

# Freshman Summer Packet



Ms. Dones

Dear Freshmen,

Welcome to the Drama Department! We have a lot to cover within your four years, and each year you will be required to complete summer assignments. This packet will explain your assignment for this summer, which is due to me on the first day of school. If you have any questions, you can email me at [edones@nps.k12.nj.us](mailto:edones@nps.k12.nj.us)

Looking forward to a great year!

Ms. Dones

Assignments:

1. **1-2 page paper – Why did you choose drama?** Introduce yourself to me and explain what excites you about drama, and about life in general. What does it mean to be an actor? Describe the goals you have for yourself. Be yourself!
2. **Memorize the monologue** attached and be ready to perform it as best as you can. Do your best to know what it means, too.
3. **What does the monologue mean to you?** Write a paragraph that explains what the monologue means to YOU personally. I want to read YOUR OPINION, not what google or somebody else says. Let me see how you think and understand.
4. **Create a poster** that provides what you think are the important rules/guidelines for a great drama class and an effective rehearsal. Think about what is expected of you and of the teacher during class/rehearsal. Be creative and remember that drama should be safe, fun, and stimulating!

What we will cover in Freshman Year:

**Theatre History:**

Ancient Theatre (Greece, Rome, Asia)  
Medieval and Renaissance Theatre  
Traditions and Trends

**Reading Plays:**

How to read a script  
Plays from historical time periods  
Theatre Genres

**Performing:**

How to rehearse  
Skill building  
Ensemble building  
Public speaking vs acting  
What is acting?  
Building confidence  
Getting comfortable on stage  
Taking risks  
Memorization  
Expression  
Gesture  
Critical thinking as an actor  
Listening, focus, observation  
Using voice, body and imagination  
What to look for and strive for in performance  
The job of the actor  
Character development  
Story development  
Pantomime  
Movement  
Monologues and Scene work

We will also write theatrical reviews on shows we see.

## Monologue to memorize –“THEATRE”

*Theatre is a safe place to do the unsafe things that need to be done. When it's not a safe place, it's abusive to actors and audiences alike. When its safety is used to protect cowards masquerading as heroes, it's a boring travesty. An actor who is truly heroic reveals the divine that passes through him, that aspect of himself that he does not own and cannot control. The control and the artistry of the heroic actor is in service to his soul.*

*We live in an era of enormous cynicism. Do not be fooled.*

*Don't act for money. You'll start to feel dead and bitter.*

*Don't act for glory. You'll start to feel dead, fat, and fearful.*

*We live in an era of enormous cynicism. Do not be fooled.*

*You can't avoid all the pitfalls. There are lies you must tell. But experience the lie. See it as something dead and unconnected you clutch. And let it go.*

*Act from the depth of your feeling imagination. Act for celebration, for search, for grieving, for worship, to express that desolate sensation of wandering through the howling wilderness.*

*Don't worry about Art.*

*Do these things, and it will be Art.*

*~John Patrick Shanley*