



September 5, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome! My name is Elisabeth Campbell and this will be my 16<sup>th</sup> year teaching Drama at Cumberland Regional. I also direct the fall play each year and I encourage your child to audition! I have an extensive background in theatre, having earned my B.F.A. in Theatre Arts from Rutgers University. I also earned my Masters in Teaching from Rowan University. And I was fortunate enough to study abroad in London, where I concentrated on classical studies, with an emphasis on Shakespeare's text.

In my Drama classes, grades are based on both performance and participation, and your children will have plenty of WRITTEN work to do. Drama provides a powerful means of exploring the way people react and respond to different situations, issues and ideas. In this course, drama provides a particularly valuable means of increasing self-confidence and social awareness. Students are involved physically as well as emotionally and intellectually: the students learn through doing. I believe that in one-way or another, drama touches every life. It can be a source of learning and entertainment, a point of contact with others, an abiding interest, a career, or an outlet for creative energies.

The objectives of this drama course are to provide the students with advanced experiences in which the intellect, the emotions, the imagination, and the body are all involved and developed through expression, performance, observation, and reflection. The drama program at CRHS has grown in leaps and bounds since I first taught here. We are beyond excited to be continuing the very successful Dramatic Arts Academy at CRHS and we now have four levels of drama. These Drama classes provide a very comprehensive experience for all students. As an example, the Dramatic Arts III Academy class will continue the tradition of rehearsing and performing a children's theatre show to tour the sending districts. The Drama IV Academy class will rehearse and perform a full-length play in our Black Box Theatre space in the spring of 2020. We plan to compete at the New Jersey Thespian Festival later this year. And, we will continue our participation in Rider University's annual Shakespeare competition in the spring. There is also a newly established club, Team Theatre, which focuses on taking the students to other area drama competitions. Team Theatre was formed in addition to our regular drama club which puts on a fall play and a spring musical every year. As you can see, there are amazing things happening in our program!

I have high expectations for every child in my classroom, and I expect that they will do their very best to successfully complete the course. I do not assign homework every night, but when I do assign it, I expect it to be completed. The homework that I assign is not busywork; rather, it allows students to expand upon the knowledge we learned that day in class. **I do not allow cell phones to be used in my class.** I have found them to be a huge distraction when we are attempting to become better communicators with one another. I hope you understand this rule. Please remind your children of my policy.

If for any reason your child has to miss school due to illness or other family circumstances, please e-mail me so that I may send work home. If it is an emergency, your child will have as many days to complete the missing work as he or she was absent. Please contact me with any concerns.

I have used the website REMIND in the past, which has been very helpful in keeping students engaged and accountable because they can receive text messages from me that remind them about homework, upcoming projects, etc. If you are interested in signing up for [www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com), please send me an e-mail so that I can provide you with the code.

I look forward to an exciting and prosperous year for all of my students. Thank you for being an integral part of that. If you need to contact me, my e-mail address is [campbelle@crhsd.org](mailto:campbelle@crhsd.org) and my voicemail number is 856/451-9400 ext. 386. You may also check out my website (found on [www.crhsd.org](http://www.crhsd.org)) to see a selection of activities that your child will be doing.

Have a great school year!

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Campbell