

Behind the Scenes The female lead is given to Chloe Schultz 21 because of her leadership qualities. "When I'm getting ready for the musical, I'm going over everything in my mind. I'm also talking to the people around me to make sure everyone is confident, and if they're not, I try to pump them up so our musical can be the best it can be," Schultz said. [photo] Camryn Mosty



Confident Crown To become one with the character is important to Gerik Jurgens 20. "I was the king toasting to his people," Jurgens said. "I enjoyed putting on a dumb voice with a drink in hand. I like to go all out, act and not care what people think, even if I look a little dumb." [photo] Jenna Welty



Scared To Go Solo As Caitlin Keiper 21, Tiffany Schnor 21 and Emily Ingalls 22 all move closer to their audience, their voices begin to hush and their nerves heighten. Keiper said, "It was weird because I was so close to the audience.

You feel like you are singing alone because you can only hear your voice, so you think 'maybe I shouldn't sing that loud.'" [photo] Alashia McMurdo

The Need To Adapt Changes made to Madrigal's cast cause Ella Hayden 22 to take on new roles. "I was saying a line. I don't remember what I said, but I messed it up. We all had lines because there weren't actors this year. Normally, we have actors in front of the tables. The singers had to be actors, too. It was to let everyone know what was happening," Hayden said. [photo] Jenna Welty



What is the most difficult part of being on stage?



"I guess just trying to stay in character, stay in your part and also look like you belong in the time period within the scene. Just staying in character."

-Macy Schanbacher 21



"Sometimes I can get nervous, so then you're wondering if you mess up, will they know about it? You get those nerves like you feel you did something wrong."

-Joey Shepherd 23



"Making sure you're always doing something with your face or acting even when the attention isn't supposed to be on you, so you keep in character really well."

-Kaitlyn Sievers 20



"You have to be really poised and play a role because Madrigal is set in a certain time. Since it's set in the past, people back then wouldn't act like we do today."

-Claire Gates 21



"You don't want to mess it up for the other people because there are other people that depend on you for your part. If you do mess up, then they mess up, too."

-Caiden Becker 22

Clubs Musical and Madrigal

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Positive Impact To mentor young actresses Emme Wolf 29, Mia Kenny 30 and Carlee Schultz 25 is a unique opportunity for Emily Colby 21. "They looked up to us, which made me feel important. It's a good learning experience to work with people so young," Colby said. [photo] Rachel Maschino



Steady Tradition At the Madrigal performance, seniors Lauren Woeste, Tonya Kramer and Chelsea Kruse are glad their section of the band has history. Woeste said, "I've been with Chelsea for all of my band years, and I started to know Tonya in seventh grade. It's always just been us three at the top of the clarinets." [photo] Jenna Welty



Aristocrat Actress To play a self-obsessed millionaire alongside her fellow classmates Gerik Jurgens 20 and Jacob Ludeking 20 empowers Madelynn Rodman 21. "I was nervous because it was a big role," Rodman said. "I really like how much sass and attitude I had to have. She's a rich baroness, and it was such a fun role to play." [photo] Tegan Vogt



Candle Custom With careful precision, Kenna Kline 21 and Avery King 20 pour hot wax out of a lit candle. Kline said, "At Madrigal there's a tradition of taking cups and pouring the old candle wax in and then making your own candles. You bring them back the next year and use them." [photo] Jenna Welty



Well-Rounded Participation in musicals varies Caleb Rivera's 23 skills. "I've never done high school, only community theater," Rivera said. "I want to be in Broadway because I like the experience." [photo] Amber Littrel

Little Sisters

On Stage Family Becomes Real Life

When Hailey Hakes 21 accepted the role of Liesl in "The Sound of Music," little did she know her responsibility stretched much further than line memorization.

"In past years, I've had smaller parts, [so] this year I had to step it up to become my character," Hakes said. "Not only is Liesl a free spirit, [but] she has responsibilities as an older sister and kind of a mother figure. She's the one taking care of the younger kids, and I had to take on that in the play and in real life."

Since they were unfamiliar with big productions, the littlest ones needed someone's help backstage. Hakes embraced this role naturally.

"I bonded with the kids right away, especially Emme [Wolf 29] and Mia [Kenny

30]. It was not hard for me to become like their older sister," Hakes said.

However, her sisterly position also came with plenty of extra tasks.

Hakes said, "Anything from making sure they got dressed in the right costumes to doing their makeup or hair [are things] I would be helping them with."

It was a huge job for Hakes but not the biggest one she faced.

"As [practices] got longer and later into the night, the kids wanted to go home or go trick-or-treating on Halloween. It was hard to keep their attitude in check," Hakes said. "The biggest challenge was just making sure they wanted to be there and to have fun."

-Kaitlyn Sievers