

**Fair Lawn School District**

**American Musical  
Theatre**

**Curriculum Guide**

**2012**

Theatre is an art form concerned with the representation of people in time and space, their actions, and the consequences of their actions. Theatre education expands the ability to understand others and communicate through music, language and action, and provides a unique opportunity for integrating the arts, linking dance, music, and visual arts elements in performance and production. Theatre includes acting, singing, improvisation, storytelling, mime, playmaking and playwriting, directing, management, design and technical theatre.

<p>Essential Questions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the “big idea” about musical theatre?</li> <li>2. How does creating and performing in the musical theatre differ from other performance arts?</li> <li>3. How do performance arts, such as dance, vocal performance and acting contribute to a successful musical theatre piece?</li> <li>4. How can an appreciation for the arts contribute to my participation in culture?</li> <li>5. How has musical theatre been influenced by the social, political and cultural context of its time?</li> <li>6. How can musical theatre’s themes connect to my own life?</li> <li>7. How are behaviors and themes particular to the world of musical theatre connected to understanding our larger world?</li> </ol>
<p>Objectives</p>	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• demonstrate and fulfill personal responsibilities in a musical theatre production.</li> <li>• use vocabulary to define and analyze musical theatre</li> <li>• list and define selected aspects of musical theatre</li> <li>• use appropriate vocabulary for musical theatre in class, rehearsal and performance.</li> <li>• identify dramatic elements and apply dramatic elements in musical theatre.</li> <li>• identify and apply the basic elements of musical theatre.</li> <li>• identify and explain the basic elements of dance as applied to music theatre.</li> <li>• identify and explain the role of the director, technical designers, conductor, musical director and choreographer as applied to musical theatre.</li> <li>• explain the purposes and the expectations of accompanist and orchestra members.</li> <li>• analyze and explain the role of the technician and producer in musical theatre.</li> <li>• identify the productions of major playwrights, lyricists and composers.</li> <li>• identify and demonstrate correct vocal techniques for musical theatre.</li> <li>• identify and discriminate among soprano, alto, tenor and bass vocal lines.</li> <li>• perform a musical presentation as a soloist, in a duet, or in an ensemble.</li> <li>• identify and explain the specific technical requirements needed for a musical theatre presentation.</li> <li>• recognize and utilize the vocal elements to create a character for musical theatre.</li> <li>• effectively use the nine areas of a state for a musical presentation.</li> <li>• identify and use appropriate musical theatre dance preparations and performance techniques.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• assess and explain discipline, knowledge, skills and education required for career preparation in musical theatre.</li> <li>• discuss the role and responsibility of the audience as an integral part of musical theatre.</li> <li>• analyze and explain theatre, music and dance from other cultures.</li> <li>• define and apply cultural and social elements to coordinate with dance, musical and theatrical style of musical theatre.</li> <li>• investigate and report musical theatre styles and trends throughout history in a social and cultural context.</li> </ul>
NJ CCCS	<p>1.1.12.C.1 Theatre and the arts play a significant role in human history and culture.</p> <p>1.1.12.C.2 Characters have physical, emotional, and social dimensions that can be communicated through the application of acting techniques</p> <p>1.1.12.C.3 Theatre production is an art, but it is also a science requiring knowledge of safety procedures, materials, technology, and construction techniques</p> <p>1.2.12.A.1 Cultural and historical events impact art-making as well as how audiences respond to works of art.</p> <p>1.2.12.A.2 Access to the arts has a positive influence on the quality of an individual’s lifelong learning, personal expression, and contributions to community and global citizenship.</p> <p>1.3.12.C.1 Effective scripted and improvisational performances require informed, supported, and sustained choices by actors, directors, and designers. Theatre genres are created by combining complex narrative structures, technical theatrical elements, and thematic intent.</p> <p>1.3.12.C.2 Presentation of believable, multidimensional characters in scripted and improvised performances requires application of specific physical choices, sustained vocal technique, and clearly motivated actions.</p> <p>1.4.12.A.1 Recognition of fundamental elements within various arts disciplines (dance, music, theatre, and visual art) is dependent on the ability to decipher cultural implications embedded in artworks.</p> <p>1.4.12.A.2 Contextual clues within artworks often reveal artistic intent, enabling the viewer to hypothesize the artist’s concept.</p> <p>1.4.12.A.3 Artistic styles, trends, movements, and historical responses to various genres of art evolve over time.</p> <p>1.4.12.A.4 Criteria for assessing the historical significance, craftsmanship, cultural context, and originality of art are often expressed in qualitative, discipline-specific arts terminology.</p> <p>1.4.12.B.1 Archetypal subject matter exists in all cultures and is embodied in the formal and informal aspects of art.</p> <p>1.4.12.B.2 The cohesiveness of a work of art and its ability to communicate a theme or narrative can be directly affected by the artist’s technical proficiency as well as by the manner and physical context in which it is performed or shown.</p> <p>1.4.12.B.3 Art and art-making reflect and affect the role of technology in a global society.</p>
Assessments/ Benchmarks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Class Participation</li> <li>2. Observation</li> <li>3. Discussion</li> <li>4. Performances</li> <li>5. Performance assessment rubrics</li> <li>6. Reflective writings</li> <li>7. Quizzes/Tests</li> </ol>

	8. Critique
Resources	<p>Texts : <u>The Musical: A Look at the American Musical Theatre</u>, by Richard Kislak  <u>Broadway Musicals Show by Show</u>, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. by Stanley Green</p> <p>Supplemental Materials:  Broadway, The American Musical, by Michael Kantor &amp; Laurence Maslon  Broadway Musicals: The Greatest Shows of All Time, by Ken Bloom &amp; Frank Vlastnik  The American Musical: History &amp; Development, by Peter Riddle  Enchanted Evenings: The Broadway Musical from Showboat to Sondheim, by Geoffrey Block  Numerous DVDs, CDs, and Videos</p> <p>Websites:    <a href="http://www.pbs.org/wnet/broadway/resources.html">www.pbs.org/wnet/broadway/resources.html</a> - Broadway, The American Musical  <a href="http://www.musicals101.com">www.musicals101.com</a> – Fantastic! The Cyber Encyclopedia of Musicals  <a href="http://www.americantheatrewing.org">www.americantheatrewing.org</a> – American Theatre Wing  <a href="http://www.playbill.com/index.php">www.playbill.com/index.php</a> - Playbill's home page  <a href="http://www.nytheatre.com/index.htm">www.nytheatre.com/index.htm</a> - New York theatre  <a href="http://www.reallyuseful.com/rug">www.reallyuseful.com/rug</a> - Andrew Lloyd Webber's site  <a href="http://libretto.musicals.ru/index.php?language=1">http://libretto.musicals.ru/index.php?language=1</a> – librettos for most Broadway musicals</p>