



April 2, 2013

Dear Friends:

It is not even November, and I'm encouraging you to vote. This time, however, I'm asking you to support our talented theatre students—not ballot items.

The theatre program at Cypress Falls High School is one of 30 semifinalists from across the country selected to compete in the *SMASH: Make a Musical* contest, which will provide needed funding to schools to improve their physical performance space.

The top five schools that earn [online votes](#) will receive \$3,000 gift cards from Lowe's that can be used to upgrade school theater facilities. At Cypress Falls, theatre co-directors Cory Kelley, Sherry Frank and Rachel Seney plan to put the winnings to good use by replacing risers and improving lighting grids in the school's "black box" theater, where most of their productions take place.

But Cypress Falls can't do it unless the votes keep coming in. Currently, the school's 18,500-plus votes have the school trailing in a distant seventh place, about 7,000 votes outside of the top five schools. A [Channel 2 news story](#) and other efforts have helped to increase the vote tally, but with our size and reach we can do even better!

Online voting runs through next Wednesday, April 10, and you can vote once per 24-hour period from a single IP address.

Although I don't watch the hit show *SMASH*, I definitely support our school's fine arts programs. I encourage you to show your support by participating in this contest and spreading the word. When one of us wins, we all win!

See you soon,

Mark