

Shakespeare

Mr. Roy--810-225-5721
mrroyswebsite.weebly.com
rroy@pcs.k12.mi.us

There's a reason that the works of the man known as "the Bard of Avon" have survived (and are still being regularly performed) almost 400 years after his death: because his plays address common themes and experiences of the human condition in language that, while poetic, is still recognizable as Modern English. Over the course of this semester, we will explore these themes and experiences through "performance" of selected works from the canon.

A "Play" is different from other forms of literature in that it doesn't exist on a page; a "Play" isn't fully realized until the words are spoken aloud by a performer on a stage in front of an audience. We are fortunate that Shakespeare's contemporaries collected his works in writing so that performers and audiences still have access to his genius. As a requirement of this class, you will stand, read, and speak the words of the plays in front of your peers. You will be assessed early in the semester and cast in appropriate roles. You may request a larger or smaller part, but that is no guarantee of casting and, as in professional theatre, *you will play as cast*.

Among the things that will be covered this semester are:

- Scansion
- Line
- Meter
- Phonetics
- Form
- Verse
- Prose

The readings will include (but are not limited to):

- The Sonnets
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- *Othello*
- *Hamlet*
- *Henry IV, part 1*
- *Henry V*
- *Twelfth Night*
- *As You Like It*
- *Coriolanus*
- *The Tempest*

You will be issued a hard copy of each play we will read and you will be responsible for bringing it with you every day. You are also responsible for returning it in good condition. All applicable PCHS policies regarding lost/damaged books apply.

You have been issued a laptop computer through the school district and it should be brought to class every day. Online access to the scripts, cool stuff to share, and occasional quizzes will be accessed through the laptops.

Inappropriate speech and language usage are not only violations of the PCHS Code of Conduct, they are also offensive. The “Teapot Song” rule is in effect at all times. Failure to comply when caught in violation of this rule is considered Insubordination according to the PCHS Handbook and will be referred to Administration for action.

PCHS grading Scale applies, and Final Semester grades are calculated as usual: 1st Marking Period = 40%; 2nd Marking Period = 40%; Final Exam/Performance = 20%. You must pass two of the three to pass the class.

Extra credit is always encouraged: researching topics discussed in class, reports on relevant outside reading, ideas you might have to enrich the discussion, etc.

I am always available for extra help, either in my office or the theater. Talk to me before or after class, or contact me by the phone or email; I prefer email as I check it all the time, even on weekends.

-----Cut here-----

I have read, understand, and agree to adhere to Mr. Roy’s attendance, grading, and classroom policies.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____