



NISD THEATRE

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Newsletter for NISD Fine Arts Theatre Teachers



Letter from the Fine Arts Director

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These are exciting times in the history of Northside ISD and especially for the Department of Fine Arts. The large number of new campuses, strong fiscal support for fine arts, and the additional fine arts instructors being hired to support and build programs are all reasons to join the NISD fine arts family. While we experience this growth and expansion, the single most important constant and high student / program success is the creative skill that our fine arts teachers possess in adapting and modifying to the situation at hand. Be encouraged to keep your campus fine arts program highly visible and connected in a meaningful way to each discipline of study provided on your campus. The content enclosed in this manual is reflective of the district office fine arts staff that works to serve each of you daily. Best wishes as you pursue tapping the artistic talent, passion, and potential of students enrolled in Northside schools.



Getting Started

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lopez (Supervisor Theatre/Dance)

Welcome back to what I see as an exciting school year ahead for all of us here at Northside. As I've said before, I know you are the best in the industry, and you are dedicated to continue to improve the level of teaching you provide to your students on a day to day basis by going above and beyond to offer a unique personal touch to the needs of our theater students. This year we will go one step further by reaching out to our fellow theatre teachers. Our motto this year, "**Sharing is Learning**".

Therefore the information included in the notebook, provided for you, is just the beginning. It is offered as a guide to our Northside Independent School District Fine Arts Theatre teachers to help increase student achievement. This guide is also a **work in progress**, therefore, we will examine and modify as needed throughout the year. As always, you are encouraged to use your own initiative and originality in supplementing the material provided.

I would like to contribute to your successes by continuing to provide you with the tools, information or even collaborating with you on any staff developments you may want to present this coming year. I invite you to contact me at any time. Once again welcome back, keep up the good work and as always, I wish you continued success.

*"All great art is the work
of the whole living
creature, body and soul,
and chiefly of the soul."*

-John Ruskin

Theatre Terms and What They Mean

In is down, down is front

Out is up, up is back

Off is out, on is in,

And of course,

Right is left, left is right.

A drop shouldn't and a

Block and fall does neither.

A prop doesn't and

A cove has no water.

Tripping is OK.

A running crew rarely gets anywhere.

A purchase line will buy you nothing.

A trap will not catch anything.

A gridiron has nothing to do with football.

Strike is work. (In fact, lots of work)

And a green room, thank God, usually isn't.

Now that you're fully versed in theatrical terms,

Break a leg - but not really!

The Cast

Meet our NISD Fine Arts Theatre Teachers

We welcome all of our returning and new theatre teachers back to another fun-filled school year.

Here is a peek at our newest talent.

Brandeis HS - Kyle Andrews (Asst. Theatre Teacher)

Clark HS - Joseph Lopez (Asst. Theatre Teacher)

Neff MS - Vanessa Eichler (Theatre Teacher)

John Jay HS - Sunni Crumline (Theatre Teacher)

John Jay HS - Anthony Tejeda (Asst. Theatre Teacher)

O'Connor HS- Amanda Lawrence (Theatre Teacher)

Rudder MS - John Smith (Theatre Teacher)

Taft HS - Michael Burger (Asst. Theatre Teacher)

Here are the newest changes in the district.

Brandeis HS - Mandy Muniz (Theatre Teacher)

Warren HS - David Nanny (Theatre Teacher)

Warren HS- Cody Eoff (Asst. Theatre Teacher)

Jordan MS - Amy McFalane (Theatre Teacher)

Vale MS - Margaret Sgarlata (Theatre Teacher)

Future Agenda

Continuing to build a program is a group effort. It is no easy task and often takes time and energy, but in the end all of our students will benefit. Therefore, mark your calendars for our following meetings and don't forget to bring your notebooks. Please make every effort to attend, you don't want to miss out on vital information.

Elementary

August In-Service "Children's Theatre-Overview of Creative Dramatics."

Middle School

August In-Service "Movement Made Easy" by Jose DeHoyos

October 10 "District Initiative-MS Festival"

November 7 "MS Theatre Swap Shop"

February 13 "Suggested Activities in MS Theatre- A Closer Look"

High School

August In-Service "After the Fall" by Mandy Muniz

September 29 "Theatre in Action"

November 10 "Tech Theatre Swap Shop"

February 2 "MS Festival – Theatre Judges Training"

April 13 "District Initiatives – "Tekkies on Tour" and "Publicity 101"

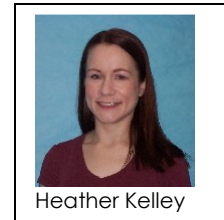
Newsletter Collaboration

Our newsletter will be created by teachers for teachers. It will be sent via-email four times a year. Sign up with your supervisor to be part of the newsletter staff TODAY.

In the Spotlight

Heather Kelley - Creative Dramatics Teacher (Galm Elementary)

Heather Kelley is the Theatre Arts teacher at Galm Elementary School. She has studied acting at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Hollywood, CA, and at the University of the Incarnate Word, where she also earned a B.A. in Music and an M.A. in Teaching. She began her teaching career with NISD in 2004 at McDermott Elementary, where she taught Creative Drama for two years before transferring to Galm. She thoroughly enjoys working with young children because of their natural creativity, playfulness, and curiosity.



Heather Kelley

Ms. Kelley is a professional singer and actress who continues to appear frequently in various theatrical productions around San Antonio, including several at the San Pedro Playhouse. In 2007 she won an ATAC Globe Award for her work in *Brigadoon* (Fiona MacLaren.) Most recently, she played Emily Arnott in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *State Fair* and was in the Cellar Theatre production of *The Women* as Jane/Exercise Instructress/et al. Other favorite roles include Rose Arnott in *Enchanted April* and Julie Jordan in *Carousel*. Ms. Kelley is a former member of the Magik Children's Theatre Company where she appeared in over a dozen productions, including *James and the Giant Peach* (Spider), *Willy Wonka* (Mrs. Teevee), and *Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs* (The Teacher).

"Genuine poetry can communicate before it is understood."

– T.S. Eliot

Curtain Call - "Current and Future District Initiatives"

Future Performances / Lectures / Demonstrations

One of the greatest pleasures about working at Northside is to be able to offer our students the opportunity to showcase their talents outside of the campus as well as allow for time to meet and learn from others in their area of theatre.

UIL Middle School Festival - Our second annual District Middle School Festival has been set for Saturday, February 7 at Warren HS.

Summer Theatre Camps - Two week camps presented at various elementary and secondary schools.

UIL One-Act Competition - Holmes HS will be the host this year to what is sure to be NISD best theatre competition ever. "On To State!"

Close to the Artist - NISD will have the opportunity to bring in local theatre artists to give workshops on various theatre topics.

NISD Theatre Conference - MS and HS students would attend an all day conference. They would take workshops, attend lectures and exhibits about the world of Theatre.

"ABC's of Theatre" The Musical - Created and written by middle school teachers, the show will teach elementary students the ABC's of Musical Theatre. Middle school theatre groups will be presenting to feeder elementary campuses.

One-Acts in the Making - Senior students in high school will have the opportunity to have their One-Acts Plays reviewed and critiqued by some of San Antonio's finest theatre directors.

Tekkies on Tour - High School Tech students will be traveling to feeder middle schools to give workshops on costuming, make up, set construction, etc.

One Huge Summer Musical - Various High Schools will team up over the summer and present joint musicals.

Other: Performances throughout the year at **each individual campus.**

Theatre Lesson **Statue Game** (Submitted by Heather Kelley)

Objectives: *Imitative/Expressive Movement, Risk Taking, Self Control, Concentration*

1. Students spread out in playing space and pretend to be statues by freezing in interesting poses.
2. The teacher walks around among the statues, pretending to be the museum's security guard.
3. Statues try to trick the guard by changing poses as often as possible without getting caught.
4. If the guard sees a statue moving, the guard says "I saw you move." The player who was caught must go and sit in the audience area.
5. The game continues until all statues are out or until time is up.

Materials:
NONE

Helpful Hints/Safety Rules:

- No one may touch another statue at any time.
- No arguing with the guard.
- Being brave and moving a lot makes someone a winner at this game. **It doesn't matter who is the last statue standing.**
- Interesting poses should be encouraged and recognized whenever possible. Encourage different levels (high, middle, low), facial expressions, unusual body positions, etc.
- Students who are out should watch the remaining statues and observe who is being brave and who is posing in an interesting way. They are allowed to whisper to each other about what they see happening in the game, but loud talking is not allowed. They should also remember to sit and not to wander around or disturb others.

Variations:

- For an added challenge, call on students to share ideas for a special kind of museum. Choose one you think is interesting or seems popular. All poses then have to fit in with the kind of museum chosen.
- Sometimes I let a student take a turn as the guard. Make sure that any student who is the guard understands that he/she must really see a statue moving for them to get someone out. (Just noticing that the statue changed poses does not count.) **STATUES MAY NOT ARGUE WITH THE GUARD!!**



NISD Theatre
Fine Arts Theatre Department Newsletter
Fine Arts Department
 5651 Grissom Road
 San Antonio, Texas 78251

Phone:
 (210) 397-8814

Fax:
 (210) 706-7260

E-mail your submission to:
 Elizabeth.Sanchez-Lopez@nisd.net

"The theatre teacher not only sets up the situation and suggests the material to be explored, but through suggestion and questions opens up a world of possibilities to be experienced by the child.

.... The teacher therefore acts as guide rather than director." –J. Russell
