



## CLASSROOM AS CENTER-STAGE

In “Classroom as Center Stage”, Very Merry educators invite students to get out of their chairs to take a theatrical approach to classroom curriculum. Our educational philosophy is grounded in long-established traditions in the humanities and liberal arts. Very Merry’s unique approach to pedagogy has been developed over 15 years of successfully submerging children and their families into the fantastic worlds of great works of classic literature.

But why stop there? The performing arts offer a hefty toolbox for broader exploration of the student’s academic work. The unique values instilled through theatrical practice encourage an approach to learning that draws from the student’s own sense-rich experiences.

A Very Merry educator will communicate closely with classroom teachers to fit the program to the current lesson plan. Students’ will experience a new way of connecting to curriculum through the discovery of their own creativity. By working with the group in a highly interactive and participatory format every student will have the chance to share “center stage.”

### GOALS

- To actively engage students in their academic work with acting, movement and play
- To promote confidence in the classroom through team building
- To foster self-esteem and pride in the individuals work and contributions

# EXAMPLES

## OUR COMMUNITY NARRATIVES (Oral History)

Dramatized, original adaptations of student's true narrative accounts. Students will narrate original pieces devised through collaboration between the actors and storyteller.

## "ALL THAT IS WRIT" (Creative Writing)

Dramatized, original adaptations of student's original, fictional stories. Students will partake in a process-oriented writing project to provide the raw material for devising short plays.

## "ALL THAT IS LIT" (Adapted Literature)

Theatrical adaptations of classical literature. Students will read excerpts from selected classics and borrow from VMT's archives to perform text, music and choreography from: *Alice in Wonderland*, *Jungle Book*, *Peter Pan*, *Robin Hood*, *The Winters Tale*, *A Mid-summer's Night Dream*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Camelot*, *Cinderella*, *The Tempest*, *A Comedy of Errors*, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Frankenstein*, *The Great Circus Train Robbery*, *Great Expectations*, *The Lone Ranger*, *The Lost Prince*, *The Marvelous Land of Oz*, *The Old Curiosity Shop*, *Oliver Twist*, *Peter Rabbit*, *Pinocchio*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Tempest*, *Treasure Island*, *Twelfth Night*, *Walking into the Wild*, *The Velveteen Rabbit*

## BAZAAR (Marketplace Trade)

Students create a bustling marketplace scene using theater and movement. Trade relationships are established for the bartering of services and goods.

## ALCHEMIST'S SOLUTION (Science and Science History)

Students self-select recipes for chemistry formulas that contains the solution to remedy social issues past and present. Hogwart's Activism for the present-day.

## SUPER-NUMERARIES! (Math, Geometry and Problem Solving)

Students devise their own choreography to solve mathematical equations. Geometric patterns are identified and story-problems entertain.



# CONTACT

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