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Starlight Reveals the Nominations for the 24th Annual Blue Star Awards



Starlight's 24th Annual Blue Star Awards Ceremony will be held Thursday, May 21, 2026.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Each year, thousands of high school students across the Kansas City metro wait in anticipation for the announcement of the annual Blue Star Awards nominations. Today, Starlight leadership, staff, and board members revealed this year's nominees via in school presentations and Starlight's social media. In the 2025-26 Blue Star Awards season, 66 schools and nearly 5,100 metro area students participated, making the program one of the largest and most respected high school musical awards shows in the nation.

Modeled after Broadway's Tony Awards®, Starlight's annual Blue Star Awards recognize achievement and excellence in musical theatre among Kansas City area high school students. Winners will be announced in 31 categories and \$10,000 in monetary prizes will be awarded at the Blue Star Awards Ceremony, which will also feature 10 onstage performances.

The 24th annual Blue Star Awards Ceremony will take place Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. at Starlight Theatre. Premium seating is available for \$20 per ticket. Additional seating is free but will be ticketed. To reserve tickets, visit kcstarlight.com or call the ticket office at (816) 363-7827. There will be limited concessions available for purchase.

2025-26 Blue Star Awards Nominees

Ceremony Ensemble

Basehor-Linwood - Lydia Broxterman

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Bishop Miega - Isaac Frenzel
Bishop Miega - Isabella Dessert
Blue Springs South - Darryl Wesley
Blue Valley Northwest - Ryan Peterson
Blue Valley Southwest - Aliyah Lawrence
Blue Valley Southwest - Kellen Serrano
Blue Valley Southwest - Madeline Hendricks
Central - Macormick Carlson
De Soto - Savannah Hendry
Grain Valley - Aerah Trotter
Grain Valley - Dylan Rucinski
Grain Valley - Hadasah Trotter
Heritage Christian Academy - Melissa Lounes
Liberty - Maddy Hand
Liberty - Molly Sheeley
Liberty North - Lainey Beaty
Liberty North - Tony Monaco
Liberty North - Zack DeWet
Olathe East - Delainey Mock
Olathe East - Jordan Rosenwald
Olathe East - Lorien Colucci
Olathe East - Max Haney
Olathe Northwest - Hudson Barker
Olathe Northwest - Maggie Sykes
Olathe South - Calvin Grady
Olathe West - Addy Davis
Olathe West - Ashlyn Warren
Olathe West - Gage Pfannenstiel
Olathe West - Lydia Treff
Olathe West - Teddy Garcia
Park Hill - Chamberlain Webster
Park Hill - Garrett Webster, II
Park Hill - Rylee Bornheimer
Platte County - Colin Bralley
Platte County - Finley Pennington
Rockhurst - Charlie Tietjen
Rockhurst - George Nessinger
Ruskin - Desmond Walker III
Saint Thomas Aquinas - Chloe Hochanadel
Shawnee Mission East - Dane Schwartz
Shawnee Mission East - Emma Daggett
Shawnee Mission East - Holland Baldassaro
Shawnee Mission East - Lola Bray
Shawnee Mission Northwest - John Leon
Shawnee Mission Northwest - Louisa Bartlett
Shawnee Mission South - Elliana Farrow
Shawnee Mission West - Sutton Claycamp
Smithville - Sylis Newman

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St. James Academy - Aliyah Hart
St. James Academy - Mia Simone
St. Teresa's Academy - Lainey McManamy
Summit Christian Academy - Junius Yancik

Community Impact Award

De Soto
Grain Valley
Liberty North
Olathe Northwest
Park Hill
Winnetonka

Creative Contribution Award

Bishop Miege - Nora Butler for Choreography
Central - Macormick Carlson for Choreography
Liberty - Hannah Mees for Direction
Olathe West - Lydia Treff for Choreography
Park Hill South - Evran Allenbrand for Direction
Raymore-Peculiar - Vanessa Diaz for Choreography
Rockhurst - Charlie Tietjen for Direction
Shawnee Mission Northwest - Harper Ward for Choreography

Technical Contribution Award

Blue Springs - Cailey Petersen for Scenic Design and Management
Blue Springs - Nora Letterman, Ava Curp, and Jacquelyn Smith for Costume Design
Blue Valley North - Kennedy Dunbar for Stage Management
Liberty - Abigail Kuhlman for Lighting Design and Master Electrician
Liberty - Mary Brink for Hair and Makeup Design
Olathe North - Lauren Ware for Audio and Scenic Design
Olathe West - Calley Portsche for Props Designer and Manager
Olathe West - Teddy Garcia for Publicity and Marketing
Park Hill South - Madison Mulvaney for Costume Design

Dream Production Award

Blue Valley - Chacey Dollins for Direction
Liberty - Hannah Mees for Direction
Liberty North - Jillian Downing for Choreography
Liberty North - Tony Monaco for Hair & Makeup Design
Mill Valley - Izzy Simms for Choreography
Olathe West - Annabelle Owens for Costume Design
Piper - Payton Flory for Costume Design
Platte County - Colin Bralley for Costume Design

Rising Star Scholarship – Sophomore

Liberty - Adelaide Jurgens
Oak Park - Jazzmine Reid
Olathe Northwest - Hudson Barker

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Olathe West - Gage Pfannenstiel
Olathe West - Kate Nickel
Pembroke Hill School - Cecilia Miller
Rockhurst - Charlie Tietjen
St. Teresa's Academy - Sabine Federlein

Rising Star Scholarship – Junior

Blue Springs South - Camryn Jerome
Blue Valley Southwest - Aliyah Lawrence
Liberty - Maddy Heits
Liberty North - Jillian Downing
Olathe North - LilyAnna Brown
Pembroke Hill School - Evelyn French
Ruskin - Lexi Urias
Shawnee Mission Northwest - Louisa Bartlett

Rising Star Scholarship – Senior

Blue Springs - Cailey Petersen
Central - Macormick Carlson
Lawrence Free State - Piper Northrop
Lee's Summit North - Jane Hough
Olathe Northwest - Maggie Sykes
Olathe South - Tristan Jenkins
Olathe West - Ashlyn Warren
Raymore-Peculiar - Eli Showen

Student Reporter

Blue Springs - Olivia Meek
Fort Osage - Malia Arnold
Lee's Summit North - Jake Johnson
Notre Dame de Sion - Adele Milligan
Ruskin - Alexandria Mondaine

Jimmy Awards

Blue Springs South - *Anything Goes* - Kamryn Henderson as Billy Crocker
Blue Springs South - *Anything Goes* - Sydney Dilks as Reno Sweeney
Liberty - *The Phantom of the Opera* - Olivia Dolton as Christine Daaé
Park Hill South - *Jesus Christ Superstar* - Megan Sheehan as Judas
Platte County - *Disney's Newsies* - Charlotte Sweet as Katherine Plumber
Platte County - *Disney's Newsies* - Finley Pennington as Jack Kelly

Orchestra – Tier I

Blue Valley West - *Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
De Soto - *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*
Kearney - *Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
Lawrence Free State - *The Addams Family Musical (School Edition)*
Platte County - *Disney's Newsies*
Shawnee Mission East - *Bye Bye Birdie*

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Shawnee Mission Northwest - *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella (Enchanted Edition)*
Shawnee Mission West - *The SpongeBob Musical*

Orchestra – Tier II

Blue Springs South - *Anything Goes*
Blue Valley North - *Disney's The Little Mermaid*
Liberty - *The Phantom of the Opera*
Liberty North - *Mean Girls High School Version*
Olathe East - *Between the Lines*
Olathe Northwest - *Mean Girls High School Version*
Park Hill - *Disney's Freaky Friday*
Park Hill South - *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Scenic Design – Tier I

Belton - *Disney's Descendants: The Musical*
Benton - *The Drowsy Chaperone*
Excelsior Springs - *Disney's The Little Mermaid*
Grain Valley - *Urinetown*
Lawrence Free State - *The Addams Family Musical (School Edition)*
Platte County - *Disney's Newsies*
Raymore-Peculiar - *Pippin*
Ruskin - *The Prince of Egypt*

Scenic Design – Tier II

Bishop Miege - *Mamma Mia!*
Blue Springs - *Guys and Dolls*
Blue Springs South - *Anything Goes*
Blue Valley - *Something Rotten!*
Central - *Footloose*
Lee's Summit - *Mystic Pizza*
Olathe East - *Between the Lines*
Staley - *Seussical the Musical*

Lighting Design – Tier I

Belton - *Disney's Descendants: The Musical*
Blue Valley West - *Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
Excelsior Springs - *Disney's The Little Mermaid*
Grain Valley - *Urinetown*
Lawrence Free State - *The Addams Family Musical (School Edition)*
Leavenworth - *Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
Raytown - *Hadestown: Teen Edition*
Shawnee Mission West - *The SpongeBob Musical*

Lighting Design – Tier II

Blue Springs - *Guys and Dolls*
Central - *Footloose*
Liberty - *The Phantom of the Opera*
Olathe East - *Between the Lines*

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Olathe Northwest - *Mean Girls High School Version*
Olathe West - *Mamma Mia!*
Park Hill South - *Jesus Christ Superstar*
Winnetonka - *Little Shop of Horrors*

Costume Design – Tier I

Belton - Disney's *Descendants: The Musical*
Excelsior Springs - Disney's *The Little Mermaid*
Lawrence Free State - *The Addams Family Musical (School Edition)*
Leavenworth - *Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
Odessa - *Once Upon a Mattress*
Platte County - Disney's *Newsies*
Raymore-Peculiar - *Pippin*
West Platte - *Shrek The Musical*

Costume Design – Tier II

Blue Springs - *Guys and Dolls*
Blue Springs South - *Anything Goes*
Blue Valley Northwest - *Grease*
Central - *Footloose*
Lee's Summit West - *Water for Elephants (High School Edition)*
Liberty - *The Phantom of the Opera*
Olathe East - *Between the Lines*
Olathe Northwest - *Mean Girls High School Version*

Hair & Makeup Design – Tier I

Belton - Disney's *Descendants: The Musical*
Lawrence Free State - *The Addams Family Musical (School Edition)*
Leavenworth - *Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
Platte County - Disney's *Newsies*
Raymore-Peculiar - *Pippin*
Shawnee Mission Northwest - *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella (Enchanted Edition)*
Shawnee Mission South - *Cabaret*
Smithville - *Anything Goes*

Hair & Makeup Design – Tier II

Blue Springs - *Guys and Dolls*
Blue Springs South - *Anything Goes*
Blue Valley Southwest - *The Addams Family Musical (School Edition)*
Gardner Edgerton - *Shrek The Musical*
Liberty - *The Phantom of the Opera*
Oak Park - Disney's *Tarzan*
Olathe Northwest - *Mean Girls High School Version*
Park Hill South - *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Technical Crew – Tier I

Belton - Disney's *Descendants: The Musical* - Costume Crew
De Soto - *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* - Sound Crew

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Excelsior Springs - Disney's *The Little Mermaid* - Set Crew
Lawrence Free State - *The Addams Family Musical (School Edition)* - Lighting Crew
Platte County - Disney's *Newsies* - Hair & Makeup Crew
Platte County - Disney's *Newsies* - Set Crew
Raymore-Peculiar - *Pippin* - Costume Crew
Shawnee Mission South - *Cabaret* - Hair & Makeup Crew

Technical Crew – Tier II

Blue Valley - *Something Rotten!* - Set Crew
Blue Valley Southwest - *The Addams Family Musical (School Edition)* - Set Crew
Liberty - *The Phantom of the Opera* - Lighting Crew
Liberty - *The Phantom of the Opera* - Set Crew
Olathe East - *Between the Lines* - Costume Crew
Olathe South - *It's a Bird...It's a Plane...It's Superman* - Set Crew
Olathe West - *Mamma Mia!* - Set Crew
Staley - *Seussical the Musical* - Set Crew

Performer in a Lead Role – Tier I

Benton - *The Drowsy Chaperone* - Dylan McDonald as Man in Chair
Lawrence Free State - *The Addams Family Musical (School Edition)* - Owen Börk as Gomez Addams
Leavenworth - *Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* - Devin Kaminski as Willy Wonka
Platte County - Disney's *Newsies* - Finley Pennington as Jack Kelly
Raymore-Peculiar - *Pippin* - Amari Russell as Leading Player
Ruskin - *The Prince of Egypt* - Desmond Walker III as Moses
Shawnee Mission South - *Cabaret* - Chet Salsbury as Emcee
Shawnee Mission West - *The SpongeBob Musical* – Zoe Quick as SpongeBob SquarePants

Performer in a Lead Role – Tier II

Blue Springs South - *Anything Goes* - Kamryn Henderson as Billy Crocker
Blue Springs South - *Anything Goes* - Sydney Dilks as Reno Sweeney
Blue Valley Northwest - *Grease* - Dylan Johnson as Danny Zuko
Lee's Summit - *Mystic Pizza* - Ella Jeffries as Kat Arujo
Liberty - *The Phantom of the Opera* - Olivia Dolton as Christine Daaé
Olathe East - *Between the Lines* - Avery Valentine as Delilah McPhee
Olathe Northwest - *Mean Girls High School Version* - Paige McCann as Regina George
Park Hill - Disney's *Freaky Friday* - Chamberlain Webster as Ellie Blake

Performer in a Supporting Role – Tier I

Belton - Disney's *Descendants: The Musical* - Emily Kilpatrick as Maleficent
Grain Valley - *Urinetown* - Brooklyn Hedrick as Little Sally
Lawrence Free State - *The Addams Family Musical (School Edition)* -
Lily Davis as Wednesday Addams
Leavenworth - *Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* - Marley Bergen as Mrs. Teavee
Platte County - Disney's *Newsies* - Owen Guess as Crutchie
Raytown - *Hadestown: Teen Edition* - Cameron Ritchie as Hermes
Shawnee Mission South - *Cabaret* - Caroline Shaw as Fraulein Schneider
Smithville - *Anything Goes* - Sylis Newman as Lord Evelyn Oakleigh

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Performer in a Supporting Role – Tier II

Blue Springs South - *Anything Goes* - Max Bergman as Moonface Martin
Blue Valley - *Something Rotten!* - Danonn Mwangi as Bea
Blue Valley North - Disney's *The Little Mermaid* - Cale Fulcher as Ursula
Central - *Footloose* - Anthony Frump-Halloran as Willard Hewitt
Liberty North - *Mean Girls High School Version* - Jillian Downing as Janis Sarkisian
Olathe North - *Little Shop of Horrors* - Charlie Senuta as Mushnik
Olathe West - *Mamma Mia!* - Addy Davis as Rosie
Olathe West - *Mamma Mia!* - Ashlyn Warren as Tanya

Performer in a Featured Role – Tier I

Fort Osage - Disney's *High School Musical* - Alana Moe as Chorus
Lawrence Free State - *The Addams Family Musical (School Edition)* - Felix Ovsak as Lurch
Lawrence Free State - *The Addams Family Musical (School Edition)* - Harper York as Grandma
Platte County - Disney's *Newsies* - Giovanni Cucchiara as Race
Raymore-Peculiar - *Pippin* - Vanessa Diaz as Player
Shawnee Mission Northwest - *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella (Enchanted Edition)* -
Ellie Roberts as Grace
Shawnee Mission Northwest - *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella (Enchanted Edition)* -
Louisa Bartlett as Joy
Shawnee Mission South - *Cabaret* - Syria Sharpe as Texas

Performer in a Featured Role – Tier II

Blue Springs South - *Anything Goes* - Logan Jones as Purser
Blue Valley North - Disney's *The Little Mermaid* - Mia Hauschild as Chef Louis
Blue Valley Northwest - *Grease* - Ryan Peterson as Doody
Blue Valley Northwest - *Grease* - Wyatt Ricker as Roger
Lee's Summit West - *Water for Elephants (High School Edition)* - Brody Smith as Wade
North Kansas City - *Chicago: Teen Edition* - Kobe Starr as Annie
North Kansas City - *Chicago: Teen Edition* - Tatum McGinnis-Wood as Mona
Olathe West - *Mamma Mia!* - Santana Romero as Dance Ensemble

Ensemble – Tier I

Grain Valley - *Urinetown*
Lawrence Free State - *The Addams Family Musical (School Edition)*
Leavenworth - *Road Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
Platte County - Disney's *Newsies*
Raymore-Peculiar - *Pippin*
Raytown - *Hadestown: Teen Edition*
Ruskin - *The Prince of Egypt*
Shawnee Mission South - *Cabaret*

Ensemble – Tier II

Blue Springs South - *Anything Goes*
Blue Valley - *Something Rotten!*
Blue Valley Northwest - *Grease*
Lee's Summit West - *Water for Elephants (High School Edition)*
Liberty - *The Phantom of the Opera*

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Olathe West - *Mamma Mia!*
Park Hill South - *Jesus Christ Superstar*
Rockhurst - *Disney's Newsies*

Overall Production – Tier I

Grain Valley - *Urinetown*
Lawrence Free State - *The Addams Family Musical (School Edition)*
Platte County - *Disney's Newsies*
Raymore-Peculiar - *Pippin*

Overall Production – Tier II

Blue Springs South - *Anything Goes*
Liberty - *The Phantom of the Opera*
Olathe East - *Between the Lines*
Olathe West - *Mamma Mia!*

About Starlight

Opened as a theatre in 1950 and a nonprofit organization in 1951, Starlight is the largest and oldest performing arts organization in Kansas City, Missouri, and connects our community through live arts experiences that entertain, inspire, and engage audiences of all ages. Offering diverse programming year-round, Starlight presents Broadway musicals, concert events, and extensive community engagement programming, including arts access initiatives, scholarships, school partnerships, and one of the most well-regarded high school musical theatre award programs in the nation. Located on 16 acres in Swope Park, the historic, city-owned venue is the second-largest outdoor producing theatre in the country with almost 8,000 seats.

Follow Starlight on social media @kcstarlight and visit kcstarlight.com for more information.

Starlight is supported in part by the City of Kansas City, Missouri Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund.

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