

Opportunities for theatre

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Theatre is a very helpful program to many high schoolers and the people involved in the program say so as well. Many high schoolers join in freshman year or even junior year. This program brings so many positive opportunities into the students' lives. It all starts with the audition; this can help the student with dealing with being in the spotlight with only two or three people. It puts the student in a position to perform their talent. This helps the student find out where they are acting-wise and possibly singing if it is a musical. The part you are given does not totally determine what level you are at, but you can ask your director what you can improve on. Once the cast is set, the students get to do a read through, which is when the cast reads through the script in character without acting. This is a good chance for the students to get to know each other and get to socialize. Then, it's time to get on stage and make your character come to life in any way you can. The director at Perry High school Mrs. Hunter, never thought she would go into directing, but she has now directed four productions. She says, "I think that the student is put in the position that they need to learn their lines and be dependable to the other students."

This is not the only way that students can be involved in theatre. There is also backstage work to help the cast such as sound, lights, and backstage people. This can help the student learn the tech of the soundboard and the lights. Emily Schueren is in charge of sound and she says, "I like doing this because I get to be with my friends and get to make the production come more to

life.” It still has the dependability factor that you do on stage. This is an option for people that don’t want to be in the spotlight.

Some students find that they have a true talent for theatre and go on to pursue their dreams. This takes a lot of motivation and a lot of dedication. You can go on to do other things for theatre as well such as directing. Ryan Smith says, “I enjoy doing theatre but I really want to be a director or more behind the scenes when I graduate.” Smith had an amazing opportunity given by Mrs. Hunter to be the assistant director for the play *Game of Tiaras*. This gave him the opportunity to experience what it is like to be a director. This may also help his decision on what he wants to do for his future after high school.

If you think that you are interested in being in the spotlight or even just trying something new, this would be an amazing opportunity. The spotlight doesn’t exactly have to be on you as you can learn behind the scenes work. Students start anywhere from middle school to senior year of high school, it’s never too late. The responsibility and the effort of being in theatre is amazing for your future even if it isn’t what you plan to do in the future. It can also allow you to make life-long friends and memories that you will never forget.