

Creative Drama Welcome Letter

Dear Creative Drama Parents and Kids:

We are very excited about this new class, and the opportunity it will give us to share our love of theater with you this coming semester! Through this letter, we would first like to introduce ourselves, and then give you a better idea of not only what we will be doing in Creative Drama, but also a few reasons as to why we think the study of drama is so important.

I am a former CCA preschool teacher, currently enjoying my 8th year as a homeschool mom. I have been performing in musicals and plays, off and on, for the last 30 years. My most recent and probably most favorite role was that of Golde, wife of Tevye, in the Chapel Hill/EnCompass production of "Fiddler on the Roof" in 2007. What's most amazing to me about my many years of involvement in theater is that when I'm not on stage, I am actually quite an introvert. Those who know me well would testify that I would rather get up and speak in front of a large group of people than be forced to make small talk in a one-on-one situation. So, it would seem that drama is a natural fit for me. 😊

My daughter Hannah, on the other hand, who will be serving as my teaching assistant, could best be described as a true extrovert. Hannah, now 13, has been performing in a variety of local musical theater venues since the age of five. She has also participated in several theater classes and camps, and recently founded the group "KS Homeschool Drama," whose first production was held last spring. She truly enjoys working with younger kids, and is passionate about sharing the joy of theater with them.

During the coming semester, we will explore many different aspects of drama, from facial expressions and whole-body movements, to vocal diction and projection. We will spend the first week or two of class doing a variety of "icebreaker" exercises, such as mirroring and moving to music. This will help each child feel more comfortable expressing him/herself in front of the group. Getting to know each other better will also make our later, more interactive activities, (including charades and pantomime) more enjoyable and productive for everyone. Throughout the 12-week session, we will lead the children in acting out Bible stories, fairy tales, nursery rhymes, and familiar children's books. Whenever possible, we will include the use of simple props, costumes, sound effects, and/or music. Finally, we will all work together to prepare a short piece to perform during the Spring Program.

Besides having a lot of fun this semester, we will seek to help each child discover--or build on--his or her creativity and self-confidence. Learning to express ourselves creatively is an important way for us to celebrate the unique gifts of imagination and personality that God has so richly blessed us with. Learning to express ourselves with confidence is especially important for us as Christians, since it can enable us, with God's help, to boldly share the love and joy of the Lord with others.

We look forward to getting to know each one of you this spring and hope that we can help you catch the "theater bug," too! Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have along the way.

In Christ,

Rachel Grebe
and Hannah Grebe