

# FHS playwright to see her work on stage

## 'A Bump in the Night' packs 'crazy' fun Friday night

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Sentinel & Enterprise

Updated: 2017-05-25 04:38:11.881836

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FITCHBURG -- Some things have changed since Megan Ptak, then a seventh-grader, co-wrote the first draft "A Bump in the Night," the upcoming Fitchburg High School production.

Other things haven't changed at all.

"It wasn't really very serious at all," she said, recalling the play she co-wrote for an after-school program at McKay Arts Academy with then-eighth grader Skyler Robinson.

"It's still not really serious. ... It's pretty goofy -- just like we are."

Ptak, now a high school senior, will see the play she started almost five years ago premier 6 p.m. Friday at Fitchburg High School. Tickets are not required and admission is free.

The roughly 40-minute musical about students in detention is a cross between "The Breakfast Club" and "Goosebumps," according to Fitchburg High School Music Director Tabitha Greenlees.

The script includes original songs that span a variety of genres.

"We have everything from kind of a 'stray-cat strut' type, bluesy, almost gospel tunes to some 1980s hair metal power ballads," Greenlees said.

Transforming the play from its original script to its present form was a collaborative effort -- and a whirlwind, Greenlees said.

Over the past five weeks, about 10 students and Greenlees worked together to rewrite the script, compose songs, learn lines and set up the lighting.

The "crazy" timeline is less than half what it took to produce the school's spring musical "The Drowsy Chaperone," according to Greenlees who said she wanted to stage the play before the seniors graduate next week.

"We're just kind of throwing all of the pieces together in the last five weeks," she said.

Though Greenlees helped facilitate the production the project was student suggested.

"They said 'Have you ever thought about writing a musical?' and I said 'Yes, because I'm crazy and it sounds like you are, too,'" she said. "Let's jump in this endeavor together."

For Ptak -- who plans to study film at Fitchburg State University -- the musical has been a chance to spend time with friends.

"It's been super exciting, because the group that I work with are literally my favorite people in the entire world."

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