Musical Theatre

*New Course Proposal*

School: Laramie High School Department: Music

Grade levels: 10-11-12 Prerequisite: None

Status: Elective

Projected class size: 15-25 Projected number of sections: One

Rationale for proposed course –

* What are the direct needs of the students?
  + Currently there is not a class offered in which the fundamentals of Musical Theatre (singing, acting, dancing/choreography/movement, directing, designing, and producing) are being taught. Also, LHS does not produce a musical production on a regular basis.
* Who are the target students?
  + There are many sorts of students who would benefit from this type of course – students who like to sing, but are not interested in choir classes; students who don’t want to participate in Drama club, but are interested in Musical Theatre; students who are looking for other avenues to pursue their talents; students who are in choir but also want to participate in musicals; students in Drama club that are looking for additional performance opportunities; students who are looking for a place to discover and develop their talents in a safe environment and atmosphere.
* How will students benefit?
  + Laramie High School’s Mission Statement is*: Laramie Senior High School prepares and empowers all students for success in an ever-changing world through a balanced offering of challenging, high quality educational opportunities.*
  + This course will **prepare** and **empower** students by:
    - Students will gain self-confidence in themselves
    - Students will work collaboratively on many class projects – including a musical production
    - Students will gain musical, theatrical and dance/movement skills
    - Students will experience the many aspects of both on-stage and back-stage production work, including: costume & make-up design, set design, producing (budgeting), publicity, public relations, etc.
    - Students will understand that connections that exist between art, music, dance, drama and culture in a historical and cultural context
  + This course will be challenging and high quality by:
    - Using all of the multiple intelligences that students possess; give them opportunities to be creative in their choices; regularly using all types of learning as outlined in Bloom’s taxonomy; a variety of musical theatre styles will be studied, mastered, and performed for this course.
* Reason course should be considered?
  + As stated previously, LHS does not produce a large scale musical production on a regular basis. Students are eager to do more with the talents that they have. Students have a desire to develop more talents and to learn more things related to Musical Theatre.

***Musical Theatre Course Description and Objectives:***

This course is for the student that is interested in Musical Theatre – both on stage and “behind the scenes”. Students will have the opportunity to rehearse, perform, direct, and choreograph/stage various scenes and shows from the Broadway genre. All students are expected to both perform and direct/produce. Performances will be both in-class and “main-stage” productions. **Performances are required for all students.**

* Students will obtain training and skills associated with Musical Theatre: singing, acting and movement/choreography, and use correct terminology and vocabulary in written and oral discussion.
* Students will achieve understanding of the historical, creative, artistic, and aesthetic aspects of musical theatre in relationship to American History.
* Students will gain knowledge and understanding of the social and cultural impact of the musical theatre art form on society and culture.
* Students will achieve a professional and personal understanding of the arts through rehearsals, auditions, performances and presentations (both written and aural).

**Musical Theatre Standards & Benchmarks; Assessment Methods**

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| Strand 1 – Artistic Skills and Knowledge: *Creating, Performing, Producing* | | | |
| **Content Standard** | **Topic** | **Concept** | **Objective & Evaluation** |
| 1. Demonstrates and applies personal responsibility standards in all aspects of Musical Theatre | Artistic Discipline | Personal responsibility and teamwork | The student will demonstrate and fulfill personal responsibilities in a Musical Theatre production. |
| 1. Develops and analyzes definitions of musical theatre, theatre, and music | Definition of terms | Vocabulary | The student will use vocabulary to define and analyze musical theatre terminology |
| 1. Lists and defines aspects of musical theatre including music, dance, song, story, and design. | Definition of terms | Vocabulary | The student will list and define selected aspects of musical theatre |
| 1. Identifies and uses appropriate music, theatre, and musical theatre vocabulary and terms in class, rehearsals, and performances | Theatre terms | Vocabulary and Artistic Discipline | The student will use appropriate vocabulary for musical theatre in class, rehearsals and in performance. |
| 1. Identifies and applies the dramatic elements *(plot, theme, character, language, spectacle* and *music)* | Definition of terms | Dramatic Elements | The student will identify and apply dramatic elements as applied to Musical Theatre. |
| 1. Identifies and applies the basic elements of music *(melody, expression, harmony, rhythm,* and *timbre)* | Definition of terms | Musical Elements | The student will identify and apply the basic elements of music as applied to Musical Theatre. |
| 1. Identifies and explains the basic elements of dance as applied to musical theatre | Definition of terms | Dance Elements | The student will identify and explain the basic elements of dance as applied to Musical Theatre |
| 1. Identifies and explains the role of director, technical designers, conductor, musical director and choreographer as applied to Musical Theatre. | Technical Theatre | Careers in Musical Theatre | The student will identify and explain the role of director, technical designers, conductor, musical director and choreographer as applied to Musical Theatre. |
| 1. Analyzes the role of the accompanist and orchestra/band musician in Musical Theatre | Musical Direction | Theatre Instrumentalists | The student will explain the purposes and expectations of accompanist and orchestra members |
| 1. Comprehends and analyzes the role of the technician/producer in musical theatre | Technical Theatre | Theatre Tech for Musicals | The student will analyze and explain the role of the technician/producer and manager in Musical Theatre |
| 1. Identifies works of musical theatre and their creators | Musical Structure | Literature of Musical Theatre | The student will identify the productions of major playwrights, lyricists, and composers. |
| 1. Analyzes the function of composer, lyricist, and “book” writer in musical theatre | Musical Structure | Writers of Musical Theatre | The student will explain the function of the composer, lyricist, and “book” writer in musical theatre. |
| 1. Identifies and demonstrates correct vocal production *(singing techniques including: support, tonality, diction, blending, posture and projection)* as applied to Musical Theatre | Vocal Production (Singing) |  | The student will identify and demonstrate correct vocal techniques for Musical Theatre. |
| 1. Identifies and discriminates soprano, alto, tenor and bass vocal lines | Musical Structure |  | The student will identify and discriminate among soprano, alto, tenor and bass vocal lines as applied to Musical Theatre. |
| 1. Performs successfully in vocal (singing) presentation either as a solo, in a duet, or ensemble. | Vocal Presentation | Performance | The student will perform a musical presentation as a soloist, in a duet, or in an ensemble. |
| 1. Lists and explains areas of technical production as applied to Musical Theatre | Technical Theatre |  | The student will identify and explain the specific technical requirements needed for a musical theatre presentation. |
| 1. Evaluates the elements of technical theatre and design and their effects on actors, directors, and musicians. | Technical Theatre |  | The student will discuss the effects technical and design elements have on actors, directors, and musicians. |
| 1. Applies collaborative skills in musical theatre activities and productions | Acting | Sensory Awareness | The student will collaborate with others in musical theatre presentations or activities |
| 1. Recalls and uses past emotional and sensory experiences to create a character in musical theatre activities | Acting | Sensory Awareness | The student will create a character for musical theatre based on past emotions and sensory experiences |
| 1. Applies observation, movement, and imagination to create a character in musical theatre activities | Acting | Sensory Awareness | The student will create a character for musical theatre based on observation, movement and imagination. |
| 1. Applies movement techniques for character in musical theatre activities and performances | Acting | Body Characterization | The student will utilize movement techniques to develop a character. |
| 1. Identifies and applies appropriate vocal (acting) techniques of pitch, rate, articulation, volume, intensity, projection, and support to create a character in musical theatre | Acting | Vocal Production (Speaking) | The student will recognize and utilize the vocal (acting) elements to create a character for musical theatre. |
| 1. Creates a character based on social and emotional dimensions found in musical theatre, particularly in tune with classical musical theatre (e.g., the romantic lead) | Acting | Character Development | The student will develop a character for musical theatre based on the social and emotional dimensions of musical theatre characters. |
| 1. Uses stage areas effectively in blocking and in accepting direction in musical theatre. | Acting | Stage Movement | The student will effectively use the nine areas of a stage for a musical theatre presentation. |
| 1. Identifies and practices appropriate dance preparation and performance techniques as applied to musical theatre | Acting | Body Movement | The student will identify and use appropriate musical theatre dance preparations and performance techniques. |
| 1. Comprehends and analyzes dramatic texts as basis for musical theatre presentation | Acting | Textual Analysis | The student will analyze dramatic texts as basis for musical theatre presentations. |
| 1. Assesses and explains discipline, knowledge, skills, and education required for career preparation in musical theatre | Careers |  | The student will assess and explain discipline, skills, and education required for career preparation in musical theatre. |
| 1. Locates and uses available resources for musical theatre activities and performances | Research and Resources |  | The student will identify and use available resources for the production of musical theatre. |

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| Strand 2 – Connections | | | |
| **Content Standard** | **Topic** | **Concept** | **Objective & Evaluation** |
| 1. Analyzes and explains similar themes, content, and elements among other art forms and musical theatre | Other Arts |  | The student will analyze and explain similar, themes, content, and elements among other art forms and musical theatre. |
| 1. Uses elements of other academic disciplines to create musical theatre | Other Areas |  | The student will utilize other academic disciplines to create a musical theatre presentation. |
| 1. Uses existing technology equipment and resources for musical theatre activities and performances | Technology |  | The student will use existing technology equipment and resources for musical theatre activities and performances. |

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| Strand 3 – Critical Analysis and Aesthetic Understanding | | | |
| **Content Standard** | **Topic** | **Concept** | **Objective & Evaluation** |
| 1. Recognizes the role and responsibilities of the audience as an integral part of musical theatre | Audience |  | The student will discuss the role and responsibility of the audience as an integral part of musical theatre. |

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| Strand 4 – Historical and Cultural Context | | | |
| **Content Standard** | **Topic** | **Concept** | **Objective & Evaluation** |
| 1. Identifies and reports on styles and terms of theatre, music, and dance as applied to musical theatre | Historical, Cultural, and Social Context | Styles and Themes of Musical Theatre | The student will identify and report on styles and themes of theatre, music, and dance as applied to musical theatre. |
| 1. Analyzes and explains music, theatre, and dance from other cultures | Historical, Cultural, and Social Context | Other Cultures | The student will analyze and explain theatre, music, and dance from other cultures. |
| 1. Recognizes and explains the influences of heritage, culture, and historical periods on musical theatre styles. | Heritage and Culture | Influences | The student will recognize and explain the influence of heritage, culture, and historical periods on musical theatre styles. |
| 1. Defines and applies cultural and social elements to coordinate with dance, musical, and theatrical style of musical theatre. |  |  | The student will define and apply cultural and social elements to coordinate with dance, musical, and theatrical style of musical theatre. |
| 1. Investigates and reports musical theatre styles and trends throughout history in a social and cultural context. |  | Styles and Trends | The student will investigate and report musical theatre styles and trends throughout history in a social and cultural context. |