

# Southern Boone High School gears up for 'Mean Girls'

STORY BY SABRINA PAN AND PHOTOS BY COLE BAILEY  
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Senior Brooke Bryant performs "World Burn" during a rehearsal of "Mean Girls" on Feb. 12 at Southern Boone High School. Bryant plays the antagonist and leader of "The Plastics," Regina George.



Sophomore Chloe Franks, left, and senior Linley Nabors, right, rehearse together on Feb. 12 at Southern Boone High School. The pair worked to tighten up their performance ahead of the premiere of "Mean Girls."

For the last six months, "Mean Girls" has taken over Southern Boone High School's theater program. The show is set to open on Feb. 19, and the cast is performing run-throughs and dress rehearsals of the musical, based off the 2004 teen-comedy movie of the same name.

"This is really when all the puzzle pieces start to fit together," said senior Brooke Bryant, who plays Regina George in the musical. "We can see the vision of the directors and how everybody else is playing their characters."

Preparation for the musical began in August, where the performers have been blocking scenes, rehearsing dances and learning music. Students in the crew worked behind the scenes in set building, hair and

makeup and costume design.

Bryant and other members of the cast rehearse Monday through Friday after school, typically staying on campus until 9 p.m.

"It's so nice to see actors up there having fun with their songs and just knowing that they're having a good time," said Jaiden Shipley, a senior and student director of the musical.

Throughout rehearsals, the cast and crew have formed a tight bond. For Bryant, preparing for her final show of her senior year has been especially meaningful.

"It's nice to have this last year in a show that we all love and want to be so good," Bryant said. "So everybody is trying their hardest to just make everything go so well for opening night. It's just been really special."

Bryant hopes the community comes to watch the show and enjoys

the performance, she said.

"I think that we want people to just come to see 'Mean Girls' and feel what they felt when they first watched the movie," Bryant said. "I just hope that they have a really positive experience when they see it, and it just makes them so happy like it makes us happy."

"Mean Girls" will be showing at 7 p.m. from Feb. 19 to Feb. 21, and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 22 at the Southern Boone High School theater.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for children under 12 or seniors ages 65 or older. Tickets will be available for purchase at the door.

"I think it's definitely not an opportunity to miss," said senior Sophie Bethel, who plays the role of Gretchen Wieners. "We're only performing 'Mean Girls' once, and it's going to be really exciting."



Junior Wyatt Old and sophomore Chloe Franks perform a duet during a rehearsal for "Mean Girls" on Feb. 12 at Southern Boone High School. Wyatt and Chloe play the characters Aaron Samuels and Cady Heron, respectively. Tickets for the show are \$20 for general admission.



The cast and crew of Southern Boone's "Mean Girls" debrief before a rehearsal on Feb. 12 at Southern Boone High School. The crew was putting finishing touches on the show ahead of its debut on Feb. 19. The show will run through the weekend, with the final show at 2 p.m. Feb. 22.



From left, junior Sophie Bethel, senior Brooke Bryant and freshman Kaydence Riley strike a pose in unison during the "Apex Predator" number in a dress rehearsal for "Mean Girls" on Feb. 12 at Southern Boone High School. The three played the "Plastics," Gretchen Wieners, Regina George and Karen Smith. The students have been preparing for the show since August.



Trenton John, left, and Houston Banks, right, prepare lighting profiles before a rehearsal of "Mean Girls" on Feb. 12 at Southern Boone High School. The pair of students worked on the production as audio and visual technicians.