academic eligibility, attendance, work ethic and student discipline are all factors in determining class placement each semester.
- (6) Students will be expected to fully adhere to the Theatre Handbook AND the Prosper Student handbook AND the PISD Code of Conduct, which will be issued to the students the first week of school. Violations of rules will be dealt with appropriately per PISD/PHS policy.

Questions or concerns can be directed to Mrs. Kirkley.

**YOU MUST AGREE TO THE RULES ABOVE BEFORE AUDITIONING TO BE IN AN
ADVANCED THEATRE COURSE.**

**The Following Forms must be returned
in order for you remain in your theatre class:**

Prosper Eagle Theatre Company Policy Agreement Form

If you plan to attend any field trips, we also need:

Release of All Claims Form