

What's New

- ▶ Cara Carter Named Technology Administrator of the Year
- ▶ Faced with Reduced Funding, NISD Implements Cost-Saving Measures
- ▶ Ryan Barnhart Named Principal of Tidwell
- ▶ NISD Attendance Boundaries Approved for '21-'22
- ▶ NISD to hold graduation ceremonies at NISD Stadium
- ▶ 7 NISD Swimmers Place at UIL State Meets
- ▶ Tax Base Growth Allows Northwest ISD to Issue Bonds with No Tax Rate Increase
- ▶ 24 Destination Imagination Teams Advance To State
- ▶ CyLynn Braswell Named Administrator of the Year
- ▶ 2021 Scholarships
- ▶ 14 Students Earn Associate Degrees Before Diplomas
- ▶ Byron Nelson Basketball Team Advances in Playoffs
- ▶ NISD Expected to Enroll 32,000 Students by 2026
- ▶ SAT Test Administration Scheduled for March 3
- ▶ Student Holiday, Staff Workday on Monday
- ▶ Fourth Grade Teacher Encourages Students to Read with Winter Reading Fort
- ▶ Winter Weather Update
- ▶ Snow Day: Tuesday, Feb. 16
- ▶ Proposed Attendance Boundaries
- ▶ New Cosmetology Academy Attendance Options
- ▶ Neighborhood Play Contest Winners
- ▶ Steele Senior Named National Merit Finalist
- ▶ 7 NISD Swimmers Advance to State Meet
- ▶ NISD Board of Trustees Call May 2021 Bond Election
- ▶ Book Vending Machines Bring Excitement to Peterson, Love
- ▶ 30 NISD Athletes Sign Letters of Intent
- ▶ Matthew Moore Selected to Yamaha's "40 Under 40"
- ▶ Expo 2021
- ▶ School Board Recognition Month 2021
- ▶ LRPC Recommends May 2021 Bond Election
- ▶ Tryouts Underway for Byron Nelson Cheer Squad
- ▶ NISD Planning to Adjust Attendance Boundaries for the 2021-2022 School Year
- ▶ Board Approves Early College High School Agreement
- ▶ Medlin Math Teacher Named State Finalist
- ▶ Superintendent Report - January 2021
- ▶ NISD's Justin Vercher Named

Northwest Independent School District / News / What's New / The Show Goes On For NISD Middle School Musical

The Show Goes On For NISD Middle School Musical

Posted on 10/22/2020

Eighth grader Corrine Thomas never imagined that her last year to perform in the Northwest ISD middle school musical would look quite like this.



The future of the annual production became unclear when the global pandemic forced school buildings to close in March 2020. In the past, auditions were held in person for students from each of the NISD middle schools in the spring before the performance. Cast rehearsals took place during the summer months and when school resumed in August.

"We were waiting for some sort of guidance from the state — what we should do and how we should proceed with as little risk as possible," said Director Wendy Bramlett.

Determined to continue the production, Bramlett invited students to audition for *Shrek The Musical Jr.* by putting together a video to showcase their talent. Callbacks were completed over two weeks via Zoom conferences.

"From the beginning, this was a different kind of challenge," she said. "We knew we would have to handle a lot of it digitally."



Throughout the summer, the cast worked together remotely via Zoom. But safely getting back on stage was always a priority.

"Learning how we were going to do school safely allowed us to see how we were going to do rehearsals safely," Bramlett said.

Students began working in small groups with other characters in scenes. The production eventually moved to full cast rehearsals — students were assigned seats when not performing, and the program purchased masks designed for singing.

Principal of New Berkshire Elementary School

- ▶ Students Selected to TMEA All-State Ensembles
- ▶ Sidekicks Drill Team to Host Tryouts
- ▶ Byron Nelson Cheer Wins State Championship
- ▶ Virtual Parenting Workshops Available This Spring
- ▶ Scholarships Awarded to Aviation Academy
- ▶ Health Sciences Director Awarded Impact Grant
- ▶ Looking Ahead at 2021
- ▶ Aquatic Center Grand Opening
- ▶ PTA Reflections Showcase
- ▶ Quarantine Period Reduced for 'Close Contact'
- ▶ NEF Awards More Than \$106,000 to NISD Campuses During Five Days of Giving
- ▶ Northwest ISD Schools Host Holiday Drive-Thru Events
- ▶ Football Players Sign DI Letters of Intent
- ▶ Biomedical Academy Lab Coat Ceremony
- ▶ Kindergarteners Get Virtual Look at Holidays Around the World
- ▶ Jennifer Murphy Sworn In as Newest School Board Member
- ▶ District Holiday Art Contest Winners
- ▶ Third Quarter Learning Location Changes Require Class Leveling
- ▶ To NISD Community: Thank You For Your Feedback!
- ▶ Long Range Planning Committee Meets Tuesday To Discuss Bond Election
- ▶ Cox Elementary Students Get Virtual Visit From North Pole
- ▶ Enrollment Request Window Open for Steele
- ▶ Northwest FFA Students Earn Accolades
- ▶ Opportunity to Change Students' Learning Preference for 3rd Grading Period
- ▶ Northwest ISD Seeks Voter Input in Election Feedback Survey
- ▶ Steele Student-Athlete Makes Historic Decision
- ▶ NISD Exemplar Educator Nomination Form
- ▶ Tax Assessor to Issue Amended Tax Statements
- ▶ Signing Day
- ▶ Creating a Solution for the Dilution
- ▶ Cybersecurity Awareness Month Digital Magazine

The Show Goes On For NISD Middle School Musical



Corrine, who plays Fiona, said that even though things are different, it is great to be back on stage.

"The production has been amazing," she said. "It's been awesome to just get to see my friends again, and to have social interaction. Just performing is so much fun. I love the singing part of it, the acting part of it, the dancing part of it, everything."

Virtual rehearsals and video auditions weren't the only changes the performers had to adapt to this year. They also had to find a way to tell the story with more than just their facial expressions.

"It's really hard to act off of people if you can't see half of their face," Corrine said. "It's been interesting to play around and see how you can also add things like body language to get a better audience response."



Sixth grader James Hutcherson did the same with his role as the bishop who marries Fiona and Lord Farquaad. With only five spoken lines, he decided to follow Bramlett's advice that you can never be too big on stage.

"I told myself that I was going to do just that," he said. "I was going to make my part too big. The directors are trying to get us to really put it out there and I am."

- ▶ Volunteer Campuses of the Year
- ▶ Northwest ISD Announces 13 Commended Scholars
- ▶ Haslet Elementary Opens New Campus
- ▶ NISD named District of Distinction by TAEA
- ▶ National Merit Semifinalist
- ▶ School Board Calls for Three Elections
- ▶ Lisa Day - Region 11 Secondary Teacher of the Year
- ▶ Curbside Meals Available during Remote Learning
- ▶ Update on Return to Learn Plan
- ▶ NISD to Begin 2020-2021 with Remote Learning
- ▶ UIL Modifies Fall Calendar
- ▶ Facebook Live regarding 2020-21 school year set for July 1
- ▶ Summer 2019-20 issue of Northwest Navigator magazine now available
- ▶ Facebook Live regarding TEA guidance for 2020-21 set for June 24
- ▶ Tuition-based Pre-K Application Process for 2021-2022 Now Open



Bramlett said that despite the challenges, they've worked hard to create a show for families and students from across the district to enjoy.

"With proper planning, you can do anything," she said. "We're still making theater, we're still making something beautiful. Just because things are different, doesn't mean they aren't still good."

A limited number of [tickets are on sale for three live performances](#) of *Shrek The Musical Jr.* Showtimes will be 7 p.m. Oct. 29, 7 p.m. Oct. 30 and 2 p.m. Oct 31. The Oct. 30 performance will be live streamed, and [a license to view it may be purchased online.](#)

Article available online at https://www.nisdtx.org/news/what_s_new/nisd_middle_school_musical