

# soaring FLYING

High School Musical Cast and crew work to finish the last show of the year. Story by Brooke McLaughlin

## OUR TAKE ON IT

Deja Palfy (8) talks about struggles and challenges she faces getting ready for the musical.

What's something you're most nervous for?

"I'm most nervous for my solo part because I have to be up front and center, and everyone will be able to see me."

Is there anything that's really challenging for you while learning this musical?

"Everything is pretty challenging, especially since it's almost the end of the musical and we're trying to get everything perfect."



As the school year flew by, people were stressed about the end of the school year's production. Putting a show together in 13 weeks and two days was a push. The show was going up on April 21-23.

The High school Musical cast and crew experience started on December 14 with an informational meeting where students heard about audition expectations. Auditions and callbacks were on January 25-27. "I was auditioning for Gabriela, but I ended up getting Sharpay but I'm still happy with the part that I got," Nora Wallace (8) said. The cast list went up a day later for people to start prepping their roles. Only two days after the cast list went up, rehearsals started. "I'm more overwhelmed than I am nervous because it's a lot of work," Abby Benallo (8) said. Rehearsals started January 30th. Practice was Tuesday-Thursday from 2:30 to 4:00 PM.

After two years of COVID-19 and being in masks, High School Musical was a chance to finally break free and get back to performing with full faces. With all the setbacks from the past two years, Drake students have

been able to push through. They had a practice run for the visiting 5th grade students a month before the show opened. "I was kinda' satisfied with how I did but also a bit disappointed because I felt like I did better on certain parts than others," Bailey Noall (7) said. It was motivating for the cast to work to get it all right.

Getting the choreography just right was the biggest challenge with this very dance driven show. "The hardest dance we've had to learn is for sure Get'cha Head in the Game," Abby Benallo (8) said. But the show had seven big dance numbers total, which was challenging.

As opening day arrived, final rehearsals become longer and harder. Cast members become restless, filled with excitement, nervousness, and adrenaline. Drama teacher Mrs. Laurel Wicke said, "One way to describe this musical is complete stress and chaos at this point, but I always feel that way two weeks before opening. There is still a lot to polish, but this is a very talented group of kids. We are going to have a great show," Mrs. Wicke said.



## EMME VS EMMA

Techie Emma Molinaro (8) and Actor Emma Parton (8) debate the advantages of their jobs.

- You get to build the set
- Hang out with your friends
- Get to be behind the scene
- Get to be bossy



- You can express yourself
- Get out of your comfort zone and increase confidence
- Learn about acting
- Learn choreography



**REALLY WRONG!** Nora Wallace (8), Tag Edwards (7), Hana Hatley (7), Ellie Wallace (6), and Blake Anderson (7) sing their hearts out during the Fifth grade Shadow Day performance. "That was a big ask," director Laurel Wicke said. "Still being four weeks out from a performance date, there's still a lot of rehearsal time left. The kids were so great and bold. I was very proud of them."



**GETCHA' HEAD IN THE GAME.** Tate Wride (8), Sam Klug (6), and Joseph Allen (7) perform "Get your Head in the Game" as three members of East High's basketball team. "During rehearsals, I focus on doing my best and trying to find what action/line best suits Troy. I also try to focus on getting as much emotion out as possible," said Wride.

**BAD MISTAKE!** Oliver Nations (7) as Zeke accidentally covers Sharpay, played by Nora Wallace (8), in whipped cream at the end of song "Status Quo."



**WHAT DO YOU SEE?** McKenzie Doebele (8), and Natalie Webster (8) as Martha and Gabriella, sing their verse in "Status Quo." "Being in theater has made me not only more confident on stage but in my life," Doebele said. **NO, NO, NO** The "Jock" clique of the cast puts Jack Hubbard (7), portraying Zeke Baylor, in his place when he tries to share his passion for baking.



**THE "VELVET FOG"** Azariah Rohrs (8), plays Jack Scott. Infront of the actor is an "On Air" sign. "Being Jack Scott is pretty fun," said Rohrs.

**DRAMA QUEEN.** Natalie Cowgill (8), portrays drama teacher Mrs. Darbus. "She's a strange character," Cowgill said. "You have to have authority while seeming like a bit of a nut."

This whole musical process has been really fun to get to meet new friends and be apart of something like this, but at the same time it's been a challenge to get everything perfect for when show day comes.

**-Oliver Nations (6)**