

Madrigals chosen to perform at All-State concert

By **Lauren Wilmore**,
Online News Editor

Madrigals, the highest choir at DGS, has secured a place out of ten choirs to perform in the All-State singing event on Jan. 30.

Joy Belt has been teaching at DGS for twenty years, and she is currently the choral director for Madrigals. She explained how Madrigals had to be dedicated and work hard to be chosen to perform at All-State.

“We will be performing for music educators [from] across Illinois. It’s a pretty big deal, and it is very hard to get in. You have to be on top of your game to get in,” Belt said.

Additionally, Ricardo Pedroza, the collaborative pianist for Madrigals who sometimes directs the choir, shared his excitement for the students’ ability and that they get to experience this event.

“Performing at All-State is one of the top accomplishments for a high school choir. It’s a privilege to work with such a talented group of students. I feel so proud of them. Being selected for such an event is in itself a significant fact. Performing at such an event is a growing experience for them, both personally and professionally,” Pedroza said.

As a member of Madrigals since junior year, senior Amber Kass expressed her excitement toward going to All-State



The Madrigal Singers have been selected to perform at the Illinois All-State showcase in Peoria in late January. Photo courtesy of **Joy Belt**

for the first time.

“Being a part of the group last year, I am really excited to go to All-State, for it was my group last year that auditioned and got into All-State. As a senior, it’s a really rewarding experience to get to go to All-State and perform for the best of the best, after the hard work that has been done by the teachers and students in the choir program,” Kass said.

In order to audition for All-State, Belt had to send in three audio files from the previous year, with this year being her first opportunity to do so. The tapes were sent in as a blind audition, meaning that the judges didn’t know which audios belonged to which high

school choir. The judges select the ten best audios, and those groups are chosen to perform at the All-State event.

While it’s difficult to be able to participate in All-State, this isn’t Madrigals’ first time going. Under the previous choral director, Laura Coster, Madrigals went to All-State twice. Now Belt has an opportunity to see the choir group go to All-State as the director herself.

“[T]his is my 20th year at South, [and] this is really my first opportunity to put that audition tape out there, partly because I haven’t had the group consistently over the years. Now, finally, I’m at a place in my career to be able to send in the tape to audi-

tion,” Belt said.

With the goal of a good performance at All-State in mind, Madrigals’ practices have changed to make sure their singing is at its best possible level. Junior Zoe Boyd talked about her experience with the new changes made to the practices.

“I do know that we’ve been practicing outside of school more often and in school. We practice the majority of fifth period and every other Wednesday after school. The boys and girls alternate, so it’s not necessarily more stressful but more of a commitment,” Boyd said.

In order to make sure Madrigals’ music is perfect for All-State, Belt decided to bring in other music

educators to further the professionalism of the group. Three different people: retired directors and college directors will be coming in to work with the group and offer a different perspective.

Not only do many Madrigals hope to have an experience that furthers their musical experience, but they also hope to walk away knowing that they did their best. Boyd commented on what she hopes will come out of the performance at All-State.

“I guess to be totally cheesy, I just want, by the time All-State rolls around, for everyone to be confident in our pieces and enjoy doing them. When you do them over and over again every day, it can get monotonous, but there is something different about getting in front of people, so I just hope that we are about to do our best and people enjoy us,” Boyd said.

As the director of the group, Belt hopes the experience will enrich the musical knowledge of the students and also lift up the whole choir program as a whole.

“I just hope that the kids will walk away with a mountaintop music experience that they will remember for their lifetime, that they will be so excited about their love of music that they want to come back and spread it to the rest of their friends in the choir program,” Belt said.

‘Clue: On Stage’ cast rehearses for their performances



“Clue: On Stage” cast members practicing for the comedic mystery play. Photo by **Madeline O’Neil**

By **Madeline O’Neil**,
Copy Editor

On Dec. 6 and 7, DGS will hold its annual winter play. The play this year is “Clue: On Stage.” The play is directed by English teacher Tiffany Rubin. She described the performance.

“It is a funny comedy that’s taken from the cult-classic movie in the 80s called “Clue” that is based on the board game. [The writers] took the game pieces and pretty much brought them to life in this murder-mystery scenario, but it’s meant to be wacky, and the characters are larger than life. It’s meant to be fun,” Rubin said.

This comedic murder-mystery style is something new to DGS theatre, and Rubin is looking forward to directing it.

“It’s just a fun play to do right now, and it’s been a

few years since we’ve done comedy,” Rubin said.

Senior Stefan Tambik plays Colonel Mustard and spoke of his admiration for the cast he has been working with.

“The cast is wonderful. We all have a desire to be there together and really work to produce the best production possible. I appreciate everyone’s acting ability as well. It’s humbling to work with such talented individuals in the cast,” Tambik said.

The cast has been rehearsing since mid-October, and Rubin spoke about her confidence in the cast as well as in their acting capabilities.

“The cast is already hilarious, just hearing them in the read-through doing their roles. [It’s] just really funny watching them play these iconic roles and seeing them come to life in on

stage,” Rubin said.

Sophomore Gwendolynne Royle, who plays Mrs. Peacock, says that this is a new experience to her in the DGS theatre department. She described her character and explained the unique role she brings to the play.

“She is very eccentric and quick to hysteria. It’s a very fun and different character for me, and I can’t wait,” Royle said.

Royle also spoke on her confidence in the theatre department and its performance of “Clue: On Stage.”

“We are working very hard to make it a witty and enjoyable comedy for the school,” Royle said.

Rubin has a personal connection to the play.

“This was one of my favorite movies growing up. I liked seeing the characters come to life from the game,” Rubin said.