



## Program 5: Creating Rich Learning Environments

# Theatre

### SEGMENT 1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**Joseph Mancuso**  
20 years teaching

**Andrea Arden**  
16 years teaching

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### 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

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### 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
- 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

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### About the Featured Classes

**Acting I:**  
Students explore concepts of self-awareness and communication and attempt to break down conventional notions of the actor's process.

**Student Motivation:**  
High. Students exhibit a strong sense of purpose.

**Student Level:**  
Novice, intermediate, and advanced

**Typical Subsequent Courses:**  
This is a full program of study. Once completed, students who wish to remain in theatre after high school are encouraged to further their training in select BFA programs throughout the country. Those who wish to explore other careers are guided to appropriate college programs.

**Student Motivation:**  
High

**Skill Level:**  
Advanced

**Acting II:**  
Students build the foundation on which to create a theatrically viable, free, and inspired actor.

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### In the Teacher's Words

***What are the main skills that must be developed in Acting I before a student moves on to Acting II?***

*Joseph Mancuso: Students are expected to have a strong sense of self-awareness and maturity and a basic knowledge and application of the acting process.*