



DRAMA:Haley Stamats

Although she is a newcomer to the stage at WHS this year, Haley has proven to be an excellent leader from the start. "Haley put many hours into helping paint the backdrop each set-work Saturday for *Oz*, and was also willing to volunteer for any other task that folks might need assistance with," says Drama Director Carrie Tinkham. "She also helped with choreography for a scene that she was in. Haley is also joining the speech team this year, and we are looking forward to seeing more from her this winter!"

Before joining the cast of *Wizard of Oz* this fall, Haley was already quite active at WHS as member of Concert Choir, Madrigal Singers and the Washington Literary Press. She just gave a great vocal performance at the PAM Slam. "Singing and performing is my passion. I also love art and it plays a very important role in my life. I respect anything that uses creativity," she shares. Haley also loves to cook, bake and travel. She hopes to go to Italy and use her Italian language skills. She recently spent the summer in Costa Rica. "I went zip lining through the rainforest, white water rafting, repelled down waterfalls, surfed, hiked and played soccer with the local children."

Haley had a wonderful experience during her first drama event. "I absolutely loved it. The cast, pit and tech crews did an amazing job," she says. "Everyone worked so hard and it is great to work with people who care so much. I am definitely trying out for more drama opportunities in the future."

After high school, this junior plans to attend a four-year college and major in Opera Performance, perhaps with a minor in art. Her family consists of parents Anne and Bill along with her brother, Ben.

To younger performers, Haley suggests, "Always work hard at everything you do; it will pay off in the end."

CHOIR: Emma Azelborn

Emma is wonderfully dedicated to excellence in choral music," boasts Choir Director Peter Westphalen. She performs in Madrigal Singers, Momentum and Slice of Jazz. "Emma is a past all-state singer and recently completed a significant project where she recorded several of her original compositions. In addition to being exceptionally talented, she always brings a positive attitude and tremendous leadership to each rehearsal," adds Westphalen.

Along with being active in choir, Emma is a member of the Color Guard in Marching Band, plays the flute in Wind Symphony, and played the piano in the pit for the school musical. (She began playing the piano before she could read!) She is on the Academic Decathlon team and Committee WHS. This senior enjoys many of her studies, including composition, music theory, math (especially calculus) and science (especially physics). Most people don't know that Emma loves rock climbing. Another fun fact is that she has glow-in-the-dark stars on her bedroom ceiling. Her family includes parents Brian and Laura and sister Mary who is a freshman at WHS.

Her golden memory thus far was when Slice of Jazz attended the American Choral Directors Association's national conference in Chicago. The members of Slice got to spend time with each other in Chicago, singing and seeing the sights. "It was so much fun!" says Emma. "The audience for our performance was entirely composed of choir directors and when they started singing along, the energy in the room was electric!"

Emma has a very specific and interesting goal after high school. "My dream career is to help create film soundtracks in California." She has applied to Performing Arts Technology and Audio Technology programs at Iowa State University, Michigan Tech, University of Michigan and Rennselear Polytechnic Institute.

Besides having fun, Emma advises younger performers to carefully select what they are involved in. "It is important to have balance so you can be busy but dedicate time to everything. If you are in too many things, you'll never be really good at any of them. Trust me, it is one of the hardest things in the world to quit something once you start, so choose your activities carefully."

TECHNICAL THEATER: Cooper Shields

"As one of the stage managers for *The Wizard of Oz*, Cooper collaborated with his peers to coordinate what turned out to be a very technically challenging show," says Technical Director Bill Lammers. "This included him being inside of scenery, and the very demanding job of setting off multiple fire extinguishers for special effects. He maintained an even keel during the production to create an orderly backstage environment."

In addition to his work with technical theater, Cooper is also a member of Momentum Show Choir. Outside of school his hobbies include the ukulele, banjo and "intense conga playing." In his words, his passion is "cats and more cats." He adds that he sometimes sees a rabbit named Harvey. Cooper's family includes parents Lisa and Randy and older siblings, Emily and Alex.

Some special memories for Cooper are firing off 13 fire extinguishers during the *Wizard of Oz* or when the fire alarm went off during *Secret Garden*. After high school this senior says, "I plan to study meteorology, and if that doesn't work out, I hope to be a marine biologist."

Upcoming technical theater students should "always listen to Mr. Lammers, no matter how much he talks to himself," advises Cooper.

ORCHESTRA: Harley Frederick

Orchestra Director Natalie Brown admires Harley's endeavors as an active member of the group. "She was thrilled to participate in the *Wizard of Oz* pit ensemble and that exemplifies her extra efforts in orchestra. She takes on extra duties, participates in events outside of school and is an advocate of the orchestra program."

In past years, Harley helped tech *Into the Woods* and *Go Dog Go* and was in *Sleeping Beauty* as a freshman. When not busy with school she enjoys playing the ukulele and violin and works at Godfather's Pizza. One day she would like to own an accordion and mandolin.

This senior's favorite memory was going to Disney World during spring break last year. "I had never been there before and it was amazing!" she says. Her family includes parents Don and Marsha Frederick and siblings Taylor and Morgan. Harley hopes to attend Mt. Mercy University and become a nurse.

According to Harley, younger performers should, "Just have fun!"

BAND: Will Roberts

Band Director Jim Miller has many words of praise for his selection this month. "Will has been a tremendous contributor to the band program through his involvement in Marching Band, Wind Symphony and The Revolutionists Jazz Band. He is a tireless worker and sets a clear example for everyone. He is much respected by his peers for his leadership and commitment to the band program and highly valued by his directors."

In addition to his involvement in many musical groups at WHS, Will is also a member of Kentucky Skunk Rupture and enjoys composing, writing and film-making. Most people don't know he has a fish named Doug. Will's parents are Mark and Denise and his brother Atticus is a freshman at WHS.

A treasured moment for Will was during the Iowa City Jazz Fest last summer. "Playing with Kentucky Skunk Rupture and realizing that playing in a jazz combo was much more fulfilling and enjoyable than any other experience I could ever have in any other group."

As of right now, this senior plans to run away after graduation. (?)

Will's advice to younger performers: "Find something that inspires you and do what inspires you to do it. Listen."