Dear Prospective IB Literature and Performance Student,

If you have been studying in English classes over the past two or three years longing for a more intensive experience in both poetry and drama—along with performance—this class will address that desire. You should be prepared to handle the responsibilities associated with an advanced course, as it is weighted at the IB/AP level.

With this idea in mind, we’re going to begin our foray into the world of theatre this summer. Please select a written drama you’ve not yet read for any class. Read it carefully. Please note that a film is not a substitute for close reading of a literary work. If there is a film that has been made of your text, I’m going to ask you to refrain from watching it for a few specific reasons I’ll reveal once class begins.

If you’re not sure where to begin in your selection, you may visit the library, a book store, or Amazon. If you’re looking for notable playwrights, try a work by one of the following, just to name a few:

- Tennessee Williams
- Arthur Miller
- Edward Albee
- Peter Shaffer
- Eugene O’Neill
- Neil Simon
- August Wilson
- Tony Kushner
- Lillian Hellman
- Henrik Ibsen
- Oscar Wilde
- Victor Hugo
- George Bernard Shaw
- Miguel de Cervantes

Since the IB curriculum encourages international literature, please do not feel restricted to American playwrights only; you may choose what you’re interested in reading. You may wish to take notes or use post-its as you read in order to highlight important lines, ask questions about a specific portion of the work, summarize a scene, or remember any key ideas. This is an optional aspect of the assignment, but you may find it will help you to retain your understanding of the work by the time you return at the end of August.

I am thrilled to begin this new class with you, and I hope your excitement for the subject serves as the basis for an excellent year! Until we meet in the fall, enjoy a lovely, safe summer. If you have any questions at all over the summer, please don’t hesitate to contact me: dgalambos@ojrds.com. Happy reading!

Mrs. Dawn Galambos

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Fall Play Director
Shakespeare Festival Director