

1272 Mill Dam Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454

March 20, 2014

Judges, Senior Project Board  
First Colonial High School  
1272 Mill Dam Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454

Dear Judges:

Throughout my four years in the Legal Studies Academy, I have grown as a person, as well as a prosperous student. I have learned many things, such as to never procrastinate, and to give everything you have to everything you do; no matter what it is. But the overall best thing I learned while being in the academy, is that I do not want to do a career involving law; I want to be a teacher.

Coming into the academy, I wanted to be a lawyer. During my first year (really in my intro to law class), I realized this was not for me. I thought of other jobs involving the law that I could do, such as a police officer, or a paralegal. My job shadowing and internship made me realize that my purpose in life wasn't to be a police officer because I am too scared of dying, and I wasn't made to be a paralegal because I don't want to sit in an office every day of my life. At First Colonial, they offer a class for students to learn about the teaching profession and intern with actual teachers at the Elementary and Middle school levels. This class made me realize how much I love kids, and that teaching is what I am destined to do.

The summer leading up to senior year, all I could think about was what topic I wanted to do for senior project. I chose childhood obesity for two major reasons: my love for children, and my younger brother. My younger brother is fairly overweight. Although we don't get along sometimes, I still care about him more than anything in the world. By completing my research paper, it opened my eyes to what could possibly happen to him if he keeps gaining weight. It was an eye opener not just to me, but to my family as well. Since my paper, our house is now full of healthy choices for snacks (instead of Little Debbie's we now have fruit and vegetables), our meals are now less fat than what they use to be, and we have a treadmill which everyone goes on at least once a day.

I chose to do a Home run Derby for my senior project because I have played Varsity Softball for First Colonial for all my 4 years at the academy. I have been honored as Beach District Player of the year, Regional Player of the Year, All Tidewater, and have been honored as First Team All-State Shortstop. Softball has been in my life since I was 4 years old; I don't know anything better than I do softball. For my senior project class, we were told to pick an event that we would like to conduct that relates to our 15 page research paper. I originally chose to do a field day with my students at Alanton Elementary, but I forgot that they already have a field day set up at the end of the year. I was crushing for time to find a new project. This is when I came up with the idea of hosting a home run derby. Because of my record held last year, 11 home runs in 1 season (the most held by anyone in the city), a home run derby would fit me perfectly!

Although I thought senior project was going to be the death of me, I have actually valued my time here because it might have saved my younger brother from becoming obese and creating long term conditions for himself that could hurt his health for a lifetime.

Thank you for taking the time to read my portfolio and for listening to my presentation. I hope you have found them valuable and enjoyable.

Sincerely,

Madison King