

# Riverside:

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“We’re probably going to Tupelo, when Riverside closes in February,” Webb said. “I don’t want to leave. Oxford has always been my home, but I can’t pay for a house here.”

Before being forced to move from Riverside, Webb was already previously evicted from a trailer park.

“I used to stay in a trailer park and the guy that owned it sold it to Dick’s Sporting Goods Company,” Webb said. “Then I moved to Riverside, and now that’s closing down.”

“My mom is tired of Oxford,” Webb said. “They just don’t care.”

Oxford School District Superintendent, Brian Harvey, and Sanders both said that they did not know the number of OSD students that currently live in Riverside.

Sanders did say, however, that the month selected about when Riverside would close was not something she or the Oxford Housing Authority could control.

“The contract renews every February 28th, so the timing was not anything that we could regulate,” Sanders said.

When asked via email if Harvey had been communicating with members from the city to discuss the closing of Riv-

erside and its effects on OSD students, Harvey responded with the statement, “We will certainly work with students during this difficult time.”

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**Brian Harvey**  
Superintendent

close until every family had been relocated.

“We will continue to actively recruit landlords and assist the families at Riverside until they are all relocated and housed,” Sanders said. “We are committed to the families we serve and we will continue to work hard on their behalf.”

Laurenzo says that he knows that the majority of Riverside families do not want to move out of Oxford, but that if those unable to find housing in the city limits relocate, it will affect the diversity of both the city and the Oxford School District.

“The children and families who live in Riverside are predominantly African-American,” Laurenzo said. “To the extent that they move out of Oxford or the school district the number of minority students would decline.”



Courtesy of Stella Lindsey

A group of OHS students and teachers pause for a photo. They saw the hit musical *Hamilton* at Chicago’s Private Bank Theater over this past Thanksgiving break and found the show to be something to smile about.

## OHS trip to Chicago goes beyond students’ and teachers’ expectations

**By Eve Gershon**  
staff writer

Over Thanksgiving break, a group of students and teachers made the trek to Chicago, getting the opportunity to see the “ten-dollar founding father” in action in the Broadway mega-hit *Hamilton*.

“Beyond anything we had ever expected. It was as good as all of the critics have declared it to be,” US History teacher Stella Lindsey said. “It was excellent.”

The trip would have never happened without a sparked interest in the students before the show had even made it to Broadway.

“It was a trip that was initiated by the students,” Lindsey said. “Several students brought the musical to my attention last year when it was Off-Broadway.”

“Basically, all we did was nag her relentlessly,” junior Anna Renfroe said.

With some conviction and a bit of luck, Lindsey managed to find a travel agent who helped get the group tickets on the very

first day they went on sale in Chicago.

“We happened to just hit that window of opportunity. So we had tickets, and then we had to plan a trip,” Lindsey said.

When the trip was finally planned, all that was left to do was listen to the cast album on repeat and wait for the show to come.

“I’d been listening to the album for like a year,” Anna said. “I got so emotionally involved in the history and the characters.”

With so much hype surrounding the show, there was always the worry that the show would not live up to their expectations.

“We just got a whole new cast, and everybody was really skeptical, including me,” freshman Julia Mitchell said. “The characters really took their places by the end, and we were all like okay this is legit.”

Senior Rebecca Grayzel-Ward agrees.

“The characters were amazing even though they weren’t the original char-

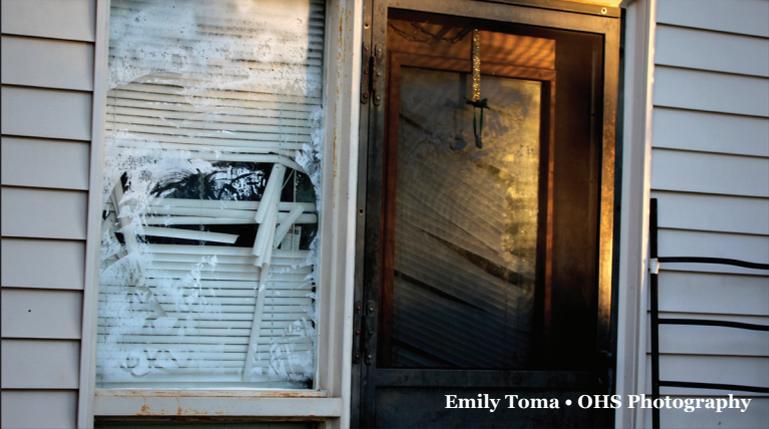
acters, and even though I was sitting in literally the last row, it was still amazing, and it sounded amazing,” Grayzel-Ward said.

Even senior Liza Carole Renfroe, who admits to not always enjoying musicals, found the show to be spectacular.

“Normally I get really bored during musicals, but it was exciting,” Liza Carole said. “It was really unique.”

Along with seeing the show, the group took a guided tour of the city and visited the Chicago Institute of Art and the Field Museum of Natural History. On their last night, the group had free time to walk around Chicago’s Magnificent Mile before they were able to see the city lights from the fourth tallest building in the city.

“After dark, we walked down Michigan Avenue and met at the John Hancock building, where we went to the top, and we went to this observation deck where we could see the city at night. It’s called Chicago 360,” Lindsey said. “It was beautiful.”



Emily Toma • OHS Photography

Broken window shutters on a Riverside apartment building help show the decay that the complex has faced in recent years. The neighborhood will close in late Feb.

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