

# High School Musical at FMS

Feinstein drama club ready for spring production of favorite

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COVENTRY — Rehearsals have been going on since October for High School Musical Jr. where the 100 Feinstein Middle School students who make up the cast and crew have been collaborating with school staff members Mrs. Lori LeBrun, one of the school counselors; Mrs. Lisa LaChance, a sixth-grade English teacher; and Mrs. Kristen St. Sauveur, the chorus teacher. The set, created by Justine Lavigne, was designed to look like different rooms and hallways of a high school, have shifting walls with backgrounds so things can easily be shifted for each scene.

The musical tells the story of a group of teenagers who struggle to discover their true identities while building relationships, exploring new interests and dealing with others' expectations of them.

"This show is about stepping out of the box," LeBrun said. "I love the story and when I brought the idea to (Feinstein Principal) Dr. (Arthur) Lisi, as I was talking with him about it, I realized how much it fits into the growth mindset, which has been something we've adopted at this school for living and learning to the best of our ability. It ties in perfectly."

LeBrun said rehearsals have been twice a week but as the time for the show has drawn closer, they've been held just about every day.

"This is a great group of kids, they're a lot of fun to work with," she said.

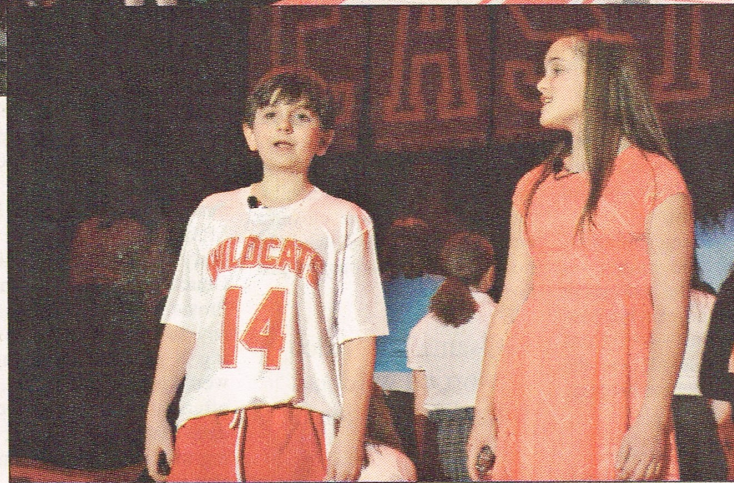
Tuesday was the group's first dress rehearsal and with the show just days away, the three coordinators with all cast and crew had a

See MUSICAL, Page A-3



Kendra Leigh Miller • Daily Times

ABOVE: Some of the 100 Feinstein Middle School students that make up the cast and crew of the school's production of "High School Musical Junior" perform during a full dress rehearsal yesterday.



LEFT: Sixth-grader Jonathon Kenney and eighth-grader Maddy Almeida are playing the lead roles in the production.

# Musical hits Feinstein MS stage

*Continued from Page A-1*

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busy afternoon finalizing prop positions, lighting, sound, microphones, positions on stage and fine-tuning timing for songs.

Two lead roles, "Gabriella" and "Troy" are being played by eighth-grader Maddy Almeida and sixth-grader Jonathon Kenney.

Almeida played one of the "silly girls" in last year's performance of "Beauty and the Beast and Kenney is no stranger to the stage because he participates in summer theater.

Neither student expected to

land the lead roles.

"I was very surprised when I got the part, I tried really hard," Maddy Almeida said.

"I was surprised just because I'm not in an upper grade," Kenney said.

Almeida described her character as very smart, but with being in a new school, also afraid to let that side of her show in the name of fitting in.

Kenney's character is the know-it-all jock and is a great basketball player.

"The show is very upbeat and fun," Almeida said.

In the play, they both have the talent to sing but their

friends said they will make fun of them if they do. Ultimately, they decide to not listen to what others are saying and want them to do and make their own path and let their talent show.

The first performance will take place March 5 at 6:30 — a show which is just about sold out, but there are still a few tickets available at the door — and Saturday's shows are at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tickets for those shows are also almost sold out.

Tickets at the door are \$7 for adults and children under five years old are free.