

featurestories

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 Brac Love technical theater teacher

Mock trial team develops first case



photo/SAMAR BAIG

DIG DEEPER. Sophomores Kiley Smith and Jacqueline DeVelder work together on witness statements. "I keep in mind what type of character I'm playing, I dress up and deliver just like they would," Smith said.

Team members form case for competition

By SAMAR BAIG

As one walks into law teacher John Dempsey's classroom after school, they can feel the intensity of competition preparation. In total, the team will spend over 400 hours prepping.

The mock trial team will compete in the 6th annual Capital City Invitational at Florida State University on Nov. 11 and Nov. 12 at FSU's College of Law.

With sixteen students on the team and daily practices for nearly two months, competition serves as a bonding experience.

"Competitions are a really fun experience overall," junior Wesley Harris said.

For competition, the

team prepares a case using case facts, statements and evidence related to both the prosecution and defense side. At competition, the members present both defense and prosecution twice, for a criminal case surrounding a drug charge against a man pulled over for a traffic violation.

"We are going to get familiar with the rules of courtroom procedure," coach Dempsey said.

Each member has a specific role. Dempsey decides each member's role according to their personality.

"I try and match up a person's personality to a role that I feel best. It depends on their interest and skills. [For example] some people have better acting skills,

which would make them more likely to be a witness," Dempsey said.

Attorneys are assigned to write questions and uncover holes in the case. They also focus on building the characters of witnesses and analyzing evidence to bring to court. Witnesses memorize their statements and practice answering cross and direct examination questions.

Co-captains Harris and senior Valerie Cintron-Malave manage the team to ensure practice runs smoothly.

"It's great getting experience hanging out with people all year, then getting to do something you enjoy and were working hard for. It's fun seeing the final product," Harris said.

Drama, technical Team strives for superior

Drama and Technical team prepares for first district competition of the year

By TAYLOR CLARK

As the District 5 Thesians drama competition rounds the corner, drama students and the technical theater team prepare for what they deem the best weekend of their school year.

The district 5 competition is held at Ocoee High School on Nov. 16 to Nov. 18. Students from high schools across Florida will perform numerous plays, musicals and short scripts.

"This will be my first year so I'm super excited to see the production theme and the unique events," technical theater teacher Brac Love said.

Schools are ranked from poor to superior and the highest ranked school will continue to the state competition.

Students from technical theater team prepare for the competition by

working on their individual events. The individual events include the production team, costumes, scenic designs and makeup designs team.

Love is excited to see his team collaborate with one another as they compete against the other high schools, and discover new ways to better improve their skills.

"I'm most excited to see the different events and see my old friends from other high schools that love theater as much as I do," junior Alexandra Claire said.

Claire will participate in the competition as part of an acting group with her fellow classmates.

Both the drama and the technical team will take part in a "one act."

The one act scene is a series of stories that are performed as a group with drama students as acting and technical theater as makeup and costumes.

Both teams are striving for superior, hoping to make it to the state competition and take home the win.



questionanswer

Taylor Rosicka, junior

With the District competition getting closer, what are you looking forward to the most?
 "Seeing the other events and seeing what the other troops bring."

Are you feeling nervous? If so, what are you most nervous about?
 "I've never done a solo before and the judges judging me and my makeup is just spooky"

How are you preparing?
 "Reading through my play, making sure I understand my characters emotions and personalities."



Have you done competition before? If so why do you continue to be apart of it?
 "This is my second year. I'm doing what I love and I like seeing other people share that love."



(top) RAISE THE ROOF. Freshmen (left to right) Miranda Fuller, Josephine Panfen and sophomores Rachel Gimbel, Gabriella Fatigati perform their dance routine for Nadine and Brac Love during the "mock districts" performances. "I am excited for what is to come and see the audiences reactions," Gimbel said. The group assembled together to create the routine for districts. Once they had all of the pieces together, they auditioned in front of N. Love. They are now preparing for the real thing come Nov. 16 to Nov. 18.

(left) HAND IN HAND. Juniors Clay Dixon and Kerline Decembre perform their duet acting scene from the play "All in the Timing of Eyes" during the "mock districts" rehearsal.