



Reaching the High Note. (Above) West Connection hosts their annual Big River competition at the Adler Theater. Performers felt that hosting the competition was an uplifting experience. "I like hosting because it's fun to watch all of the different groups perform. A group I met that day won grand champions and that was really cool," said Nasaih Kolwey '22.
Photo By: Daizie Johnson

Hands High. (Right) West Connection reaches to impress their supportive crowd. Madi Phelps '21 felt no sense of pressure while performing at concerts and competitions. "Being on the stage, I'm able to be more outgoing, and I can really go crazy up there without being judged," said Phelps.
Photo By: Mason Boland-Lopez



Sayonara Show Choir. (Right) Maesi Geigle '20 stands proud while performing. Geigle reflected on her time in West Connection as her final season of Show Choir rapidly came to an end. "Performing is like any other skill; you have to put in the effort to be good as it's not all glitz and glitter," said Geigle.
Photo By: Mason Boland-Lopez



Show Up & Show Out

Performers discuss new competition routines

How much effort do performers put into their Show Choir routines? Throughout Show Choir students are exposed to copious amounts of cardio, long days, and new friendships. Performing and practicing provides stressors for students in their academics that exceed the regular school day.

"It's really stressful when we have competition during the school week. I really like the fact that we make more friends through competitions. We rehearse constantly until we get it right," said junior **Haleigh Johnson**. Show Choir individuals have to conquer challenges, nonetheless come together as a whole. "The biggest challenge of competition days is making sure you have enough energy to go on stage and give it your all," said Johnson. When competing, students felt that strong relationships with fellow Show Choir students were built.

"I really liked being able to interact with other groups and watch them perform. It was fun making new friends and just sharing all the energy with everybody else," said sophomore **Myles White**. On stage, Show Choir students are able to express themselves as individuals, and show who they

really are.

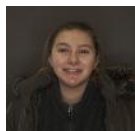
"When I'm on stage I can be a whole different person, and you don't get judged for it. You just do what you need to do to have fun," said junior **Lindsey McNeff**. This year West Connection decided to jump out of their comfort zones and try something different.

"This year we really did something different; we took a completely different route than a typical Show Choir show. That really shows out at competitions because we were able to tell an inspiring story, and we turned a small idea into something really big," said McNeff. Taking risks and being different is what stands out to judges.

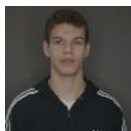
Although underclassmen became exposed to an alternative Show Choir experience, seniors only experienced non-traditional performances once. "The seniors in West Connection only performed regular shows, so being able to do it this way really helped them take in a lot of new knowledge," said McNeff.

Through countless amounts of stress and competitions, students stand out for their performances.

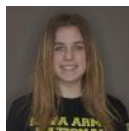
Story By: Angel Alderman and Daizie Johnson



Haleigh Johnson



Myles White



Lindsey McNeff



Lean On Me. (Above) West Connection performers believe that their teammates are reliable. Throughout her four years of performance, Mara Nguyen '20 felt a connection to her group outside of the spotlight. "You can always count on someone in the group to give us motivation before a show. No matter who you are, everyone is very supportive," said Nguyen.
Photo By: Daizie Johnson

Loud And Proud. (Left) Gillian Collins '20, Jacob Heim '20, Peyton Flynn '22, and Nasaih Kolwey '22 proudly showcase their routine at the Big River competition. West Connection performers felt that a new twist on traditional performances brought something special to their group. "Our show was kind of theatrical in the first two songs, so there was a lot less dancing and a lot more acting," said Lillian Shaffer '23.
Photo By: Mason Boland-Lopez



Step Into It. (Left) Choreography is an important factor in the overall Show Choir performance. While singing was enjoyed by performers, some preferred to indulge in more intense choreography routines. "For the future of Show Choir, I'm hoping we learn more advanced dances and do more with the choreography," said Steven Daily '22.
Photo By: Daizie Johnson



West Connection

Front: Nasaih Kolwey, Myles White, Haleigh Johnson, Zara Fellman, Sydney Duane, Peyton Flynn, Madison Phelps, Gillian Collins, Morgan Ware, Chandra Duyvejonck, Sarah Decker, Airrika Guthrie, Hailey Harrington, Melina Williams, Hailey McClure
Middle: Nasir Kolwey, Alycea McDermott, Kyleigh Clark, Michaela Sperry, Isabella Castel, Kelly Nguyen, Heaven Lee McLeod, Jacob Heim, Charles Macaluso, Michael Hill, Alexis Peters, Tiara Wilson, Brianna Gonzalez, Lanie Sweeney, Mara Nguyen, Gabriella Johnson
Back: Eli Benson, Evan Walker, Emma Peters, Nate Gagahagen, Austin Peckenschneider, Tate Kronfeld, Luke Heinrichs, Cory Howard, Calvin Laake, Steven Daily, Lindsey McNeff, Isabel Martinez, Paige Sinksen, Lillian Shaffer, Samantha Hancock, Kymberlee Schumacher, Aubrie Schlotfeldt

Cardio From CHOREOGRAPHY



"I really enjoy the choral part and dancing because it engages your body in physical activity."
-Clare Lotspeich '23



"I think it's a lot of different cardio and exercises than we would normally get. I like that we get to have fun with it."
-Isabelle Martinez '23



"It's a lot of dancing and singing, so you get out of breath easily and still have to sound good while doing it."
-Sydney Duane '22

"Looking Back, it was stressful, but in the end it was worth it because I made new relationships. Moving Forward, I plan on staying in Show Choir, and it is a good way to escape everyday life."
-Aubrie Schlotfeldt '21

