

Editor –

I recently had the pleasure of escorting nine Marathon High School Thespians (4 seniors, 2 juniors, 2 sophomores, and a freshman) on a four-day trip to New York City. We spent President's Day weekend celebrating our founding fathers with the Broadway Student Summit and the Broadway hit musical HAMILTON.

The Broadway Student Summit is designed to connect theatre students with the Broadway community - and with each other - through a series of workshops, master classes, and tickets to a Broadway Musical. Highlights of the Summit included a dance workshop with a former HAMILTON dancer, a vocal workshop with the Associate Musical Director of HAMILTON, and a Path to Broadway workshop with four HAMILTON cast members – 2 of whom we saw perform just hours after our meeting.

This was the first NYC experience for many of the students, and we filled every spare minute exploring and experiencing the city. We took in the sight and sounds of the city near our Times Square Hotel. We lunched at the famed Stardust Diner where singing servers dish out dinner and a show. We ventured out in the mornings in search of New York Bagels. We bundled up in multiple layers to go ice-skating in Central Park. We went Off-Broadway to watch the hilarious "The Play That Goes Wrong." We wrangled last minute orchestra tickets to see Tiki Barber in the Tony Award Winning musical "Kinky Boots." And of course, we thrilled in the HAMILTON experience.

This amazing trip was made possible by contributions from our generous community including: Royal Furniture, American Legion Auxiliary Memorial Unit 154, Marathon Rotary, Marathon Zonta Club, Key Colony Beach Boating & Fishing Club, Richard Beckmann at NAPA Auto & Marine Parts, Bob & Carolyn Belcaster, Roger & Stephanie Gill, St. Columba Episcopal Church and all those who donated at our Publix bagging events in November and December. My students and I thank you all for your love and support.

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