FROM THE DIRECTOR

"Oh! The Thinks you will think, if you're willing to try." The first line of the first song of this wacky musical tells us all what we need to know about the world of Dr. Seuss without actually telling us anything. And that is, in fact, everything.

As a child, I loved Dr. Seuss. (*I Wish That I Had Duck Feet* was a favorite of my brother and me.) The made up words, the fun drawings and colors. It sparked our imagination. You could go from McElligot's Pool to Solla Sollew in one afternoon. You could visit a Fox in Socks and then see who likes Green Eggs and Ham. Dr. Seuss is easily responsible for jumpstarting the imaginations of children all over the world for the last 75 years, and for instilling in us all that anything really is possible.

Getting to jump back into his world as an adult has been such a fun and unique experience, and has really proven to be just the right challenge for me to attack for my 20th musical here at Nordonia. 20 years. From my freshmen year of high school in 2001 until now, I have seen so many shows come and go. I have worked with so many dedicated and talented students. And I have been so unbelievably lucky to have been surrounded by so many brilliant and passionate people that I have gotten to work with side by side for four months each year.

Megan, Bill, Chip, Kitty, Molly, Vicki, Jacklyn, Cati, Gary, Dylan, Carlton, Kevin, Ryan, Shannon, Logan, Kelly, Sharon, Kathleen, John, Dave, Beth, Sean, Leah, Kim, Amy, Alex, Brittney, Jonathon, Dane, and the countless countless parents. Mentors, collaborators, and friends, you all inspire me every day, and it has been an honor to have my name associated amongst yours for so many years…and hopefully a few more to come.

To my cast and crews. Thank you for all of your hard work as you have brought these cartoon characters to life on stage! I hope your time in Whoville and the Jungle of Nool has been filled with fun and laughter you will look back on for years to come. To the Class of 2020, thank you for the memories. You are welcome back any time.

I will leave you with a Dr. Seuss quote that I think perfectly sums up what this process has been for us, and an insight into what you can expect as well. "If things start happening, don't worry, don't stew, just go right along and you'll start happening too." Thank you all for a wonderful 20 years with Nordonia Drama. Enjoy the show!

Chris Simmons

Director of Drama

SENIOR AND LEAD BIOS

Alli Alston (Pit Orchestra – Flute, Alto Saxophone) is a senior and is playing in the Pit Orchestra for her second musical production at Nordonia, following 2017's *Les Misérables*. She is also a member of Band and Wind Ensemble. Alli plans to attend Kent State University to study Music Education after high school.

Hailey Beck (Who Cadet) is a senior who has been seen on stage in *Les Misérables, The Wizard of Oz* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. She also worked tech for *Oklahoma!* and was a student director for *All in the Timing*. She attends CVCC for Health Careers and recently earned her STNA certification. Hailey will be attending Walsh University for Nursing.

Emerson Beery (Lil Roo) is a sixth grader at Lee Eaton and is excited to be part of *Seussical, the Musical* for 2020! She sings in the sixth grade choir as well as in the A Capella group, Genesis. In addition, she studies music with Summit Choral Society, where she has performed for three seasons. Emerson joined last summer's *Aristocats* summer drama camp, where she played Marie, but this is her first spring performance with the Nordonia Drama Club. Emerson is hopeful that this is just the start to many more Nordonia High School musical performances!

Alex Bobay (Mr. Mayor) is in the twelfth grade and is performing with the Drama Club for the fifth time. He has previously appeared in *Les Misérables, Oklahoma!, The Wizard of Oz* and *Much Ado About Nothing* in which he portrayed Don John. Alex has also appeared with Rubber City Theatre as Vlad Vladikoff in their summer 2019 production of *Seussical*. He is a 2-year member of Band and hopes to continue in theatre as he moves on to the Ohio State University to study Computer Science.

Jamie Brasdovich (Mayzie LaBird/Dance Captain) will be graduating this year and is in her ninth production at NHS. All the way from Egypt, France, Oklahoma and Oz, she's happy to be in the land of Seuss for her last show. She first appeared on the NHS stage as a member of the Children's Choir in *Joseph*. Notable high school performances include: *Almost, Maine* (Marvalyn), *Oklahoma!* (Ado Annie), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Titania) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Leonata). Jamie also appeared in T*he Little Mermaid* at Weathervane in Akron, under the direction of Chris and Megan. When she's not dancing, she's singing in Synergy and Symphonic Chorale. On her days off, she is either sleeping, meeting THE Laura Osnes, or busy being the total diva that she is. Special thanks to Cati…for all the roles!

Camden Gelfand (Pit Orchestra – Trumpet) is in the twelfth grade and has been playing in the Pit Orchestra for NHS Drama productions all four years of high school. This fall, she will be attending Otterbein University to major in Music and Business.

Hritik Gupta (Pit Orchestra – Clarinet) Ricky, as he is known due to his unpronounceable first name, is currently a senior at NHS. In addition to being involved with the musical's Pit Orchestra, he is also involved in many other extracurricular activities at NHS, such as: Mock Trial, Science Olympiad, and Band. He wanted to go into Artificial Intelligence, but after his dreams were crushed by his top two college choices, Ricky decided to major in Computer Science, most likely at Rochester Institute of Technology. Outside of school, Ricky can be seen drinking way too much sparkling water, to the point of obsession. Send help.

Libby Herberth (Gertrude McFuzz) is a sophomore returning to the Nordonia stage after taking on the role of Dorothy Gale in last year's production of *The Wizard of Oz*. She has also appeared in productions at the Young Actor's Studio in Hudson. She is also a member of Symphonic Chorale and Momentum. When Libby is not in rehearsal, she passes the time by failing at driving and stealing other people's food.

Noah Johnson (Horton, the Elephant) is a junior appearing in his third musical with Nordonia Drama, after appearing in the ensembles of *Oklahoma!* and *The Wizard of Oz*. In addition to Drama, Noah is a drum major in marching band, a member of Symphonic Chorale, and the vocal percussionist for Momentum. After high school, Noah currently plans to attend Kent State University to study Music Education. This one goes out to the man, myth, the legend…Big Papi Dulaney.

Alyssa Keller (Tech Crew) is a senior and this is her third year working with the Tech Crew for the Nordonia spring musicals. She will be attending Baldwin Wallace University in the fall to major in Hospitality and Tourism Management. In her free time, Alyssa enjoys cooking, drawing, and planning her next amusement park trip.

Josh Lockshine (Pit Orchestra – Drums) is a senior who is playing in the Pit Orchestra for his fourth musical at Nordonia. He is a four year member of the Marching Band as a member of the drum line, and was a part of indoor drum line program in 2016 and 2017. He has been a member of Concert Band and also played with Wind Ensemble. Josh also played Hockey for Nordonia this past season. After graduation, he plans to attend The University of Akron this fall, majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Corryn McHugh (Backstage Crew Manager) is a senior. She started working backstage and tech at NMS and this is her third year working behind the scenes with NHS Drama. Corryn has found her niche with Drama these last several productions. She will attend Kent State this fall to major in Zoology.

Miah Montesano (Mrs. Mayor/Dance Captain) is a member of the Class of 2020 and *Seussical* marks her seventh production with Nordonia Drama. Most notably, she has appeared as Hippolyta in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Aunt Em in last year's *The Wizard of Oz*. Miah also appeared in the 2018 Akron All-City Musical production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Akron Civic. She has been a member of the choir programs at Nordonia for seven years and plans to attend Baldwin Wallace this fall to study History and Music. She would like to thank everyone involved with Drama for making high school great!

Stella Naymik (Jojo) is a sophomore at Nordonia and this is her third production with Nordonia Drama. She has also appeared in *All in the Timing* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Stella has also performed in numerous productions at the Young Actor's Studio, and first worked with Chris Simmons in his production of *The Crucible* at Rubber City Theatre, in which she played Betty Putnam. She also plays soccer and is a member of Mock Trial. She would like to thank Chris and Megan, and everyone who has worked so hard to make this production possible!

Juliet Penrod (Who/Fish) is a senior this year. She has previously appeared as Egeus in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Antonia in *Much Ado About Nothing*, in addition to the ensembles of *Oklahoma!* and *The Wizard of Oz*. She is a member of both the Varsity Tennis Team and National Honor Society. She has also earned the Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish. After graduation, Juliet plans to continue her studies at Baldwin Wallace University this fall.

Cody Robinson (Pit Orchestra – Bass) is a senior this year, playing for his first musical production at NHS. He plays saxophone and bass in Band, and is a member of Jazz Band and Jazz Combo. After high school, Cody plans to study Chemical Engineering at The University of Akron.

Nathan Shaffer (The Cat in the Hat) is a senior this year. *Seussical* marks his fourth appearance on stage in a Drama production at Nordonia. He was first seen as Don in *The Universal Language*, a one act from *All in the Timing*. He easily wears many hats as he took on the roles of Munchkin Mayor, Crow, Oz Gatekeeper, and Jitterbug in *The Wizard of Oz*. He also took a stab at Shakespeare as Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing* last fall. In addition to Drama, Nathan is also a member of Choir and Momentum, as well as the Ohio Smash Ultimate PGR. Nathan would like to you leave you all with a very special message… Join NOVA Smash Ultimate Discord Server https://discord.gg/zwxyr25

Richard Spangler (General Genghis Kahn Schmitz) is in the eleventh grade this year and is appearing in his third consecutive NHS Drama production following his performances as Oz Beautician and Flying Monkey in *The Wizard of Oz* and Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Richard is also a three year member of Band as well as in his first year in Symphnic Chorale. At this time, he plans to study Finance after high school.

Annie Tarnowski (Tech Crew) is a senior and has worked on the Tech Crew for the Nordonia musicals for a couple years now.

Elizabeth Waight (Sour Kangaroo/Dance Captain) is a junior this year, and has had quite the year with the Drama Club! After playing in the orchestra for both *Oklahoma!* and *The Wizard of Oz*, Elizabeth has decided to tackle some on-stage roles this year. She appeared this past fall as Verges in *Much Ado About Nothing* before making her musical theatre debut as the Sour Kangaroo. She has been a member of the Marching Band for four years, and has been a dancer for the past thirteen years. Elizabeth currently plans to study Communication Design at the University of Cincinnati after high school.

Ryan Walsh (Pit Orchestra – Guitar) is a senior this year. This is his second year involved with the Drama Club, but his first year playing in the Pit Orchestra. Last year, Ryan was seen on stage as Leon Trotsky in *All in the Timing*, and as the wonderful Wizard of Oz in *The Wizard of Oz*. He did not submit a bio, so that is all we know.

Rebecca Weston (Who/Fish) is a senior who has appeared in NHS Drama's last three musical productions of *Les Misérables, Oklahoma!,* and *The Wizard of Oz.* In addition to her time on stage with Drama, she has also plays the flute, as a member of Marching Band for four years and Wind Ensemble for three years. After graduation, Rebecca plans to double major in college, studying Music Composition and Film Production.

Amanda Wezey (Who Cadet) is a senior making her on stage debut this year in *Seussical*! She has previously worked with the Drama Club on two productions as a member of the tech crew. She has also been dancing for eight years! After graduation this spring, Amanda plans to continue her education at Shawnee State University, where she will study Game Design.