

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOVI, MICHIGAN
January 22, 2026**

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

TOPIC: Novi High School Theatre Students – State Thespian Festival Honors

The Theatre Department had 16 kids at the State Thespian Festival on December 12th and 13th, 2025. They were part of a festival that included almost 1700 kids, and they represented Novi well in both their behavior and their results. Students can earn a Fair, Good, Excellent, or Superior rating for the various events. All Novi kids earned excellent or superior.

In the short play competition, the Novi entry received a **Superior** rating and will be taking the play to the state finals of the one-act competition in February, where it will be produced again in front of a new panel of judges. This short play was completely student-directed; it was directed by Kai Chopra and Lorelai Raudszus.

Cast: Joanna Ambadipudi, Ally Bajorek, Lilly Balino, Theo Knapp, Jumana Mancy, Esmé Scott, Ellyanna Sharrow, and Ishaan Thurman.

Individual Events:

Excellent:

Stage Management: Katey Kumon

Musical Theatre Solo: Christian Johnson

Musical Theatre Duet:

Diya Hariharan and Jumana Mancy

Lilly Balino and Esmé Scott

Superior:

Set Design: Kai Chopra

Lighting Design: Alaina Beaudoin

Theatre Marketing:

Joanna Ambadipudi

Ishaan Thurman

Playwriting:

Kai Chopra

Theo Knapp

Contrasting Monologues:

Lilly Balino

Lorelai Raudszus

Duet Acting:

Brody Gibson and Theo Knapp

Lorelai Raudszus and Ellyanna Sharrow

Group Acting:

Ally Barojek, Ellyanna Sharrow, and Sadahra Thomas

Ally Barjoek, Diya Hariharan, Jumana Mancy, and Ishaan Thurman

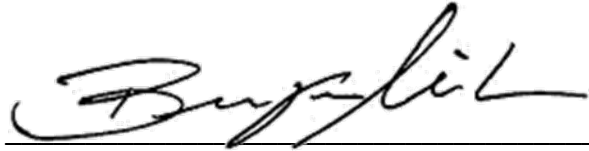
Musical Theatre Solo: Esmé Scott

Lilly Balino, Christian Johnson, and Lorelai Raudszus earned a total of \$914,180 in scholarship offers from colleges/universities.

Katey Kumon was awarded a Thespian Scholarship, the highest honor for a Theatre student in Michigan. Only 10 are awarded each year.

We want to extend our congratulations to these students for their achievement and present them to the Novi Community School District Board of Education this evening for recognition.

**APPROVED AND RECOMMENDED
FOR PRESENTATION AND RECOGNITION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benjamin Mainka', written over a horizontal line.

Benjamin Mainka, Superintendent