The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition
Q&A With Ms. Hannah Grace

What made you choose SpongeBob for this year's spring production?

I chose SpongeBob because it is high-energy, super fun, and perfectly highlights every single person in the cast. It has been such a blast to work on from a creative standpoint, and our Theatre Tech students are enjoying working on a new design style. This is an entirely new story, so audience members who haven't seen the show will absolutely fall in love with the characters, music, and story. Of course, there are some Easter Eggs planted for the die-hard fans of the show!

What themes from the show do you feel resonate most with our students and school community?

This show's thesis is laid out in the opening number: "All are welcome here". SpongeBob invites us not to ignore our differences, but to acknowledge and celebrate them. When we work together as a team, as a school, as a community, we make the world a better place.

How does this production challenge or stretch your students in new ways?

This show has very challenging music, but our cast is performing it wonderfully! SpongeBob has music in many different styles, written by many different people. We have music by Cyndi Lauper, Sara Bareilles, Panic! At The Disco, and more, spanning rock, pop, and even gospel. Each song comes with its own singing and performance style, and Mr. D has done a great job of helping the cast understand how to perform each style well!

Are there any standout moments or numbers the audience should look forward to in particular?

It's so hard to pick, because every number is so amazing, but I think there will be a couple of moments in Act 2 that really blow the audience away. From a design standpoint, we are creating the Bikini Bottom that people know and love, but with our own unique twist! You'll see iconic sets and costumes from the cartoon, as well as some new locations and ideas.

How does participating in theatre benefit students beyond the stage?

Something I love about our program at St. Luke's is that our students are very diverse. They are athletes, musicians, scholars, AND actors. Participating in theatre helps students improve their critical thinking and problem-solving skills and teaches them to work together as a team. From an athletic standpoint, our choreography can help improve balance and flexibility, which helps them play better!