



Harrington High School

of Lower Merion School District



Introducing:

IB Theatre



(To be read in consultation with the IB Program description available [here](#))

As of the 2014-2015 school year, IB Theatre will be offered as an additional course in Lower Merion School District's IB Program. IB Theatre will join Visual Arts, Music, Psychology, Economics and a second science as options to satisfy group 6 of the IB Diploma. Like Visual Arts, Music, Psychology, and Economics, once fully implemented, Theatre will be available to all juniors and seniors, whether they are in the IB Diploma Program or not.

The addition of Theatre is a major enhancement to our IB Diploma Program. Because work in Harrington Theatre Company (HTC) can be used for partial fulfillment of one of an IB student's six classes instead of being in addition to six IB classes, HTC students should find it easier to balance HTC and IB obligations, and students who have opted not to pursue IB for fear of the combined time commitment can be more confident in their ability to engage in both HTC activities and the IB Diploma Program.

Ultimately, IB Theatre will be offered at the standard level (SL) for one year and at the higher level (HL) for two years. However, our introduction of this course to our program coincides with IB's revision of the Theatre curriculum, which creates some complexities. Therefore, our projected timeline is:

- 2014-2015: IB Theatre HL (part 1) is offered.
- 2015-2016: IB Theatre HL (part 2) is offered for students who began the course in the previous year.
IB Theatre SL is offered for the first time as a single-year course

Consequently, the only IB Theatre course available next year is the 2-year higher level course for current sophomores.

Any Harrington student interested in learning more about this course should sign up for Mr. O'Brien's RAM ("IB Discussions" under "other") on Monday, January 27. Students who do not attend Harrington should contact Mr. O'Brien via email (obrient@lmsd.org) for further details.

Any sophomore who is interested in pursuing the IB Diploma Program as a result of the addition of this course should email Mr. O'Brien (obrient@lmsd.org) or stop by his office. An extension to the application deadline is available as a result of this enhancement to the program.

The IB Theatre course consists of a multifaceted curriculum that engages students in the processes of creating, researching, presenting and critically reflecting on theatre as participants and audience members. Through the study of theatre, students become aware of their own personal and cultural perspectives, developing an appreciation of the diversity of theatre

practices and their processes. The course promotes international mindedness and enables students to discover and engage with different forms of theatre across time, place, and culture. The theatre core syllabus at HL and SL will consist of three interrelated areas: Theatre in Context, which explores the various contexts of theatre and how they inform practice; Theatre Processes, in which students engage in the processes of transforming ideas into action; and Presenting Theatre, where students develop and apply theatre production, presentation and performance skills, working both independently and collaboratively. Assessment pieces include examining a play text, creating original theatre, and exploring performance practices from around the world.

The following graphic summarizes the curriculum of IB Theatre SL and HL, excerpted from *Theatre curriculum review: third report to teachers* (January 2013):

The Theatre Curriculum at a Glance

As part of the core syllabus, students will be expected to: [as Director, Designer, Actor and Spectator]			
Syllabus Component	<u>Theatre in Context</u>	<u>Theatre Processes</u>	<u>Presenting Theatre</u>
<i>Examining a Play text</i>	Research and examine the theoretical/cultural/personal context of at least 1 play.	Examine at least 1 play text through practical work.	Take part in the production of a play text to an audience.
<i>Creating Original Theatre</i>	Research at least 1 starting point and explore it through practical work.	Respond to at least 1 stimuli and engage with the process of making an original theatre piece.	Take part in the production of an original piece to an audience.
<i>Exploring Performance Practices from around the world</i>	Research and examine the theoretical/cultural/personal context of at least 2 contrasting performance practices from around the world.	Examine at least 2 contrasting performance practices from around the world through practical work.	Take part in a practical presentation of 1 theatre practice to others.
<i>HL only Theatre Theory in Practice</i>	Research and examine the theoretical/cultural/personal context of at least 1 unfamiliar theatre theorist.	Study the process of practically exploring theatre theory and applying it to performance work.	Take part in a practical solo performance of a piece of work inspired by the theories of others.
<i>Theatre Journal</i>	Keep a theatre journal which charts their development through the course and their experiences of theatre as a director, performer, designer and spectator (SL&HL).		

We are excited by the addition of this new course to our program, and we look forward to the opportunities it presents to all of our students.

Further information about IB is available [here](#) or by contacting Mr. O'Brien, LMSD's IB Coordinator, at 610-658-3958 or via email at obrient@lmsd.org.