

Hello!

My name is Rock White and I am the new Theatre teacher at Payson High School. It's an honor to be working here with you. I love this community, having been teaching Theatre for 18 years, 11 of those years here in Payson at Mt. Nebo Jr. High School.

I live in Spanish Fork with my amazing wife, June and our three kids: Ahnika, Haydn and Mekhia. I love to travel, read, and create! I am a member of Actor's Equity and have had the privilege of performing as a professional actor all over the state including The Grande Theatre, Salt Lake Acting Company, Utah Musical Theatre, Weber State University, and Sundance Theatre. I love singing, performing and working in Educational Theatre. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Musical Theatre Performance from Weber State University and a Master's Degree in Education from Southern Utah University. I've recorded a couple of professional albums with Kenneth Cope and Janeen Brady and was in a Liken the Scripture film called, "Esther and the King".

I'm so excited for this school year and I just wanted to introduce myself and let you know about a few things we have planned for next year.

First of all, Payson High School is a member of the International Educational Thespian Organization. This organization is a world-wide Educational organization that supports students work in the fine arts- recognizing and celebrating YOU and your work in the Theatre Art! I'm in need of a Thespian Theatre Council for this coming school year. I will need two or three students from each grade (including Freshman) to fill these honored positions. If you are creative, service oriented, and interested in helping me run the Theatre program this year, please **email me**. The ITS organization assists in collegiate scholarships and other amazing opportunities for students in high school looking ahead at college in both performing and technical theatre areas. There's a lot of money out there to support your college dreams, and Theatre is one of those areas that Utah supports. Being a Council member is an amazing thing to have on your resume for ANY kind of job or scholarship application.

Second. We are going to have a Theatre open house/social where I will be here at the school in the drama room and we can meet! This is going to be held on **Monday, August 7th from 5-7 pm** in the drama room.

Thirdly: I would like to create an advanced, elite theatre group class. This would be the **Payson High School Productions Company Theatre Ambassadors**. It is a FULL YEAR class that is only open to PHS students who have successfully auditioned and been selected for the performance team. Based on the schedule this year as it is, this class would be held A4 which is currently the Drama II/III class. This group is opened to ANY student here at PHS. The Theatre Ambassadors accomplish many team goals and objectives over the course of the year. As ambassadors, students will have the opportunity to collaborate with team members to produce productions each fall and spring, participate in connected activities such as the Shakespeare Acting Competition in the fall, Utah Theatre Association Conference in the winter, and Region and State drama competition in the spring. Our team will befriend the theatre students at Payson Jr. High and Mt. Nebo Jr. High school through monthly workshops, and serve the community with the goal to positively impact others through our love of theatre. Auditions for this group will be held on **Wednesday, August 16th from 5-8 pm**. Please come prepared with a 16 measure musical theatre style song and a one minute monologue. Also come ready to dance. Simply email me if you would like to audition.

Fourth. Any student that would like some free pizza: I need assistance in moving some things around in the drama room. I'm going to be moving some things and getting rid of some things we don't need anymore on **Tuesday, August 15th from 11-2 pm**. Please email me if you can help on this day so I know how much pizza to order.

Fifth. If any parents are interested in serving on our Theatre Drama Mama and Papa Parent committee, **please send me an email**. We would love to have your creativity and assistance with things throughout the year.

Lastly- The Season for PHS 2017-2018:

*Shakespeare Competition*- September 28-30th, 2017. Cedar City Utah at the Utah Shakespeare Festival in conjunction with our Choral Program (and hopefully dance program).

*Enchanted April*- October 2017. Auditions for this are the first week of school.

*Phantom of the Opera*, our school-wide musical- January, 2018.

*Region and State Drama*- March 2018.

*On Broadway- a Theatrical Review*- May 2018 in conjunction with our Choral Program.

My classes this year are as follows:

A1- Drama I/Beginning Drama- Semester Class, both semesters.

Students in this class will be learning about the basics of acting and Theatre. Students will learn to build confidence standing in front of others to present themselves which is great preparation for job interviews and other life events. Students will learn about all of the different fields of work associated with Theatre. Mostly, they will have fun exploring their create side! Students in this class the first semester will be performing as ensemble members in the school-wide musical: *Phantom of the Opera* in January (for Semester one students) and *On Broadway*, a Theatrical Review (the second semester students) and rehearsing some of their scene's during class time. Looking at my list of students currently enrolled in first semester drama one, I see many students from the junior high's who have already taken Theatre classes through Drama 3 at your selected junior high schools. You don't need to take this class. You should be in Drama 2 or audition for the Productions Class.

A3, B1 and B2- Film History- Semester Class, both semesters.

Students in this class will be learning about some of the greatest films of all time from the beginning of film to present day. We will be viewing parts of films and whole films (following district guidelines as to ratings of course). Students will learn about excellent note taking skills and analysis.

A4- Drama 2/3: **PHS Productions Company Theatre Ambassadors**

I've already described what this elite, honors Theatre class is about earlier in this email. Students already enrolled in the Drama 2-3 class still need to audition on the above mentioned day. If you cannot come on that day please email me so we can find another time that works better for you. These advanced Theatre students will be preparing their resume's for scholarship opportunities the state provides. These advanced students will be touring performances to junior high schools and elementary schools throughout the year as well as representing the school as it's finest Theatre students at state-wide competitions during the year. Most of our shows rehearsals take place during class time which helps free up more time after school for work and involvement in other fantastic programs here at PHS. There is obviously some expected time commitment involved, but the rewarded outcome is well worth the commitment as well as the friendships you'll make and the experiences you'll share as a team.

B4- Technical Theatre 1 and 2

Students in this class will be learning the design elements of all the magic that takes place in the theatre BEHIND THE SCENE'S!!! Things like costumes, theatre make-up, special effects, sound, lighting, set and props design and building, management and more. The district has hired a District Technical Theatre Director: Craig Zeeman who will be partnering with me in doing the training and official certification of all stage crew. Due to the incredible amount of money the school and district has put into our spaces, they are now requiring Craig to work with the teachers in training the students in this class on how to run events safely and professionally in both the large and small theatre spaces. Once students pass the test and become certified they will be running assemblies and other events held at the school. Students in this class must be honest and trustworthy, loyal and dependable. This class of students will be competing in the stage crew portion of competition at the Shakespeare Competition in the fall. Stage Crew students will also be working on their Technical Theatre portfolios for college scholarship interviews that take place in January at the Utah Theatre Association conference. There are SO MANY opportunities for stage crew students to get TONS of money for college from this event! We will also be doing our fair share of cleaning and organizing both spaces throughout the year keeping the schools theatre area's respectable and professional at all times.

I'm so excited to be part of the PHS family!

Please email me if you have ANY questions!

Mr. Rock White

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