

WELCOME TO THEATRE INTEGRATION



Fun Facts: Meet the Teacher

Mr. Duncan loves our Elk Meadows falcon family! Our students are the best!

Professionally, Mr. Duncan has an MA in Arts Administration and undergraduate teaching licenses in theatre, history, and geography. He has developed curriculum, created plays, and guest-lectured for organizations like Brigham Young University, Utah Valley University, Utah State University, and SCERA— his work reaching over 15,000 youth.



He and his wife live with their daughter and two cats, Dorian and Cecily. They love hiking, travelling, watching movies, and reading books together. Mr. Duncan especially loves folklore, baked goods, and spending time in the ocean and mountains.

What is Theatre Integration?

Only 4% of American elementary schools have some form of theatre. Less than 1% have a full-time program like at Elk Meadows. Utah is very unique! Our state's Beverley Taylor Sorenson (BTS) Arts Grant provides schools with licensed arts integration teachers who combine traditional subjects with dance, theatre, music, or visual art.

In our class, students learn language arts, social studies, and science as they act, design, create puppets, write, engage in stories, analyze media, and play improvisational drama games. Every K-6 student at Elk Meadows gets theatre integration during school hours.

Benefits of an Integrated Curriculum

Studies show elementary schools with the BTS Arts Program achieved higher language arts and math scores than non-BTS Arts schools (The Utah Foundation, 2013). Students who receive theatre education miss less school and are more likely to graduate high school (N. Barry, J. Taylor, and Kwalls, 2002). They also score higher on the SAT: 65 points higher in the verbal component and 34 points higher in math (College Entrance Examination Board, 2005).

Theatre builds 21st century learning skills: critical thinking, communication, creativity, and collaboration. Students become more caring of others, increase in motivation and self-esteem, and are more prone to serve their community (Champions of Change, 1999; Catterall 1998). The benefits of theatre are both academic and personal!



BEVERLEY
TAYLOR
SORENSEN
ARTS LEARNING
PROGRAM

Contact Information

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Classroom 110

Class Rules

Our theatre class has three rules:

- 1) **Respect the space.**
- 2) **Respect others.**
- 3) **Follow directions.**



Expectations for keeping the rules are modeled at the start of and throughout the school year. All students agree to our class policies and procedures.

Our Rewards System

Each time students come to theatre, they may earn three class points, one for each rule kept. To earn these points, students evaluate themselves with teacher approval.

Approximately five times a year, our class will have a reward day. On these days, students use their class points on the following rewards:

Nine points= thirteen minutes of theatre games

Fifteen points= seven-minute freeze dance party (school-appropriate music)

Eighteen points= Mr. Duncan does an embarrassing thing invented by our students

Remedies for Misbehavior

If students break a class rule, they will receive:

First: a verbal warning reminder

Second: an assignment analyzing behavior (ThinkTime)

Third: a "yellow card" for their traditional teacher to take further action

Occasionally a class may participate in remedies all together, if remedies are needed for a significant number of students. Students "reset" or start over each time they come to theatre. However, repeat or severe misbehavior may result in an immediate yellow card, a visit with school administration, or similar repercussions. Families and school administration will be notified of student behavior– including positive behavior– as necessary.

Classroom Literature and Media

Stories are foundational to theatre. Our class follows district policy as we explore a wide range of age- and developmentally-appropriate oral, written, and improvised narratives, including student-created work, chapter book excerpts, audio and visual recordings, scripts, and picture books. Mr. Duncan is happy to talk with families, answer questions, or develop individual accommodations.

FAQ: Will we perform a play?

Not this school year. Every other year, Elk Meadows puts on an afterschool musical for fifth and sixth grades. Last school year, we performed *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka (Kids Edition)*.



Supporting Our Program and the BTS Arts Grant

Arts education only endures with your support. To show your state representatives you support our program's existence, please visit btsarts.org. Click "Get Involved." You will receive approx. two emails a year, and your voice will be accounted for when the Utah State Legislature discusses future funding of elementary school arts.