

(2/5/25 – District Administrator’s Corner Article)

Back in December, the stage buzzed with excitement as our River Valley High School’s musical theater team delivered a show-stopping performance of *Mean Girls: The Musical*—a production that not only wowed audiences but also garnered recognition at this year’s Jerry Awards. The level of professionalism, energy, and sheer passion displayed on stage was beyond impressive. It’s a testament to the hard work of our students, staff, and the entire creative team.

From the moment the pit band started, the cast captivated the audience with their sharp choreography, powerful vocals, and seamless comedic timing. The standout performances of the night included Tessa Pare, Jazmine Gauger, Lily Spahn, Josie Mahoney, and David Van Hallgren who each brought depth and charisma to their roles. And the state theater evaluator/critics have noticed:

Congratulations to the cast and crew of the River Valley High School production of *Mean Girls* on their long list of Jerry Awards nominations!

- Outstanding Musical
- Outstanding Ensemble
- Outstanding Orchestra
- Outstanding Lead Performances: David Van Hallgren, Jazmine Gauger, Josie Mahoney, Tessa Pare, and Lily Spahn
- Outstanding Supporting Performance: Grady Graham
- Outstanding Dance Performance: Lydia Johnson
- Outstanding Musical Direction: Becky Schinker
- Outstanding Choreography: Michael Stanek
- Outstanding Direction: Sara Young
- Outstanding Scenic Design: Kevin Zimmer
- Outstanding Lighting Design: Lea Branyan
- Outstanding Sound Design: David Sabbagh
- Outstanding Costume Design Team
- Outstanding Stage Crew

The Jerry Awards recognize and honor excellence in high school musical theater. Later in June, cast members are featured in an awards show held at Overture Center for the Arts in downtown Madison. The Jerry Awards have recognized our school’s production with multiple nominations and wins in the past, and the tradition of excellence continues. The students’ dedication and teamwork were evident in every scene, proving that high school theater can be just as exhilarating as professional productions.

The cast and crew celebrated their achievements with a standing ovation from the audience, marking yet another unforgettable moment in our school’s proud theater tradition. But it looks like the ovation continues. Congratulations to everyone involved in making *Mean Girls* a smashing success and for being involved in an incredible opportunity. The River Valley School District community is proud of you!

Sincerely,

Loren Glasbrenner, District Administrator
River Valley School District