

Press from:

The New Providence School District
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For Release: TapIntro

Submitted by: New Providence School District

Subject: Calling your inner-Webster at New Providence High School!

Tonight is the opening night for New Providence High School Drama Department's rendition of the musical comedy ***The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee!*** Six one-dimensional, but exceedingly offbeat middle schoolers - *William Barfee* (Scott Regan), *Olive Ostrovsky* (Alex Skotarczak), *Chip Tolertino* (Dan Aranda), *Leaf Coneybear* (Zachary Pereira), *Logainne "Schwartzzy" Schwartzandgrubenierre* (Samantha Molle), and *Marcy Park* (Kathleen Newcombe) vie for the fictitious Putnam County's Spelling Bee trophy, while equally off the wall adults moderate the Bee - *Mitch Mahoney* (Cooper Fischbeck), *Vice Principal Douglas Panch* (Samuel Clerihue) and *Rona Lisa Peretti* (Leda Rossmann). Rounding out the cast are Sabrina Gerace, Chloe Lemos, Roxanne Sabel, Kyra Trumbull, and Yotam Shacham portraying various roles and wacky personalities.

What ensues is pure hilarity wrapped in pre-teen anxiety and dilemma. Senior Kathleen Newcombe, who has acted in every possible production in her stint at NPHS, sums it up quite perfectly, "This show is so amazing because all of the characters are so strange and different, and they are forced to be in the same space which results in an amazingly fun show!"

When asked to elaborate on their favorite character, the casts' answers were as diverse as the roles themselves! Sabrina Gerace, also a swing, answered "My favorite character in the show is Olive... She is an inspiring character because even in her very young age she is able to persevere through her tough familial relationships."

Scott Regan, previously stage crew behind the scenes and a first time cast member, focuses on the humor, commenting he finds "Panch to be extremely funny, as many of his definitions and sentences are some of the **best jokes** in the show..." Multifarious cast members agree on that point and find Sam Clerihue's delivery to be hilariously entertaining at every turn!

Zachary Pereira reflects on his character, "I like Leaf's unfiltered/ unbridled playfulness and my ability to play him as wildly as I want.", while others also extol Leaf as constant comedic relief, or comment "It's so hard to not burst out laughing when he's on stage."

Kyra Trumbull and Chloe Lemos, both juniors new to the NPHS musical, agree Samantha is the most like her character because they have similar mannerisms, and have very passionate personalities. Others say they are not sure if Zach is acting or just being goofy. But perhaps

Sam Clerihue most accurately and concisely sums up the cast by saying “It’s full of talented people that all chose to unite in these strange times to give people joy.”

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a [musical comedy](#) with music and lyrics by [William Finn](#), a book by Rachel Sheinkin, conceived by Rebecca Feldman with additional material by Jay Reiss. The New Providence High School production is directed by Craig Duke, Leslie Ditta (Choreographer), and Caitlin Alongi (Music Director).

Tickets are available for six performances over 2 weekends.

April 23rd at 7:30 pm

April 24th at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

April 30th at 7:30 pm

May 1st at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

General Admission: \$12.00

Only 150 seats available per performance!

Please arrive 20-30 minutes before your show to check in, get a temperature check and be seated. Please note that the audience will be seated in groups of 2 socially distanced. Once seated please stay seated and maintain distancing. Masks will be required of the audience and staff at all times.

Please visit the [New Providence School District website](#) to purchase tickets.



