



# NEWS

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## **Emerson Middle School debuts its first full-length show: Disney's "High School Musical"**

The title of the hit song "We're All in This Together" from Disney's "High School Musical" inspired Emerson Middle School's May 2-3 production of the theatrical phenomenon, according to directors and Emerson vocal music teachers Michael Kennedy and Terry Broeker. "Students, teachers, staff, and parents have really taken the song title to heart and are working together to stage the first, full-length licensed musical in school history," they said.

More than 120 students from all three middle school grades are cast in the show, which includes 20 student acting roles, a chorus of 75 singers, and three dance troupes. Three Emerson teachers also play roles that echo their real-life jobs: Language Arts teacher Regina Serio plays drama teacher Ms. Darbus; real-life Emerson physical education teacher and basketball coach Aaron Schauer fills the role of Coach Bolton; and, science teacher Char John appears as chemistry teacher Ms. Tenny. In addition, more than 35 other staff members also built scenery, searched for props, collected costumes, sold tickets, and staged dance numbers.

"We couldn't do it without everyone's help. This truly is an all-school production," the co-directors emphasized.

Emerson's staging of "High School Musical" is one of more than 2,400 mounted in less than two years since the blockbuster musical was released for amateur production. The original Disney movie has spawned a sequel, touring professional stage show, and a performance on ice.

A very limited number of tickets may be available at the door at \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students for the three performances: Friday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 3 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

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