

# North, South choirs combine for annual Holiday Tea

By Asia Simmons, Dajai Chatman & Jala Daniel  
STAFF REPORTERS & PHOTOGRAPHER

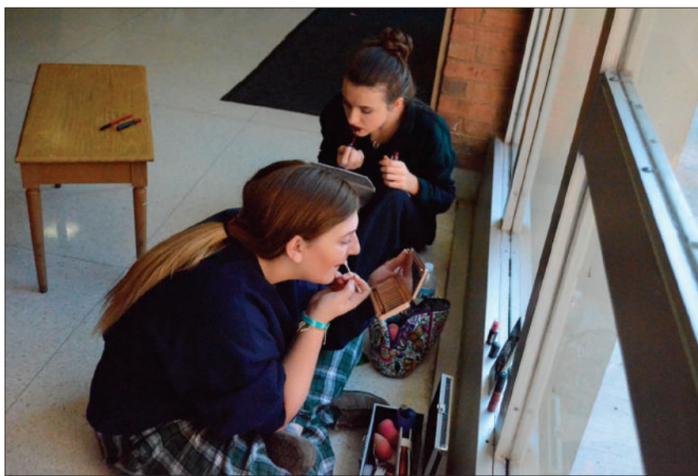


JALA DANIEL

**READY FOR ACTION** | From back: Choraliers senior Kennedy Stewart, juniors Charlotte Duus, Marcella Staricco, Lilly Reinhard, sophomore Megan Thuma, juniors Maria Larose, Amani Hall, sophomores Elizabeth Torakis, Rachel Sexton, Noelle Conrad, seniors Taylor Hicks, Whinter Townsel, sophomore Henriette Lada, juniors December Robinson, Haley Rozycki and McKinley Fradeneck sing holiday songs. "My favorite thing is being with friends, and I love hearing the music when it comes together," Rozycki said. "It puts me at peace."



JALA DANIEL



DAJAI CHATMAN

**GETTING INTO COSTUME** | Sophomores Nikolina Leggett and Bella Welke apply their makeup for the show. "Choir is a place where you can go and be yourself and have fun," Leggett said.

**SINGING INTO THE HOLIDAYS** | Junior Chase Warren performs "I'll Be Home for Christmas." The idea of the song came from Warren's voice lesson teacher. "I think it's just like a really nice song, and it's a classical song that a lot of people know," Warren said. "I like to make everyone feel, like, comfy and warm inside."



DAJAI CHATMAN

**PREPARATION FOR THE TEA** | Senior Mackenzie Simon helped set up for the holiday tea for National Honor Society. "The school has been part of my life so far," Simon said. "It's nice to give back to it."

**CHRISTMAS SPIRIT** | Sophomore Sam Salisbury sings "The Christmas Song" while playing the piano. Salisbury also performed with the Grosse Pointe Chorale. "I honestly liked spending the day with my friends in choir and bonding with them more than anything," Salisbury said. "Being able to perform with them at the end was a lot of fun."

JALA DANIEL



## Nicole Fazekas

Intricate colors and complex shapes combine to make an unexpected portrait right in front of senior Nicole Fazekas' eyes. For Fazekas, painting has been a hobby ever since she was little, and she is taking a class to help her improve on her skills.



"I didn't intend to take an art class because I didn't feel like it was necessary, but I didn't have any choice but to take it since that was the only class available," Fazekas said. "I'm taking Figure Drawing, so I think it's good that I'm taking an art class to improve my technique skills."

Fazekas uses her painting skills as a coping mechanism in tough times.

"I paint when I'm upset or need to clear my mind. I've had a lot of roadblocks in my life, so painting just helps me cope and clear my mind and helps me think clearly. It makes me feel better," Fazekas said. "I just start to paint and it turns into something that I did not intend to make."

## Adam Schwartz

Signatures on a paper may only be ink on paper for some people, but for freshman Adam Schwartz, it means much more, as he collects Major League Baseball autographs as a hobby.



"Collecting MLB autographs is a way for me to stay connected to baseball," Schwartz said. "I enjoy the experience in addition to getting the autograph."

Schwartz began this hobby about three to four years ago because of his love for baseball. He usually collects with friends.

"The experience with friends is the best part. I get to hangout with one of my best friends who I met while trying to get autographs," Schwartz said. "We are always waiting for someone from any team to come over and sign—that's the fun part."

Even though Schwartz doesn't play baseball anymore, he plans to stay involved with the sport in the future.

"I would like to be able to do something with baseball," Schwartz said. "Whether it would be broadcasting, journalistic baseball writing or being a Spanish translator, I somehow would like to do something in my career that involves baseball."

## Sydney Agius

Seeing a young, small girl lead a big choir is unusual for most people, but freshman Sydney Agius is rewriting that norm.



Despite her age, Agius leads a large church choir. Agius has a love for cantering, the act of leading a church choir in song, which she picked up in fifth grade.

"I started cantering because my mom did it. The people at school needed help with it, so I decided that it would be fun," Agius said. "I did it with one of my friends, so we started doing it together. It was good."

Agius canters at her church, Our Lady Star of the Sea, on the weekends. She enjoys serving her church.

"It's nice to be able to serve your church and be able to lead other people in worship and to be up there singing," Agius said. "I enjoy that."

By Gowri Yerramalli

## FIVE MINUTES WITH

### Biology teacher Erika Reed

By Elizabeth Ballinger  
INTERVIEW



ERIKA REED

**SMILES FROM THE SEOUL** | Biology teacher Erika Reed poses with kindergarden students from South Korea. "I used to teach English in South Korea," Reed said. "It was a great opportunity for me to see the world and meet a bunch of different people from all over."

Biology teacher Erika Reed is no stranger to a change in plans. From working in South Korea in a subject that she didn't intend to pursue, to ending up at North, Reed has spent her time working in many places. The common thread that connects them all is education.

"I had gone to college to study biological anthropology and forensic science and when I was done with grad school, I wanted to travel, but I didn't have any money," Reed said. "They were hiring English teachers in China and South Korea and Japan, and so I chose Seoul to interview for, and I got a job there."

Even though she wasn't a teacher at the time, or even studying English, Reed was still able to get the job and would encourage people to try it out.

"I would highly recommend it to anyone who graduates college and isn't sure what they want to do, and they might have student loans or they want to travel," Reed said. "I didn't have to be a teacher

to go. I just had to be a native English speaker with a bachelor's degree."

Reed said she had a great experience with the culture and enjoyed her time there. Reed met many different people, some of whom she still talks to.

After her experience in Seoul, Reed relocated to Michigan (from California) with her husband and 3-year-old daughter.

"We just felt like Detroit is going to see a big resurgence in the next like 10 to 20 years," Reed said. "We wanted to be part of the comeback because we feel like it's happening. It's coming soon, and it just seemed like an exciting time to move here."

Now that she lives in Michigan instead of California, she is closer to some of the English-speaking colleagues she had in South Korea.

"One of the girls who I was really close with was from Toronto and, living in California, we were really far apart," Reed said. "Now we're talking about meeting up in London, Ontario because it's like a halfway point, and it's not that far now."

### If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

I've traveled quite a few places but I have not been to Peru and I would love to see Machu Picchu. It's definitely on the top of my list.

### What's your favorite movie?

There's a movie with Leonardo DiCaprio that's called "Inception." It's an interesting movie because it's like, you're trying to figure out exactly what's happening. It kept me engaged the whole time.

### What's your favorite thing to do outside?

We've got a little one now, so we can't really do long hikes, but we used to do really interesting hikes, like through Joshua Tree, which is a national park out in California. There's a lot of bouldering and boulders and things like that. But now that we have a little one, we usually keep it pretty short ... it's something we can do where she's excited and gets to play outside and run around and have fun.

### What's your favorite book?

I just started reading the "Game of Thrones" series, and I'm pretty enthralled by it. It's a lot. It's very intense in a lot of different ways, but it definitely is a page turner.