

## **Recommended Materials and Facilities for Learning-Theatre**

In order to provide the best environment for optimal function in a theatre classroom, both Physical Resources and Instructional Time will help provide teachers and students with a quality experience to engage in dramatic curriculum.

The following recommendations and measures should be taken into consideration for a theatre program:

### **Physical Resources**

Since theatre is a process of exploration and physical activity, each theatre classroom should be:

- ) Spacious, clear of objects, clean and dedicated specifically to theatre use only.
- ) Portable seating and tables should be an option to use for scene work, for students to use as an audience and when students are required to do written assignments and reflections.
- ) Access to scripts, videos, theatre artifacts and a collection of costumes and prop pieces to use during class instruction.
- ) Media or CD player, a computer with internet access and a video monitor/DVD player.
- ) Large enough space to use for a live performance with ample space for audience members to attend. Ideally, a school would have a theatre or auditorium with access to appropriate sound and lighting equipment, stage curtains, off stage areas and technical elements such as a fly-system.
- ) The theatre should have a safe and adequate storage area for costumes, scenery, props and lighting equipment.
- ) If a school has a technical theatre program it is advised to have a well-maintained, safe and spacious carpentry shop.

### **Instructional Time**

- ) Instructional time should vary depending on age group and focus on the schools purpose of their theatre program.
- ) For children in K-5, students should take theatre class for one period, approximately forty-five minutes, per week throughout the entire school year.
- ) Students in middle school who choose a theatre elective should take two to three theatre classes per week and should be offered an after school drama program to either perform live theatre or to continue to work on their skills.
- ) Students in high school who choose a theatre elective should take three to five theatre classes per week depending on the focus on the school.
- ) A more serious program that seeks to prepare students for an option of continued study past their high school experience should have a double period three days a week for the entire school year.
- ) If the purpose of the program is to expose students to theatre then a half-year course would be suitable to meet those needs.
- ) High school students should also be offered an after school theatre program to rehearse for a performance.

Schools should also take into consideration that the theatre teacher can be an excellent resource for integration with academic classroom curriculum, specifically with elementary and

middle school students, as young children may be more engaged when learning through exploration and play. Theatre teachers can work with grade level teams, or can provide professional development to assist teachers with using dramatic curriculum inside their classrooms.