

HOPEWELL MEMORIAL JR. HIGH SCHOOL
proudly presents



ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
THE MUSICAL
JR.

WELCOME LETTER

(STAGE CREW INFORMATION PACKET)

Welcome, Students and Parents, to the Hopewell Jr. High Musical!

We are thrilled to have you join us as part of the 2021-2022 production, "Matilda, JR." After having to cancel last year's musical, we are beyond excited to get things going again! We hope to continue growing the program and increasing our level of success from our most recent show, "Mary Poppins, JR." To those who are joining us for the first time, I guarantee your experience with musical theatre will leave you wanting more.

This packet serves to provide you with some basic information about the production and audition procedures for this year's show. If you have any questions at any point during the musical season, please do not hesitate to ask! Our belief is that open lines of communication are essential to a successful production. You can find my contact information below.

Once again, welcome! And thank you for choosing to be a part of this wonderful opportunity!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chad Toporski'.

Chad Toporski

Producer & Club Sponsor

toporskic@hopewellarea.org

Sarah Bober
Stage Director

Austin Almendarez
Artistic Director

Sarah Pokita
Choreographer

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STAYING CONNECTED

The key to any successful production is making sure all information is communicated clearly and quickly. While we will occasionally send out paper flyers home to get information home, the absolute BEST way to stay on top of news and changes is to connect digitally. The following methods of communication will be used extensively by the musical directors to post information, reminders, and other announcements:



Music Website (*general information*)

<http://www.hopewelljrmusic.com/musical.html>



Facebook (*parents only*) - **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hmjhsmatilda/>



Remind (*students and parents*)

<https://www.remind.com/join/hmjhs-mj>

- OR -

Text **@hmjhs-mj** to **81010** using your mobile phone for text notifications.

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IMPORTANT DATES

***** All activities and events will take place at the High School Auditorium. *****

Script Read-Through:

- **Script Read-Through:** Wednesday, September 15th @ 3:30–5:30 PM

Rehearsals:

- **Stage Crew Workshops:** Every Wednesday @ 3:30–5:00 PM, starting on September 29th
- **Run-Throughs:** Mondays through Thursdays @ 3:30-6:00 PM, starting on October 25th

Tech Week Rehearsals (MANDATORY):

- Tuesday, November 15th – Thursday, November 18th
5:00 - 8:00 PM

Performances:

- (Elementary Show: Friday, November 19th @ 10:00 AM)
- Friday, November 19th @ 7:00 PM
- Saturday, November 20th @ 2:00 PM
- Saturday, November 20th @ 7:00 PM

Musical Family Banquet:

- Saturday, November 20th @ 4:00 - 6:00 PM (*in between performances*)

Set Strike, Costume Return, and Clean-Up (MANDATORY):

- Sunday, November 21st @ 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Students may stop in at any point to pick up their signed poster and help clean up.

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Show Summary

The History

Matilda is a book by British writer Roald Dahl. It was published in 1988 by Jonathan Cape in London, with 232 pages and illustrations by Quentin Blake. In 2012, the book was ranked #30 among all-time children's novels in a survey published by *School Library Journal*. It was the first of four books by Dahl among the Top 100, more than any other writer. *Time* included *Matilda* in its list of the 100 Best Young-Adult Books of All Time. Worldwide sales have reached 17 million, and since 2016 sales have spiked to the extent that it outsells Dahl's other works.

Matilda was adapted as an audio reading by actress Kate Winslet, a 1996 feature film directed by Danny DeVito, a two-part BBC Radio 4 program, and a 2010 musical adapted by Dennis Kelly, with music and lyrics by Tim Minchin and directed for the stage by Matthew Warchus. After the roaring success of the full-length production of *Matilda*, opening in London in 2011 and on Broadway in 2013, there was a great demand for a simplified version of the show specifically for kids. *Matilda JR.* was born and features many of the beloved music and characters from the original version. This simplified version allows children not only to perform as the students but take a turn in the adult roles as well.

The Story

Matilda JR. is the story of an extraordinary little girl with extraordinary powers. The daughter of abusive parents, Matilda finds refuge in library books, which she reads quickly and in creating her own stories. Things are no better at school, where Matilda also must face a tyrannical and cruel headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, who believes in Crunchem Hall's motto: "Bambinatum est Magitum," or "Children are Maggots." She finds companionship in her teacher, Miss Honey, who, though well-intentioned, is shy and fragile. Brave little Matilda knows she has to stand up against the adults in her world, and in doing so, discovers her own remarkable powers. Matilda's bravery teaches Miss Honey and her classmates an important lesson -- that even though life can be hard, "nobody but me is gonna change my story" so "sometimes you have to be a little bit naughty."

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STAGE CREW INFORMATION

What is Stage Crew?

Stage crew students are a vital part of a production's success. Even though they aren't seen throughout the show, they work behind the scenes to make sure all the technical elements are running smoothly. Being a member of stage crew is a demanding job, because one wrong move could affect the show more noticeably than a forgotten line or missed entrance. Every cue needs to happen on time and in exactly the right way for things to run safely and smoothly.

What jobs or roles are available?

There are a few different types of jobs the stage crew members can fulfill. These include:

- **Stage Hands** - they work onstage moving set pieces during scene changes
- **Rail Operators** - they fly vertical scenery in and out using the ropes backstage
- **Spotlight Operators** - they run the follow spots to highlight specific actors onstage
- **Light Board Assistant** - helps coordinate the light board cues and changes
- **Sound Assistant** - helps run the accompaniment tracks at the sound board

How does my child get assigned a job?

Weekly workshops will be held for all stage crew members to learn the basics of every job and familiarize them with each aspect of technical theatre. They will thoroughly understand and demonstrate good safety practices, as well as get hands-on learning opportunities with guidance from experienced teachers.

A few weeks before the show, we will assign specific jobs and tasks to each crew member based on their skillset and familiarity with them. Those students who demonstrate more responsibility and reliability during the workshop process will likely be given more important tasks during the show. Just like the cast, though, there is a role for everyone, and it is our job to make sure we find the best fit for each crew member as it relates to the needs of the production.