

Trea Turner visits AHS camp

With the days remaining in the school year numbered, students and staff are beginning to prepare for summer.

Whether it be sports camps, academic schools, summer jobs or elaborate vacations, this summer break is due to be an eventful one.

On July 30, a youth baseball camp will be held at AHS that will feature Washington Nationals star player, Trea Turner.

“Overall I think it’s really cool that the camp will be happening at our school,” head baseball coach Christopher Bagot said.

ProCamps, which is affiliated with Turner, planned on holding a camp in a FCPS and AHS was chosen as that school.

The one-day camp will be held on AHS school grounds for boys and girls grades first through eighth.

Camp coaches along with Turner will provide hands-on instruction and tips to all attendees of the camp through stations, drills and contests.

“I am hoping that some of our coaches and players will be able to volunteer and help out at that camp,” Bagot said.

Despite the nearing conclusion of the school year, that will not mark the end of learning for a number of students.

After a rigorous year of scrupulous note-taking, studying and test-taking, junior Nahom Dagnachew will continue learning over the summer in a math, science and technology program.

“I already applied to Governor’s School in tenth grade and got denied,” Dagnachew said. “So to get accepted this time feels redeeming.”

The application process is very selective and particular as only about 160 applicants are accepted every year.

Among the included requirements are two recommendations, a resume and an essay. From these factors, a committee of judges decides whether or not to accept applicants. The applicants are first selected among their classmates at their school, then they move on to county and regional levels.

At Lynchburg College, all acceptees will be taking college level courses specific to their designated program. Registration for the classes open a few weeks before Governor's school and are all heavily STEM-based.

"I hope to gain valuable knowledge from the field-specific courses," Dagnachew said. "I also hope to gain some experience in the college life since I will be staying there for a month."

A number of students will be participating in other academic programs over the summer.

Junior Ruth Seyoum will take part in the ALA Girls State program.

The one-week program that begins on June 17 and ends on June 23. Throughout the week, the girls that are accepted will regularly develop their leadership skills and will be provided a better understanding of the government process.

"As I went through the application process I realized that I could learn more about the way government works and gain a lot of leadership skills," Seyoum said.

The application process also requires the creation of a resume and a written response to a prompt.

Part of the experience at Girls State is that those attending are able to campaign in mock elections and political parties and assume the roles of government leaders to enhance their understanding of the functions of the government.

The counterpart to the Girls State program is Boys State, a program that introduces very similar concepts to the students attending.

Included in the Boys State program along with partaking in simulated governments, are several activities such as sports, lectures and seminars.

Junior Zuhair Rahman was among those accepted to the program from AHS.

“Knowing the reputation and quality of the Boys State program, I was very excited that I got accepted,” Rahman said.

All attending Boys and Girls State programs will have the opportunity to build-up a better understanding of roles of government and improve leadership and confidence skills.

“I hope to learn more through participating in the activities at the camp,” Rahman said. “I’m looking forward to having a unique experience to start off the summer.”

Staff all around the school are also preparing for an action-packed summer themselves.

Health and PE teacher John Jennison will be instructing another summer of Behind the Wheel classes with the FCPS Adult Center of Education (ACE).

Jennison has been working with ACE as a Behind the Wheel instructor for about three years, working over the summer as well as during the school year.

In addition to teaching Health and PE, Jennison teaches in-class drivers education as well.

Behind the Wheel is a seven-day course that covers all basic maneuvers required to earn a license.

“My favorite part of it is always taking kids on the highway for their first time,” Jennison said. “It gets exciting

because some of them have never been on the highway and aren't comfortable with it at first."

Other staff members will spend this summer relaxing after a long year of work.

ESOL teacher Kate Munteer will spend a portion of her summer on a Rhine River cruise to celebrate her 25th wedding anniversary.

The cruise will last seven nights starting in Zurich, Switzerland and ending in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

"I am really excited because I have never travelled on the Rhine River or seen any of the cities we will be stopping at," Munteer said.

Multiple stops will be made on the cruise in villages and cities. Passengers will be able to view historical sites as well as famous landmarks.

"I love seeing the historical towns and architecture," Munteer said.

With all that is occurring, students and staff alike will be busy this summer with events and programs of their interest.

Student shares French Academy Governor's School experience

As we packed our bags and said goodbye to our families, we all travelled to Washington and Lee University to embark on an experience of a lifetime at The French Academy Governors School.

The school is a select program where 60 students from all over Virginia spend three weeks speaking, thinking, and writing in French. Although it was a seemingly daunting experience, as we were living without technology, we all did not expect it to be as life changing as it was.

As soon as we arrived, we were split off into "families" which were just different francophone countries. The first week was by far the most awkward since we were all new to each other, and missed our families greatly. The cafeteria was so silent at times, that you could hear the sound of everyone chewing. The monitors and the professors tried very hard to get us to speak to each other. We would go to conversation classes, play games together, but everyone was just silent.

The first time that we all began to let loose and actually speak French to each other was our trip to Washington DC. After spending 3-4 hours on the bus without any technology and music forced us to communicate and be friends with each other. While at DC, we stopped by the French Embassy where we talked to the diplomat of France and learned about just how much of an asset the language would be. We also later on in the program spoke with the leader of the Department of Education in the French Embassy and learned about the different types of programs we can do to further our education with the language.

Learning all this at the time was very important to me because it opened up my eyes. I never had looked at French as a choice, it was always a requirement so learning just how much of a benefit it would be for my future furthered my love for the language.

After the trip to DC, we all began to be very close. No longer was there the silence in the cafeteria. Everyone fell in love with each other. We danced together to French music, we sang French music together and hummed English music together, we learned another language together, we even ate cheeses like Roquefort together. We all adapted the language so well that

we were able to create jokes and laugh together. It even got to a point where I spoke out loud while dreaming in French. After a while, the academy did not feel like an obligation but something that we desperately held onto in fear that it would end. It's crazy to think of just how much separation anxiety we all felt during the last week of the academy. We spent the last night on the fourth floor of our academy, in a tight little space, singing and dancing together. We cried more about the fact that we would be separated than the fact that we would be seeing our families for the first time in three weeks.

As we yelled out our first words in English, I looked around and just reflected at just how happy I was. I not only gained the love for a language but a family.