



Program 4: Choosing Instructional Approaches

Theatre

SEGMENT 2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Joseph Mancuso
20 years teaching

About the School

**Somerset County Vocational
Technical High School**
Bridgewater, NJ

Type:
Countywide performing arts program/
Vocational high school

Grades:
9-12

Students:
60 (24 Acting, 15 Musical Theatre, and
21 Dance)
Very mixed socio-economic status

About the Performing Arts Program

Faculty:
2 full-time and 9 part-time

Students:
60

Audition:
Students throughout the county audition in March for acceptance in the following academic year. Acceptance is based on faculty assessment of two rounds of auditions.

Facilities:
Above Average in the Area

- 600-seat performance hall
- Performance studio
- Three offices
- On-site and off-site storage
- 2 classroom spaces (under construction)
- Expanded offices (under construction)
- Dressing rooms (under construction)
- Student locker space (under construction)

Required Courses:

- Acting major: Acting, Voice and Movement, Speech, Theatre History, Technical Theatre, Theatre Fundamentals, and Musical Vocals
- Musical Theatre major: Acting, Ballet, Jazz, Voice, Theatre History, Technical Theatre, and Theatre Fundamentals
- Dance major: Ballet, Jazz, Modern, Composition, Choreography, Dance History, and Technical Theatre

About the Featured Class

**Theatre History
(for Acting II/Advanced Students):**
Students study theatre from Greek and Roman times up through more recent history in Moscow as well as on and off Broadway.

For a final project, students are assigned topics that must be thoroughly researched for presentation to the class. Topics cover a broad range of eras and each is divided into several categories: playwright, synopsis and scene, theatre of the time, and major impact topic.

Student Motivation:
High

Student Level:
Advanced

In the Teacher's Words

How are you assessing the students' presentations?

Ideally, for students to receive full credit, they must demonstrate a mastery of the material and be able to synthesize the oral reports and class discussions into their own words in an articulate and well-crafted manner.