



Teaching *for*  
**TRANSFORMATION**

# “It’s a Hard Knock Life” K-8 Musical

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Denver Christian School





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**Deep Hope:** Our deep hope is that we learn to follow the true director in life's story while shining confidently in the gifts and roles God has given us.

**Storyline:**

FOLLOW HIS



CUE

## Long Term Learning Targets:

- 🎯 I can...follow God's cue by shining confidently in a production of Annie Jr. to perform for foster children and their families through the gift of music.
- 🎯 I can... follow God's cue of showing compassion by growing in my understanding of foster care and what children experience.

## Curricular Outcomes:

**Standard 1- Music Expression 1.2: Perform complex notated songs with accurate pitch, rhythm, tone, harmony and expressive elements.**

**Standard 2- Drama and Theatre Arts 2.3  
Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.**

**Standard 2 Drama and Theatre Arts 2.2  
Develop and refine artistic techniques, choices and work for presentation.**





## Habit(s) of Learning:

**We are CURIOUS THINKERS.** Students think critically about what it means to be an orphan or in foster care. Students help create their own choreography to show excellence to others on stage.

**We are JOY-FILLED COLLABORATORS** who are grateful to be able to perform on a big stage and use our gifts. We have a blast making music and memories, and we also reflect that this performance is not about us, but about others and bringing God glory.

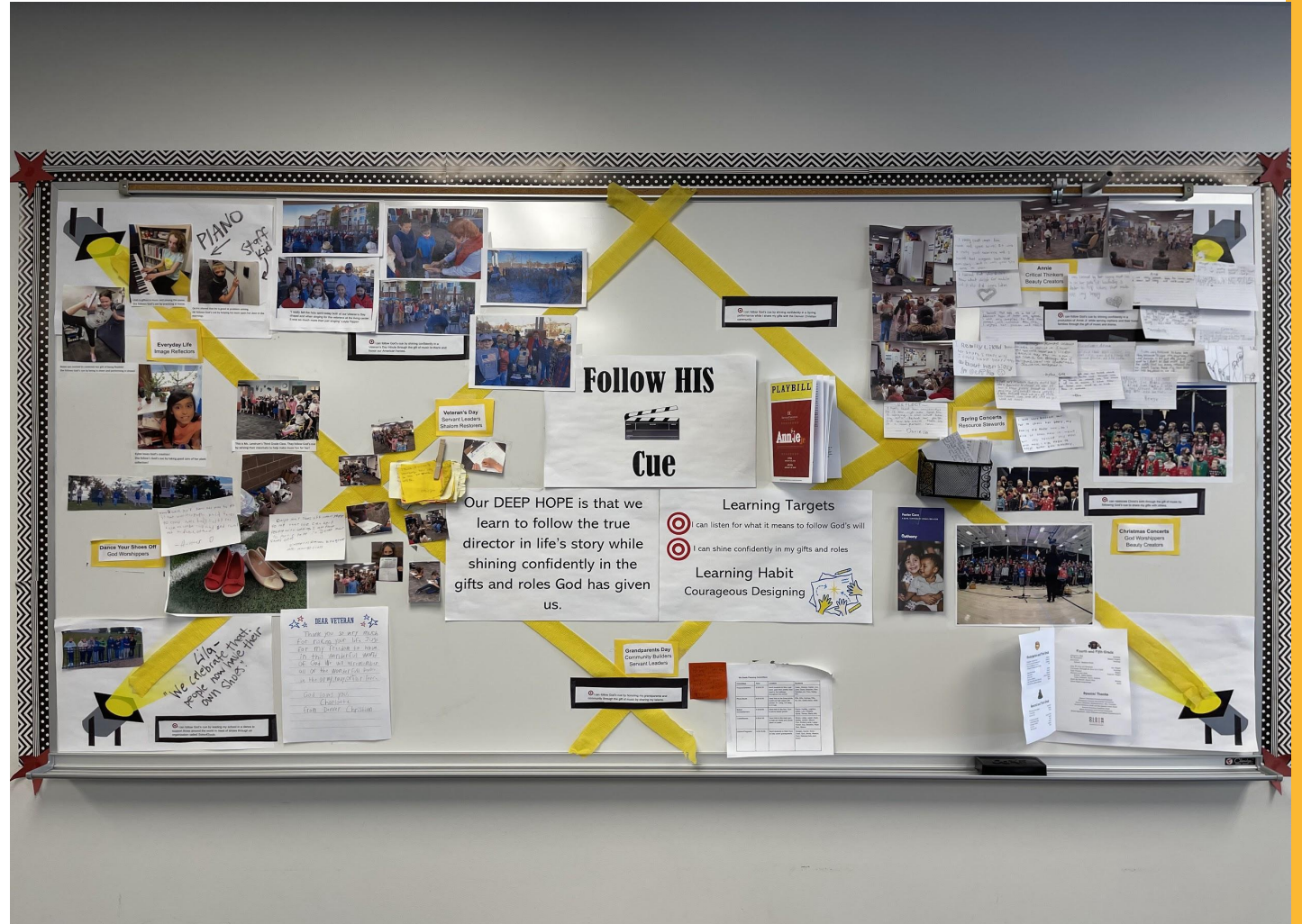


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# Storyline: Follow His Cue

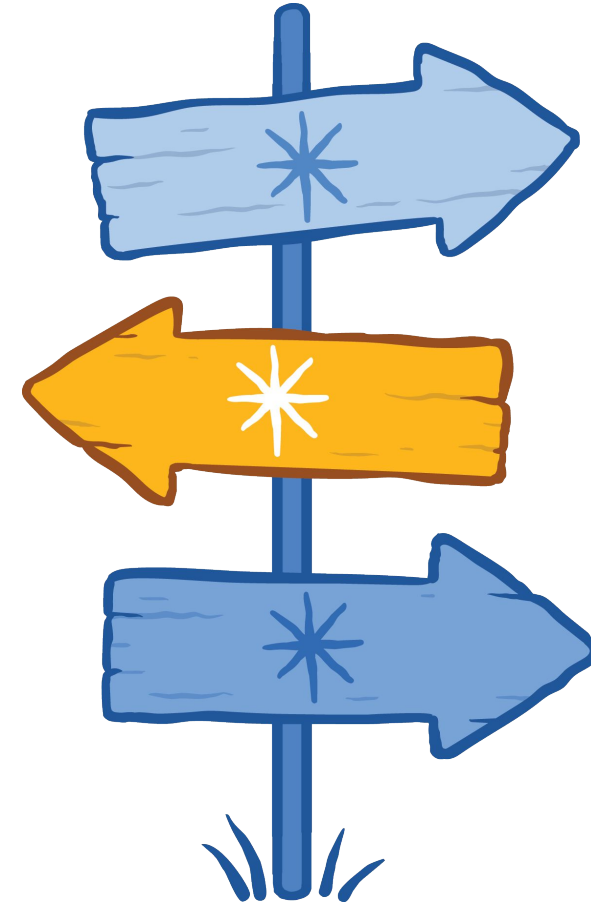
Students learned to follow God's cue in giving their best for God, themselves, their cast mates, and foster families.

Students learned to follow God's cue to show others compassion and share their gifts of music and acting.



## Throughlines:

**Students are BEAUTY CREATORS**  
because they are sharing their talents  
of music and acting with others.





## Formational Learning Experience:

### Real needs:

Acceptance, Love, and Joy.

### Real people:

Foster Families and kids

### Real work:

Enjoying the gift of music, acting, and dance! Partnering with an organization to spread awareness about the needs of Foster Care.





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## INVITE

1. We began with a dialogue about what an orphan looks like today.
2. We invited a young lady who had been through the foster system for 18 years to come and visit with our students. She shared her story and we shared ours with her.
3. Students could apply their knowledge by going deeper with their role and character. Students processed what they learned, how they were blessed, or what they were surprised by. Here are some of the responses in the following slides.



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## Student Reflections:



I felt like I was blessed  
by God because I have  
a family.

~REFLECT~  
I Really liked how successful  
she is now and how hard she  
is working. I also liked how  
she left behind her past  
and how she said that she  
is a new person now.

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I was inspired by how Ana showed her goals in life even when she had a tough time growing up.

It was really nice to hear Ana's story because I have a foster brother who doesn't always let us know his feelings. It helped me understand him better.

I learned that foster care is a flawed system. It is difficult to believe that something meant to help people actually hurt them. I enjoyed to hear Anna's story and that now she has a good future ahead of her, and her dreams.





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## NURTURE

By processing what foster care might be like, students could then go deeper in their role in the musical. They were able to develop empathy. It also created amazing conversations within the cast about the impact of poverty and wealth.











## EMPOWER

**Students were empowered to continue using their gifts to bless others. They were also encouraged to share their stories with others because it helps us relate to others through the gift of empathy! In some cases, some families were interested in becoming foster parents!**



## Teacher Reflections:

I was excited for the students to perform their hard work, but more importantly, I was excited for them to hear about other kids' lives and stories. Hearing from our guest speaker got uncomfortable and challenged students to think about their own lives and stories. From there, they could go deeper with their characters and make them more real.



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## **Additional Information to tell the story:**

Denver Christian Blog about FLEX

**Theater that Transforms**

Denver Christian Performance of Annie

**DC Production of Annie**





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