

# Theatre

## SEGMENT 3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**John Fredricksen**

27 years teaching

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### About the School

**Mamaroneck High School**  
Mamaroneck, NY

**Type:**  
Suburban/Comprehensive

**Grades:**  
9-12

**Students:**  
1,400  
Middle/High socio-economic status

**Arts Requirement:**  
New York has a 1-credit art or music requirement (180 minutes of instruction per week for one year)

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### About the Performing Arts Program

**Faculty:**  
3

**Students:**  
245

**Facilities:**  
Well Above Average in Area

- 220-seat proscenium theatre
- Control Booth
- Lighting board + lighting instruments
- Sound mixer
- 2 classrooms - including a music room
- Office for our official business

**Required Courses:**  
The Performing Arts Curriculum Experience (PACE)

PACE 1 – Introduction to the performing arts (theatre, dance, and music), full-year course, mostly filled with freshmen

PACE 2 – Beginning technique in theatre, dance, and music, full-year course, mostly filled with sophomores

PACE 3 – Advanced performing arts (theatre, dance, and music), full-year course, mostly filled with juniors

PACE 4 – Theatre, dance or music concentration, full-year course, seniors only

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### About the Featured Class

#### The Performing Arts Curriculum Experience (PACE):

Students elect to take this curricular program, which offers them four progressive years of study in theatre, dance, and music as well as extra-curricular performance and production projects. Students study across the performing arts out of a belief that performers learn better when they learn all of the performing arts. For example, actors learn better if they are experienced in dance (learn to use their body) and music (learn to use their voice) and vice versa.

PACE 3, comprised mostly of juniors, is devoted to teaching students how to take the techniques learned in PACE 2 and expand on them to find their individual “voices” as artists.

#### Student Motivation:

High. Students seek to share their individual voice and to do good working productions.

#### Student Level:

Intermediate/Advanced

#### In the Teacher’s Words

#### ***Why is theatre important for young people?***

*When kids start to learn about character and characterization, and when they start to put themselves into another character or into another person’s shoes, they are able to see the world through more perspectives than just their own. And that’s really neat. Because when kids can understand how other people feel, then they can understand how they feel themselves. And then compromises can happen. This sort of communication, and understanding about the complexities of communication, is important for any kind of life skill.*