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Scene 2: MS. DARBUS'S HOMEROOM – Monday, 8:00AM

(The school bell rings. The STUDENTS run to their homeroom classes and sit for the morning announcements. TROY and GABRIELLA are among the last to arrive. He catches a quick glimpse of her, but can't believe his eyes. Lights up on JACK SCOTT sitting at a mic in an announcer's booth. The moment he turns on the mic, he becomes a hip, velvet-fogged DJ.)

JACK SCOTT

Yo, welcome back all you crazy Wildcats. This is Jack Scott, the Velvet Fog of East High with the Homeroom 411 bringing you the morning announcements: The Science Decathlon finals are coming up this Friday, so see Taylor "Learning Curve" McKessie for more skinny on the hooey. All for now, Peeps.

(MS. DARBUS, the school drama teacher, enters her homeroom with a grand flourish. Her eccentricity is fueled by a genuine love of theatre and of teaching. A small, hand-held gong sits on her desk.)

MS. DARBUS

Well, once again, they forgot to announce the auditions for the winter musical, *Juliet and Romeo*, written by our very own Kelsi Nielson. It's a delicious, neo-feminist adaptation of Shakespeare's classic tragedy of star-crossed lovers... with a brand new happy ending!

(CHAD leads the JOCKS in a round of dry raspberries.)

Mr. Danforth, this is a place of learning, not a football diamond.

(TROY slips his cell phone from his pocket and dials.)

MS. DARBUS (CONT'D)

This year, as always, the Drama Club faces a shortage of male participants, so please come in and audition. I'm offering you fun, glamour... and extra credit!

(A cell phone starts a wild musical ring. At the first ring, RYAN and SHARPAY pull out their cell phones.)

Ah, the dreaded cell phone symphony! Sharpay and Ryan Evans, your phones please, and I'll see you in detention.

(MS. DARBUS lifts a plastic bucket that is labeled: CELL BLOCK D. But the musical ringing continues. MS. DARBUS searches the room. GABRIELLA digs her phone from the bottom of her backpack. MS. DARBUS looms over her.)

We have zero tolerance for cell phones during class. Phone, please... and welcome to East High, Ms. Montez.

(notices TROY's phone)

Mr. Bolton, I see your phone is involved. Splendid. We'll see you in detention as well.

(MS. DARBUS extends the bucket for TROY's phone. CHAD practically leaps out of his chair.)

CHAD

That's not even a possibility, Ms. Darbus – your honor, sir – because we have basketball practice—

MS. DARBUS

That's thirty minutes for you, too, Mr. Danforth, count 'em!

TAYLOR

(whispers to GABRIELLA)

That could be tough for Chad, since he probably can't count that high.

MS. DARBUS

Taylor McKessie, thirty-five minutes.

TAYLOR

But I've never had detention in my life!