

HOPATCONG BOROUGH SCHOOLS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hopatcong, NJ – Durban Avenue

Title: HMS & HHS Students see *Wicked* at the Gershwin Theater in NYC

Cynthia Randina, Hopatcong Superintendent of Schools, Announces –

On Wednesday, April 27th, students of the Hopatcong Middle School 7th and 8th grade Band, Choir, Drama Club, Art, and Bring It Clubs, as well as the Hopatcong High School Tri-M, Art, and STEAM Academy went to see *Wicked* at The Gershwin Theatre in NYC. In addition to seeing the show, students also participated in a “Behind the Emerald Curtain” backstage tour and Question & Answer session with two of the actors. The tour covered the enormous task of producing a professional production, including set design, costumes, makeup, lighting, stage effects, and even the workings of the business office!

In between the tour and matinee performance, students ate lunch at the John Lennon Memorial Strawberry Fields in Central Park, where a musician was singing and playing Beatles songs on the guitar. Students learned a little about the life of Lennon and the origin of the memorial section of the park.

In preparation for the trip, students attended four workshops on Friday, April 22. Due to the varying ages and experiences of the students on the trip, these workshops served as a fun and interesting day to gain knowledge about the show and the different aspects of the backstage tour. The workshops included were Character Development and Conflict (Ms. Brennen), Backdrops and Set Design (Mr. Rischaway), Story Synopsis (Ms. Canazaro), and Lightning, Costumes and Sound (Mr. Batches, Mr. Zimmermann and student assistant Nicole Schwarz). All of the workshops were interactive, where students drew, designed, acted, and interpreted scenes and story lines, and experienced the areas and workings of a theater / auditorium.

The students are still talking about the incredible day!



