

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

Story Synopsis

Troy, Gabriella and the students of East High must deal with issues of love, friends and family while balancing their classes and extra curricular activities. The show's infectious, danceable songs are sure to engage performers and audiences alike.

It's the first day after winter break at East High. The Jocks, Brainiacs, Thespians and Skater Dudes all find their cliques. Basketball team captain and resident jock, Troy, discovers that the brainy Gabriella, a girl he met singing karaoke on his ski trip, has just enrolled at East High. The couple cause an upheaval when they decide to audition for the high school musical. Although many students resent the threat posed to the "status quo," Troy and Gabriella's alliance might just open the door for others to shine as well.

Roles

Leads/Supporting Leads
Ensemble

6 Female

6 Male

12

Gabriella Montez

High School Age Girl

Extra Strong Vocals

Gabriella Montez is the new student who's struggling to find her place at East High. She's a Renaissance woman who doesn't fully identify with any of the cliques, and so she's taking her time – and realizing her confidence – along the way. Smart and independent, Gabriella can be shy and vulnerable at times. She comes into her own when she discovers her talent and love for singing with Troy.

Vocal range bottom: A3

Vocal range top: D5

Troy Bolton

High School Age Guy

Extra Strong Vocals

Troy Bolton, the most popular student at East High, is the star of the basketball team who yearns to be more than what others – especially his dad, Coach Bolton – want him to be. A natural athlete and leader with charm to spare, Troy discovers he loves to sing, but is afraid to admit it to his basketball buddies.

Vocal range bottom: Eb2

Vocal range top: Bb3

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Sharpay Evans **High School Girl** **Triple Threat – Strong Singer, Dancer, Actor**

Sharpay Evans is the dramatic and self-centered star of the school musicals. Between her and Ryan, she's the alpha twin – over-the-top, demanding, and always “on,” with a flair for the theatrical. This diva knows how to work a crowd, so cast a performer with solid acting chops and strong singing and dancing skills.

Vocal range bottom: A3 Vocal range top: A4

Ryan Evans **High School Guy** **Triple Threat – Strong Singer, Dancer, Actor**

Ryan Evans is Sharpay's fraternal twin and, like her, he lives to sing, dance, and get loads of attention. Subordinate to his sister, Ryan generally follows Sharpay's orders and lets her have the spotlight, but he longs to break free from her shadow and assert himself. Choose a “triple threat” for this actor – strong singer, dancer, and actor – because everything Ryan does is calculated and executed impeccably.

Vocal range bottom: G2 Vocal range top: A3

Kelsi Nielsen Troy Bolton **High School Age Girl** **Strong Actor**

Kelsi Nielsen, the neo-feminist writer-composer of the winter musical, *Juliet and Romeo*, possesses a shy demeanor but no tolerance for the egocentric likes of Sharpay. Sharpay is the compassionate underdog with intelligence and an uncanny ability to shoot zingers at Sharpay with timing and accuracy.

Vocal range bottom: D4 Vocal range top: A4

Chad Danforth **High School Age Guy** **Good Actor & Singer**

Chad Danforth, one of Troy's best friends, is a sports fanatic. Focused on winning the basketball championship, Chad slowly begins to understand that there might be more to life than ball – including his crush on Taylor..

Vocal range bottom: B2 Vocal range top: G3

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Zeke Baylor

High School Age Guy

Good Actor & Singer

Zeke Baylor, Troy's other best buddy, is a basketball player with a sweet side. He has two secrets: a crush on Sharpay and a love for baking! Zeke is a Wildcat with no shame in his (basketball or baking) game.

Vocal range bottom: G2

Vocal range top: G#3

Taylor McKessie

High School Age Girl

Good Actor & Singer

Taylor McKessie, the very put-together president of the Science Club, is super-assertive and very intent on Gabriella joining the Science Decathlon team so they can (finally!) win the competition. Taylor has a hidden soft spot for Chad, but would never let it be known that she's into a jock. Taylor is confident and pretentiousness.

Vocal range bottom: A2

Vocal range top: A3

Ms. Darbus

Female 35 ish

Extra Strong Actor

Ms. Darbus is East High's eccentric drama teacher. Passionate and disciplined, she never stops trying to enrich the lives of her students through the wonders of live theater. Look for a performer who knows how to milk every line and gesture for this role, as the key to Darbus is in her killer comic timing. Be careful of making her too wacky, though; this educator genuinely loves her art and her students, so make sure her heart shines through.

Coach Bolton

Male 35 ish

Extra Strong Actor

Coach Bolton, the stern basketball coach and Troy's sometimes overbearing dad, lost the big game years ago and wants a second chance through his basketball-star son. This requires an actor who can handle the demands of a mature role – and who can convincingly and comically spar with Ms. Darbus.

Martha Cox

High School Girl

Good Actor, Singer, Dancer

Martha Cox, a proud member of the Science Club, possesses a private passion for break dancing. Look for a truly terrific dancer who can sing, or one who can comically approach the role as a super-enthusiastic, but talentless, dancer.

Vocal range bottom: G3

Vocal range top: B4

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JACK SCOTT

High School Guy

Good Actor

Jack Scott is the school announcer with a larger-than-life personality, longs to be a D.J. He has a quirky radio personality with a unique sense of style.

MS. TENNY/MODERATOR

30ish Female

Actor

East High's chemistry teacher, and Science Decathlon Moderator.

THE ENSEMBLE

Major singers and dancers in the show.

They carry most of the songs and appear in many scenes.

The **BRAINIACS**, headed by Taylor McKessie, are the smartest girls and boys in school, including Martha Cox and the change-adverse **KRATNOFF**.

The **JOCKS** and **CHEERLEADERS** are the East High athletes, including Troy, Chad, and Zeke.

The **THESPIANS** are the drama lovers, including Kelsi, Sharpay, and Ryan, as well as the following auditionees: **CATHY**, who belts like Ethel Merman, **CYNDRA**, the opera-lover, **JAMES**, who can't sing on pitch and **SUSAN**, the wannabe pop star.

The **PARTY KIDS** are students in Troy and Gabriella's karaoke flashback.

The **REBELS**, including Troy and Gabriella, don't stick to the status quo, unlike the various school cliques.