

**HOPEWELL MEMORIAL JR. HIGH SCHOOL**  
*proudly presents*



# 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 2022-2023 production, "Seussical, JR." Many of you are returning after being a part of "Matilda, JR." last school year, and we hope to continue growing the program and increasing our level of success this year. 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 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', written in a cursive style.

**Chad Toporski**

*Producer & Club Sponsor*

*[toporskic@hopewellarea.org](mailto:toporskic@hopewellarea.org)*

## **DIRECTING TEAM**

**Sarah Bober**  
*Stage Director*

**Austin Almendarez**  
*Artistic Director*

**Sarah Pokita**  
*Choreographer*

**Lindsay Bosco**  
*Vocal Director*

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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/hmjhseussical/>



**Remind** (*students and parents*)

<https://www.remind.com/join/hmjhseuss>

- OR -

Text **@hmjhseus** 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 14th @ 3:30–5:30 PM

### **Rehearsals:**

- **Stage Crew Workshops:** Every Monday @ 3:30–5:00 PM, starting on September 26th
- **Run-Throughs:** Mondays through Thursdays @ 3:30-6:00 PM, starting on October 24th

### **Tech Week Rehearsals (MANDATORY):**

- Tuesday, November 14th – Thursday, November 17th  
5:00 - 8:00 PM

### **Performances:**

- (Elementary Show: Friday, November 18th @ 10:00 AM)
- Friday, November 18th @ 7:00 PM
- Saturday, November 19th @ 2:00 PM
- Saturday, November 19th @ 7:00 PM

### **Musical Family Banquet:**

- Saturday, November 19th @ 4:00 - 6:00 PM (*in between performances*)

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

- Sunday, November 20th @ 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Students may stop in at any point to pick up a signed poster and help clean up.

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## SHOW SUMMARY

### The History

*Seussical* is a musical comedy by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, based on the many children's stories of Dr. Seuss, with most of its plot being based on Horton Hears a Who!, Gertrude McFuzz, and Horton Hatches the Egg while incorporating many other stories. The musical's name is a portmanteau of "Seuss" and the word "musical." Following its Broadway debut in 2000, the show was widely panned by critics, and closed in 2001 with huge financial losses.

Following the Broadway production, there were two US national tours. The script for the first tour was reworked extensively after the show's poor showing on Broadway, resulting in the removal or reworking of several songs. Additional dialogue was included, and some songs and their reprises were cut. Since then, it has become one of the most-performed shows in America, especially in schools and community theaters.

### The Story

A musical perfect for the whole family, *Seussical JR.* takes us into the world of Dr. Seuss, where we revisit beloved characters including The Cat in the Hat, Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz, Lazy Mayzie, and JoJo. The Cat in the Hat guides us into The Jungle of Nool where we see Horton, the kind-hearted elephant who discovers a speck of dust containing Whoville. He meets JoJo, a Who child reprimanded for thinking too many "thinks." Horton decides he must protect the speck of dust on a nearby clover, while at the same time protecting an abandoned egg left to his care by the lazy Mayzie la Bird. Horton tries to convince the other animals in The Jungle of the existence of the Whos, but he is ridiculed and put on trial for insanity. Only his loyal neighbor, Gertrude McFuzz, never loses faith in him and eventually, the two fall in love. *Seussical JR* weaves a story of friendship, loyalty, and love. Despite all odds, Horton and Gertrude band together to save the Whos, free Horton, and restore peace and unity to the Jungle of Nool. *Seussical JR* teaches us the power of being unique, and the importance of fighting for your beliefs.

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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.