Orange Unified School District
THEATRE ARTS 8
Year Course

GRADE LEVEL: 8

PREREQUISITES: None

INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJECT:
Theatre Arts 8 is a year-long introduction to the world of theatre. Students develop and apply theatre skills through participation in works of theatre, study of theatre history, and investigation of careers in dramatic arts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

BY THE END OF THE COURSE THE STUDENT WILL BE ABLE TO:

Use the vocabulary of theatre.

Identify and analyze recurring themes, patterns, figurative language, and imagery in dramatic texts.

Develop theatre skills through the creation of short dramatizations and create character-based works of theatre.

Analyze and understand the role and significance of theatre in American history.

Describe how technology has changed American dramatic arts.

Review and critique works of theatre and theatre artists representing different cultures and time periods.

Use theatrical skills for cross-curricular presentations.

Investigate careers in the dramatic arts.

COURSE OVERVIEW AND APPROXIMATE UNIT TIME ALLOTMENTS:

UNIT			**WEEKS**

I.   Introduction   2/Ongoing
       A.   Use of Theatre Vocabulary
             1.   Actor
             2.   Acting areas
             3.   Actor's positions
             4.   Blocking
             5.   Body positions
             6.   Cold reading
             7.   Cue
             8.   Dialogue
             9.   Diction
             10.   Direction
             11.   Dress rehearsal
             12.   Gesture
             13.   Improvisation
             14.   Monologue
             15.   Motivation
             16.   Pacing
             17.   Projection
             18.   Prop
             18.   Proscenium
             19.   Rehearsal
             20.   Script
             21.   Sense memory
             22.   Subtext
             23.   Vocal quality
       B.   Overview theatre arts (types of theater such plays, movies,
           dramatic literature)

II.   Elements of a Play   9/Ongoing
       A.   Themes
       B.   Patterns
       C.   Figurative language
       D.   Imagery
       E.   Review of grade 7 structural elements of a play

WEEKS

III.   Performance Production   9/Ongoing
   A.   Characterization
   B.   Recording blocking
   C.   Rehearsal etiquette
   D.   Audience etiquette

IV.   American Theatre History   6/Ongoing
   A.   Development of the American character through theatrical
        expression
   B.   Technological advances in American dramatic arts

V.   Multi-cultural and Historical Influences   3
      on American Dramatic Arts

VI.   Production of Cross-Curricular Presentation   2-3/Ongoing

VII. Careers in the Dramatic Arts   3-4

DATE OF CONTENT REVISION: October 2001

DATE OF BOARD APPROVAL: February 14, 2002

Addendum
**THE CALIFORNIA CONTENT STANDARDS FOR THEATRE
GRADE 8**

**1.0   ARTISTIC PERCEPTION
Processing, Analyzing, and Responding to Sensory Information Through the
Language and Skills Unique to Theatre**

Students observe their environment and respond, using the elements of theatre. They
also observe formal and informal works of theatre, film/video, and electronic media
and respond, using the vocabulary of theatre.

Development of the Vocabulary of Theatre

1.1   Use the vocabulary of theatre, such as *ensemble, proscenium, thrust,* and *arena staging*, to describe theatrical experiences.

Comprehension and Analysis of the Elements of Theatre
1.2   Identify and analyze recurring themes and patterns (e.g., loyalty, bravery, revenge, redemption)in a script to make production choices in design and direction.

1.3   Analyze the use of figurative language and imagery in dramatic texts.

2.0   CREATIVE EXPRESSION
Creating, Performing, and Participating in Theatre

Students apply processes and skills in acting, directing, designing, and script writing to create formal and informal theatre, film/videos, and electronic media productions and to perform in them.

Development of Theatrical Skills
2.1   Create short dramatizations in selected styles of theatre, such as melodrama, vaudeville, and musical theatre.

Creation/Invention in Theatre
2.2   Perform character-based improvisations, pantomimes, or monologues, using voice, blocking, and gesture to enhance meaning.

3.0   HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT
Understanding the Historical Contributions and Cultural Dimensions of Theatre

Students analyze the role and development of theatre, film/video, and electronic media in past and present cultures throughout the world, noting diversity as it relates to theatre.

Role and Cultural Significance of Theatre
3.1   Describe the ways in which American history has been reflected in theatre (e.g., the ways in which the Industrial Revolution and slavery were portrayed in the minstrel show, the melodrama, and the musical).

History of Theatre
3.2   Identify and explain how technology has changed American theatre (e.g., how stage lighting has progressed from candlelight to gaslight to limelight to electrical light to digital light).

4.0   AESTHETIC VALUING

Responding to, Analyzing, and Critiquing Theatrical Experiences
Students critique and derive meaning from works of theatre, film/video, electronic media, and theatrical artists on the basis of aesthetic qualities.

Critical Assessment of Theatre
4.1   Develop criteria and write a formal review of a theatrical production.

Derivation of Meaning from Works of Theatre
4.2   Compare and contrast how works of theatre from different cultures or time periods convey the same or similar content or plot.

5.0   CONNECTIONS, RELATIONSHIPS, APPLICATIONS
Connecting and Applying What Is Learned in Theatre, Film/Video, and Electronic Media to Other Art Forms and Subject Areas and to Careers

Students apply what they learn in theatre, film/video, and electronic media across subject areas. They develop competencies and creative skills in problem solving, communication, and time management that contribute to lifelong learning and career skills. They also learn about careers in and related to theatre.

Connections and Applications
5.1   Use theatrical skills to present content or concepts in other subject areas, such as creating a video on cellular mitosis.

Careers and Career-Related Skills
5.2   Identify career options in the dramatic arts, such as cinematographer, stage manager, radio announcer, or dramaturg, and research the education, training, and work experience necessary in that field.