Oklahoma Girls State is a program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary to promote the role of women in politics. This week-long summer camp teaches teenage girls the importance of leadership and encourages them to get involved in government.

Girls State walks the delegates through elections from their individual city all the way to state officers. Each girl is separated from their hometown friends and put into “cities” with complete strangers.

The delegates will arrive at the University of Oklahoma the first week of summer break.

Junior Skye Martinez says, “I decided to apply for Girls State because of all of the positive feedback everyone has given the camp. I also wanted the chance to experience something new.”

Skye expects to learn about how our government works and hopes to develop better leadership and public speaking skills.

Maggie Landers states, “I fell in love with the idea of a program that teaches young women responsible citizenship and love for God and our country.”

Maggie’s academic career has been mostly working on keeping her grades at a high standard to get into Oklahoma State University and obtain a degree in political science.

Tori Booker is a junior at AHS and wants to attend Girls State because her older sister went in 2015. Tori hopes to have the same great experience.

Tori says, “I hope to learn about government and potentially run for an office.”

Junior McCall Stephens says her mom, aunt, and six of her cousins attended the summer camp, and McCall wants to follow their example.

McCall is looking forward to having fun at camp and being a good representative for Altus.

The girls are very excited to meet life-long friends and represent Altus well!
Paige Yates

Paige Yates is currently a freshman here at Altus High School. She was born and raised here in Altus.

She currently lives with her mom, Crystle, who is an electrician, working on Altus Air Force Base.

Her dad, Joe, works with cars, and her stepmom, Chasity, is a nurse.

Paige also has an eleven year old sister, Destiny. She is currently a sixth grader at Altus Intermediate School.

After high school, Paige plans to study economics or criminal justice at Oklahoma State University.

Paige's interests include running for track, tumbling, and hanging out with her friends.

What motivates Paige in life is how hard her friends encourage her to do better.

Along with that, her mom works very hard and that encourages her to do better.

She is very competitive, so she is always looking for improvement!

Paige’s favorite thing about AHS is how supportive everybody is!

She states, “I love how at the beginning of the year, Link Crew helps the freshmen get to know the school better. It really did help a lot”.

Something cool about Paige that AHS may not know is that she competed at National in gymnastics and got third place.

Paige’s favorite quotes include “Be the change you want to see in the world”, and “Do what you love and don’t ever let the opinions of others stop you”.

Canyon Bain

Canyon Bain is currently a freshman here at Altus High School. He was born and raised here in Altus.

Canyon has two sisters, Lauren, who is 29 years old, and Jayla, who is 19 years old. Lauren is married to Canyon’s now brother-in-law, Josh Gudeyran.

Canyon’s dad’s name is Jantz, who is 56, and his mom’s name is Michelle, who is 46. is dad runs Humphrey’s Coop, and his mom works for Tamarack Dental.

After high school, Canyon hopes to attend Oklahoma Baptist University on a swim scholarship.

Canyon’s interests include skiing, swimming, and hanging out with his friends. He also enjoys mowing lawns for his family over the summer.

He began swimming simply for fun, but was motivated by his family and friends to continue his swimming career.

Canyon states “I like swimming because the coaches are amazing and the team is almost like a family”.

What motivates Canyon in life is his family! His parents make sure he is ahead on things and are always motivating him. He constantly strives for success in everything he does.

His favorite thing about AHS is the level of freedom students have here!

Something cool about Canyon that AHS students may not know is that he has visited Mexico.
Coach Wig Receives a National Award!

Coach Wig, the head swim coach here at Altus High School, was recently honored with a national award.

She received an outstanding service award from National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association. There were only five of these awards given to coaches across the United States.

Coach Wig has been the AHS swim coach since the swim program was started 38 years ago. She taught in education for 35 years as an English teacher before going part-time. This year commemorates her 44th year of employment by Altus Public Schools.

In her career, she has coached the boys and girls swim team through an astounding 1,259 wins.


The girls swim team won 5th at regionals in 2014 and has placed 2nd every year since then. They were also state runners-up in 2011 and 2019.

Coach Wig’s other awards include: 6-time Oklahoma Swim Coach of the Year, National High School Athletic Association’s 2014 Female Coach of the Year, 2015 NFHS National Boy’s Coach of the Year, Oklahoma Coaches Association’s Coach of the Year, and top 8 finalist for 2016 National High School Athletic Coaches Association Coach of the Year.

In April of 2016, Altus Public Schools and the City of Altus named the pool the Linda Wiginton Aquatic Center.

Coach Wig states, “I get to coach great kids, and they work hard, but we also have fun. I have had great support from my family, my school, and our city.”

The Choir is Superior

Last Tuesday, both Varsity Chorale Mixed and Women went to State Contest. They competed with a prepared song and sight-reading for a rating between one and five, one being the best. They both received a rating of one for their prepared song and a rating of one for sight reading.

Last week, the Advanced Treble Choir went to State E Contest. They competed with a prepared song and sight-reading for a rating between one and five, one being the best. They received a rating of one for their prepared song and a rating of two for sight reading.

Mr. Young states, “I am so proud of them. They have had some real ups and downs this semester but they worked hard and earned this.”

On April 18th, those who qualified at Solo and Ensemble will compete at State Solo and Ensemble.

The choirs also have a few concerts coming up. On May 7th, they will have “A Little Night of Music.” On May 13th, they will have an end of the year concert where all the choirs will perform.

On May 17th, they will hold the annual choir banquet in the Altus High School Cafeteria. At the banquet, seniors in choir will be recognized as well as announcements on who lettered in choir this year.

Several choir members left for Washington D.C. yesterday. Choir members had the opportunity to raise funds to attend this year’s choir trip. They will spend the next few days in Washington D.C. performing and spending time touring the nation’s capital.
Students attend Interscholastic Meet

The SWIM Meet is an Interscholastic Meet that was hosted by SWOSU and Cameron University. Altus High School placed 1st in the Math Division. This is the first time they have received this award.

The teachers choose a few students to take a test for different subjects. The teachers choose these students based on the subjects they excel in. Around 30 students attended and 14 placed in their subjects.

The following seniors placed: JD placed 1st in Advanced Music Theory, American History, and American Government. Bailey placed 2nd in News Editing and 3rd in Biology II.

The following juniors placed: Jackson Falon placed 3rd in Geography; Ulber Ramirez placed 2nd in Geometry; Michaella Reed placed 3rd in Chemistry; and Justice Sealey placed 2nd in Chemistry.

The following sophomores placed: McKayla Hiatt placed 2nd in Spanish I; Christopher Martinez placed 3rd in Algebra II.

The following freshman placed: Aiden Box placed 1st in Geometry; Edward Box placed 3rd in Native Spanish II and 2nd in World History; Juan Tiu Ortiz placed 2nd in Native Spanish I; Alina Hunt placed 1st in Algebra I; Andrea Padilla placed 2nd Native Spanish I; Tiffany Taylor placed 2nd in Biology I and English Usage.

The second meet will be held at Cameron University today. The new group of students will travel and take their tests. We wish them the best of luck!

Teacher Spotlight: Maggie Sasse

Maggie Sasse grew up in Altus. She moved to Colbert, Oklahoma, while in high school and graduated from there.

Sasse graduated Oklahoma State University with a Masters of Science.

She also attended Cameron University and earned her Masters in Education Leadership.

Mrs. Sasse has been teaching for 16 years, but has worked for Altus Public Schools for 18 years. She is also the teacher sponsor for The Altus Teen Interact.

Sasse says her life circumstances have led to her teaching career, but she has loved being a teacher.

She is married to Allen Sasse, who works for Dobbs and Braddock. Their daughter Emma Sasse, is a freshman here at Altus High.

They have two cats named Tin-Tin and Blue, and two horses, Bo and Sam.

She enjoys working with barbed wire and creating different art items. In her free time she loves to work in her vegetable garden. She also enjoys hiking with her family and friends.

Something interesting students may not know about Sasse is her senior year of high school she started on the varsity basketball team.

She says they had a perfect record of 28-0. Winning the Triple Crown of Tournaments, Tournament of Champions in Del City, Mid-American Tournament in Ada and the Class 2A State Championship.

This year her team was also inducted into the Pioneers of Women's Basketball Hall of Fame at Southeastern State University in Durant, Oklahoma.

One of Mrs. Sasse’s favorite quotes is, “Patience is the calm acceptance that things can happen in a different order than the one you have in mind,” from David G Allen. She says this sums up her life.
The spring sports are in full swing! These athletes are making Altus proud!

The AHS Track Teams have been working hard during practice to prepare for their meets.

The Lady Bulldogs are coached by Robert Garrison. He states, “I am very proud of these ladies! They competed back to back at Cache and Vernon and took first place at both meets!”

Senior track athletes this season are: Jozzlin Christon, Jordan Benway, Haley Leyja, Alyssa Hargis, and Kennedy Martin.

The AHS Bulldog Track teams will be hosting their home track meet today! Come out and support your Bulldogs starting at 9:00 a.m.

The Lady Bulldogs take 1st place at Cache. Photo by Coach Garrison

The Boy Bulldogs take 1st place at Cache. Photo by Coach Terry

Senior track athletes this season consist of: Nehemiah McCaskill, Daniel Riley, and Iziah Hall.

The AHS Bulldog Track teams will be hosting their home track meet today! Come out and support your Bulldogs starting at 9:00 a.m.

The AHS Lady Bulldog Tennis Team has been doing a great job this season. They brought home first place from the Lawton Mac Festival. Rose Martinez and Faith Biddlecom won first place in number one doubles.

Not only did the Lady Bulldogs rack up first place at the Lawton Mac tournament, but they also took first at Altus and Elk City earlier this season.

The AHS Bulldog Tennis Team has been tearing up the court as well! The team has brought home first place from The Altus Tango Tournament, Elk City Invitational, and Wichita Mountains Tennis Tournament at Lawton.

Coach Dabelstein states, “Things are about to get very competitive after have about 10 or 11 players vying for 6 spots. This should make us a very tough team to beat! I am very proud of this team and their accomplishments so far this season.”

The AHS Tennis Teams will be traveling to Elk City to compete in the Clinton Invitational today! Best of luck on the rest of your season!
Senior Spotlight: Destiny & Matt

Destiny McKnight is a senior here at Altus High School. She has grown up in Florida and Germany. She has attended AHS since her freshman year.

Some of Destiny's interests include hanging out with her friends and traveling. She also enjoys listening to music and watching her favorite shows: The Office, and Parks and Recreation.

Destiny lives with her mom, Angela, and is an only child. Angela was in the military for 19 years, and is currently attending nursing school.

Destiny's favorite thing about Altus High School is attending the football and basketball games.

After high school, Destiny plans to go to college to become a veterinarian. She also plans to live in Colorado.

Something AHS students may not know about Destiny is that she lived in Germany for three years. She has also been able to visit 10 different countries.

Destiny is motivated in life by being herself and doing what makes her happy.

Matt McCollum is a senior here at Altus High School. He has lived in Altus since he was three, and has attended AHS since his freshman year.

Some of Matt's interests include playing tennis, hunting, fishing, bow shooting, and playing chess. He has been playing tennis since the seventh grade and is a member of the AHS tennis team.

Matt lives in Altus with his dad, who is a flight instructor. Matt's mom is an air traffic controller. She lives in Bristow with his two siblings, Tyler and Allison.

Matt plans to attend the University of Oklahoma in the fall to major in biochemistry. Before leaving for college, Matt plans to spend his summer as a lifeguard.

Something Altus High School students may not know about Matt is that he has played a total of six different sports, one of them is fencing, which he used to do competitively.

Matt is motivated in life by his father. He is proud of him for becoming an air force pilot and is dedicated to continue his legacy.