

MR. HASLAM'S PERFORMANCE POETRY



Mr. Haslam ~ Room #2802
stephen.haslam@jordandistrict.org
mrhaslam.weebly.com
I'm available before and after school for conferences.

Slam

Poetry isn't supposed to be hidden in locked diaries and concealed journals. The art of poetry has historically included spoken word and even the competitive flare that comes with slam. Invented in the 1980s by a Chicago construction worker named Marc Smith (**So what?**), slam is a fast-paced competition where poets have a limited amount of time to impress judges randomly selected from the audience. Performers use all the tricks of storytelling, songwriting, theatre, stand-up comedy, and cold hard poetry to wheedle points out of the judges from 0.0 (terrible) to 10.0 (perfect).

What to Expect

Students will learn from, about, and become a part of the Slam community. They will learn the history, traditions, influences, methods, and strategies of performance poetry. They will be expected to perform each week. Their material will come from personal inspiration, teacher instruction and prompts, as well as guest speakers. Students will read and watch examples of poems and develop a poetic vocabulary as well as performance persona. Students will learn various styles of poems as well as performance strategies. They should be able to leave the class with a number of slam weapons in their arsenal.

English Credit Course

As students will be receiving English credit for taking this class, students will be expected to write and speak English often. Different languages are welcome when adding the strengths of the poetry.

Copper Hills Poetry Slam Team

Though the primary focus of the class will be learning. Specific portions of class time will be devoted to and used for preparing the team for upcoming competitions. Students must sign the attached charter and abide by all team rules in order to participate.

Required Materials	Rules
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notebook/Art Journal 2. Blue or Black Pen 3. Art Paper & Basic Art Supplies 4. Imagination 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be in your seat at the bell. 2. Be ready to write at the bell. 3. Be quiet after the bell. 4. Don't prevent teaching. 5. Don't prevent learning.

Breaking rules may result in a warning, conference, or office referral.

Grading & Assignments

Letter grades will be determined on the following scale:

93 - 100 = A
 90 - 92 = A-
 88 - 89 = B+
 83 - 87 = B
 80 - 82 = B-
 78 - 79 = C+

73 - 77 = C
 70 - 72 = C-
 68 - 69 = D+
 63 - 67 = D
 60 - 62 = D-
 0 - 59 = F

I will follow the standard CHHS Grading Scale for this class. Be advised however, that major projects will sometimes cover up to a third of a student's grade. Portfolio pieces must be completed if a student is to pass. The remainder of the grade will consist of journal entries, short writing assignments, and artistic creations.

Students need to be in class every day and they need to turn their work in when it is due. I will be enforcing the Copper Hills attendance policy. If students miss three or more days of class, they will receive a NO GRADE, regardless of their performance in class.

Notebooks - Journals: Students will be required to keep a journal of all of their poetry and notes. These will be done via art journals and instructions will be provided in class.

100% of a student's basic grade will come from the following:

Written poems

- Completed writing prompts & exercises
- Poem presentations both memorized and not
- Critiquing of others work and feedback
- Required event attendance
- Participatory activities

If a student is frequently off task, disruptive, or inattentive, it will be difficult to receive a good participation grade.

-If the teacher is absent, NO work should be turned in to the substitute.

- Student information, work, and grades will be kept confidential and will not be shared without the necessary authorization as per FERPA Regulations.

Electronic Devices: Cell phones are a distraction and will prevent learning if used when I'm teaching the class. If students are given time to work on an assignment, or there is classwork to be done, I expect students to stay off their phones. If the phone becomes an issue, you will receive a warning, followed by the phone then being taken and given to the administration. If you have an emergency and have to take a call, just let me know and you can step into the hall. You may listen to music while working on regular assignments, but if I see your phone during a test, it will be taken and you will take a zero on the test.

Restroom/Water Fountain Use: Students are expected to take care of this business on their own time between classes. I do understand, however, that occasional emergency situations will present themselves. We have a hall pass for this. Abuse of hall pass use will result in possible limitation of excusal from class.

Food and Drink: With the exception of water in a closed container, no drinks should be brought into my classroom. I will allow the occasional snack for students to stay alert as long as they don't make a mess and students clean up after themselves. Particular care must be taken around laptops.

Communication: PARENTS!! – Please communicate with me! Visit my website or send me an email (refer to the top of this document). And please do it ahead of time. If a printer is broken or something will prevent your student from getting you're their work done, let me know ahead of time so that I can grade them fairly. Communication after something is due will not suffice.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism on any assignment will result in a zero on that particular assignment and no room will be given to make it up.

Events: Students will be required to attend poetry slam events both for the class and for being part of the Copper Hills Poetry Slam Team.

PERFORMANCE POETRY CONTRACT

Parent's Name (Print): _____

Student's Name (Print): _____

Home/Cell Number: _____

Work Number: _____

Parent's Email Address:

We have read Mr. Haslam's disclosure statement and understand that it is our responsibility to contact Mr. Haslam via phone or email if we should have any questions or concerns. We also understand the rules of the Mr. Haslam's Class and understand that he will follow fair and necessary protocol in making sure his policies are adhered to.

Parent's Signature: _____

Student's Signature: _____

BUTTON POETRY - SLAM EVENTS

Slam Poetry is about the freedom of expression and as such, Slam events and performances outside of the school walls often include rough language. If parents wish to keep their students away from these scenarios, the teacher can work out alternative assignments. Otherwise, parents should not hold the teacher responsible for the language students may encounter during public performances.

I give permission for _____ to watch Button Poetry or other Slam Performances in class.

I give permission for _____ to attend public slam events that I realize are not censored for profanity or crude language.

Parent Signature: _____