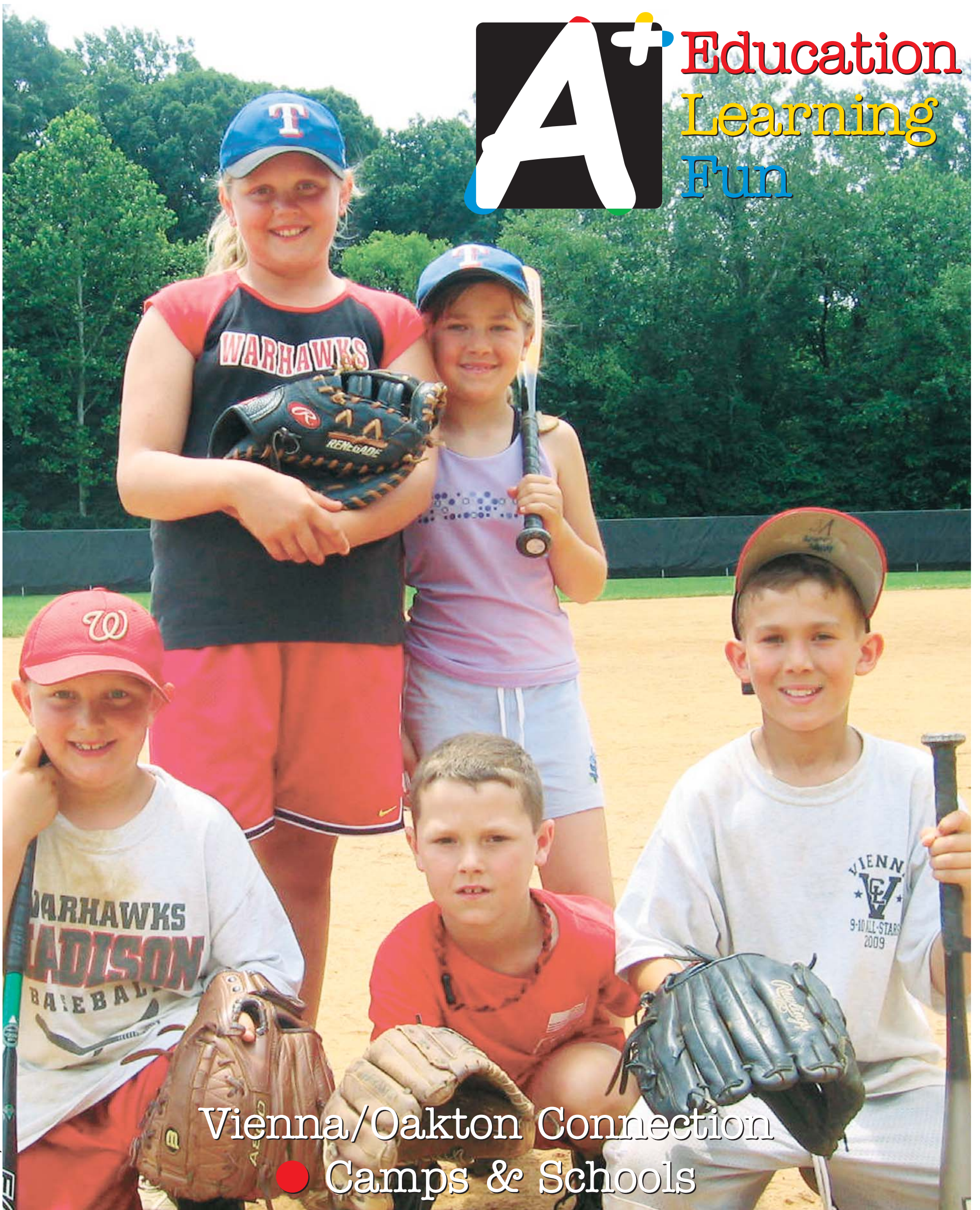


The logo features a large white 'A' with a plus sign to its upper right, all within a black square. To the right of the square, the words 'Education', 'Learning', and 'Fun' are stacked vertically in red, yellow, and blue respectively.

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Donna Manz/The Connection

Eight-year-old David Favero rounds the bases during a game at the MVP Sports Little League camp.

Play Ball

MVP Sports Camps teams up with Town.

By Donna Manz
The Connection

Mark “Pudge” Gjormand grew up in Vienna, graduated from Oakton High School, coached youth sports in Vienna and coached James Madison High School’s baseball team to a state championship in 2002.

The sports camps that he and former George C. Marshall High School football coach, Mike Skinner, started 15 years ago grew and expanded to a year-round facility at Merrifield. Gjormand now owns MVP Sports Camps and is heartened to see players who went to his early camps playing now for him at Madison. But what really tickles him are the children of boys and girls he once coached who are now participants in Gjormand’s MVP Summer Sports Camps.

“Pudge is a fixture in the Vienna community as it relates to baseball,” said Tony Favero, whose children, Nicky and David, participated in Gjormand’s baseball camp in late June. “There’s not a kid who hasn’t responded to him. He translates the game of baseball to every kid at every level.”

“Patsy’s [Favero’s wife] family and Pudge go back forever, to the Mike and Spencer years,” said Favero, referring to Patsy Neilsen Favero’s brothers, now in their late thirties. Tony and Patsy’s son, Nathan, a rising 10th grader at Madison, plays baseball for Gjormand there.

“We want our camps to be like our backyards,” said Gjormand. “No pressure, just picking up your glove, hitting balls. We want to bring back that old-time feeling that the kids don’t have anymore.

“We teach the fundamentals but we have fun, too.”

Ten-year-old Wiley Counts is a repeat participant, a real MVP Sports pro who says he would definitely recommend this camp to his friends. “My favorite camp is the baseball camp,” he said. “But they’re all really fun.

“They help you learn how to play the different sports.”

MVP SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS are operated in cooperation with the Town of Vienna Parks and Recreation Department. Gjormand runs the camps and the Town handles the administrative arm. Most of the camps, held at Southside Park or Waters Field, specialize in particular sports or skills – such as baseball or girls lacrosse. An all-sports camp runs weekly for eight weeks at Southside Park.

“Our goal is to provide a fun and safe environment for the kids,” said Gjormand.

Gjormand looks for staff who are skilled in their fields and who truly care about children. Almost all are Fairfax County teachers, college players who played for Gjormand when younger, and high school athletes. MVP Summer Sports coaches J.J. Hollenbeck and Jason Farley were both All-American during their Madison HS career.

“The great thing about our camps, the way we run them, is that it doesn’t matter how

See **Play Ball**, Page 7

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NVCC

'Guarantees'

Community college graduates with certain GPA, courses, can win automatic acceptance.

By **Julia O'Donoghue**
The Connection

When Suzanne Spatz graduated from Woodson Secondary School in 2007, her family knew she wouldn't be able to attend a four-year college or university right away.

Even though she received excellent grades in high school, Spatz suffered from Lyme disease and was too sick to go away to college at the time. So the teenager opted to attend Northern Virginia Community College and live at home while her health stabilized.

"We never would have thought about it until she became ill," said Melody Spatz, about the decision to enroll her daughter, Suzanne, at a community college.

Both Melody Spatz and her husband had attended the University of Virginia and always assumed their children would enroll in traditional four-year undergraduate programs. Initially, Melody Spatz worried Suzanne would not be an attractive transfer applicant for selective four-year universities because she would be coming from a community college.

BUT Suzanne Spatz's time at Northern Virginia Community College helped, rather than hindered, her admission to one of the top public universities in the country.

The teenager was automatically accepted to the University of Virginia after meeting all the requirements laid out in a "guaranteed admissions" agreement between Northern Virginia Community College and the highly competitive state school in Charlottesville.

The arrangement allows the community college graduates to bypass the regular application process and ensure their transfer to the University of Virginia if they meet certain academic thresholds while earning their associate's degree.



Pre-med students **Aisha Bashir** and **Rabia Aslam** relax in the courtyard between classes on the Northern Virginia Community College Annandale campus.

Photo by Louise Krafft/Connection

Find Out More

For more information on Northern Virginia Community College's guaranteed admission program, see www.nvcc.edu/about-nova/directories-offices/administrative-offices/academic/guaranteed-adm/

Students like Spatz, who earn a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.4 on a 4.0 scale, can be assured a slot at the University of Virginia through the arrangement.

In addition to the GPA cut off, the students must earn at least a "C" or higher in all of their community college classes and a "B" or higher in two required English courses. They also have to take a certain number of community college credit hours in foreign language, social science, humanities and historical studies.

They must enroll in at least one "non-

Western perspective" course.

"I am very happy that I did it. It was kind of nice to know I could guarantee my admissions somewhere," said Spatz.

IN ADDITION to the University of Virginia, about 38 other colleges and universities have signed "guaranteed admissions" agreements with Northern Virginia Community College over the last two years.

Some of the schools participating are among the state's most prestigious – including the College of William & Mary, Virginia Tech, James Madison University, George Mason University, The George Washington University and Georgetown University.

See **NVCC**, Page 6

Transfer, Guaranteed

Northern Virginia Community College students earning an associate's degree can earn guaranteed admission to many four-year colleges, including UVA and William and Mary, if they meet certain course requirements and earn a certain grade point average (GPA.)

Those who use the community college's "guaranteed admissions" program transfer into undergraduate programs as juniors because the credits earned for their associate's degree count toward their freshman and sophomore years of school.

The exact GPA and extra course requirements needed for automatic admission vary, depending on the university or college the student wishes to attend.

Here is a list of schools that will automatically accept Northern Virginia Community College graduates if certain requirements are met, including the following GPA threshold:

School	GPA Needed
Art Institute of Washington	None listed
Christopher Newport University	3.5
College of William & Mary	3.6
ECPI College of Technology	2.5
Emory & Henry College	2.5
Ferrum College	2.0
George Mason University	2.75
Georgetown University - Liberal Studies	3.0
The George Washington University	
– Pharmacogenomics	3.0
Hollins University	2.5
James Madison University	3.0
Liberty University	2.0
Longwood University	2.5
Lynchburg College	2.0 *
Mary Baldwin College	2.5
Marymount University	
– Business Administration	2.5
Marymount University	
– Interior Design	None listed
National-Louis University	2.5
Norfolk State University	2.0
Nyack College	2.0
Old Dominion University	None listed
Park University	None listed
Radford University	2.8
Randolph College	3.0
Regent University	2.0
Regis University	2.0
Strayer University	2.0
Sweet Briar College	2.5
Trinity University (Washington D.C.)	2.5
Troy University	2.0
United States Sports Academy	2.0
University of Mary Washington	3.25
University of Virginia	
– College of Arts and Sciences	3.4
University of Virginia's College at Wise	2.5
Virginia Commonwealth University	2.5 **
Virginia State University	2.0
Virginia Tech	3.4
Virginia Tech	
– College of Agriculture and Life Sciences	3.0
Virginia Tech – College of Engineering	3.0
Virginia Union University	2.0
Virginia Wesleyan College	2.5

*Community college students earning a 3.5 GPA or higher will automatically receive a \$10,000 scholarship to Lynchburg, students earning a 3.0 to 3.49 GPA will receive a \$7,500 scholarship to Lynchburg, students earning a 2.5 to 2.99 GPA will receive a \$5,000 scholarship to Lynchburg

**Community college students earning a 2.75 GPA or higher will be eligible to compete for a special scholarship at Virginia Commonwealth University

Scouts Update Their Status

Away-from-home experience at summer camp has changed with today's technology.

By Jason Mackey
The Connection

Katie Thompson and her Girl Scout troop had been in the middle of a 10-mile hike along the Massanutten Trail 19 months ago when they had to stop for a moment. It wasn't as if someone was tired or needed a drink of water. The view from one of the mountain's ridges, quite frankly, was too much.

Once at a standstill, members of the group peered out over the ridge, which bisects the Shenandoah Valley and overlooks Luray, Va. This was a moment and a view unlike many the teenage girls from Fairfax Station and Lorton had ever seen and it had to be recorded for posterity. Bragging, as fingers started to make contact with buttons on the girls' cell phones, would be required.

"I really enjoyed being able to do that," said Thompson, who, along with her troop, started snapping pictures and calling friends to remember the moment. "Before, if you didn't have the technology to do that, it's

really hard to show other people how exciting girl scouting can be. Some people may think that it's really boring and lame, but really it's an awesome experience that helps you out later in life."

"In a time where we're always trying to encourage girls to stay in Girl Scouts and [we're trying to] recruit Girl Scouts, what greater publicity is there than having one girl call a friend and say, 'This is so cool ... look what I'm doing,'" said troop leader Barb Hunter.

Indeed, cutting-edge technology has been welcomed within Troop 5002. Hunter, who works for the Air Force during the day and is an admitted "geek at heart," wouldn't have it any other way. In fact, the group has embraced Facebook as a way to organize troop activities and even publishes a daily E-Newsletter to send to parents, recapping what happened that day at camp.

Well aware that beginning an over-dinner conversation with one's teenage daughter might rival a difficult mountain climb, Hunter started the Daily Prophet E-Newsletter program

as a way for parents to have a few talking points ahead of time. It's also a way for the girls to do something together at camp that might not involve glue sticks and crayons.

"I love embracing technology with the girls," said Hunter. In addition to working as her own troop's leader, Hunter is responsible for training a cadre of group leaders. Technology, as she eventually learned, has always been a point of contention among those in charge.

"It's interesting when we talk training, there are some old-school folks that say, 'I prohibit cell phones,'" Hunter said, "and I'll say, 'Let's talk about that.' Because these girls ... that's part of their very being.

"Some old-school folks say, 'I prohibit cell phones,' and I'll say, 'Let's talk about that.'"

— Barb Hunter,
Girl Scout Troop 5002

"Prohibiting [cell phones] would be like saying to someone in their 30s that you're going to prohibit them from ever using a computer again."

nectivity ... see you in a week.' I know some enjoy that quite well." Like many, Hargreaves doesn't have a carved-in-stone rule when it comes to the use of cell phones; he does, however, recommend that his scouts leave them at home.

Hargreaves did say that sometimes it's the parents who have the toughest time adjusting. Often, there will be parents unable because of work to go a few days with checking e-mail or monitoring text messages, which will result in a scurry for the nearest cell phone signal or Wi-Fi access point — not a restroom.

Scott Romans, the leader for Springfield-based Troop 1518, said that as a leader, having a cell phone provides him with a bit of assurance, knowing that if something did happen, help would not be all that far away.

"When it's distracting to the main point of the activity, we'll suggest that [the cell phone] be put away," Romans said. "Having said that, let me tell you that as a leader, when you go out camping with scouts, the ability to use a cell phone is reassuring."

YET WHILE Hunter views technology as a vital part of the scouting experience, others have been holding out as long as possible. Stephen Hargreaves, the troop leader for Boy Scout Troop 893 in Centreville, views scouting expeditions as a way to get away from technology and a way to re-connect with nature.

"They get enough of it at home, and when they're here, we're trying to get them to do scout things," Hargreaves said. "We're away from it for a week where we can't be contacted. It's pretty much, 'Hey, I'm at scout camp in the middle of nowhere with no con-



Photo courtesy of Doug Donnell

At Marriott Ridge in Fauquier County, Ben Clark, right, and Jonathan Bocktler from Troop 1018 learn to build a fire. Doug Donnell, the troop's leader, started a blog three years ago to recount a trip to Switzerland for those back home, 'It was very well received,' he says.



Photo courtesy of Barb Hunter

Members of Barb Hunter's Girl Scout troop 5002 take a break during a recent whitewater rafting trip. They are, from left, Quinn Kratovil, Katie Ray, Amy McCormack, Jennie Allen and Kaylee Ahnberg.



Photo courtesy of Barb Hunter

Quinn Kratovil, from left, Kaylee Ahnberg and Amy McCormack light a ceremonial candle. In Troop 5002, leader Barb Hunter has tried to integrate technology into the scouting experience. 'I love embracing technology with the girls,' says Hunter.

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Photo courtesy of Doug Donnell

During Boy Scout Troop 1018's hike through the Shenandoah National Park to prepare for an upcoming trip to Switzerland, Joseph White looks over a map, as his son, Harry White looks on.

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rather innovative idea: He started a blog.

Troop member Dan Carew volunteered to write and blogged, posting daily updates and photos, from Switzerland. It was a hit. Parents logged on to read about what the children

from Reston, Herndon and Great Falls were doing and how the trip was going.

"It was very well received," Donnell said.

This year, troop member Harry White will carry on the tradition as Donnell and Co. will travel to Switzerland again July 16-29.

Members of Donnell's troop have also been some of the first to earn merit badges based on computer literacy. When his son William Donnell earned his merit badge for the program, he had to draw a map of the scout camp in Goshen, Va.

William Donnell, meanwhile, took things a step farther, drawing a three-dimensional, interactive map of his surroundings with a video game called Operation Flashpoint. A former computer science major at Virginia Tech, the project wasn't all that hard for someone like Donnell.

"I was just having fun with it, and I like computer stuff so it was pretty easy for me to get carried away," he said. "I had more fun with the map than I did with the game. It was definitely above and beyond using a computer to draw a

map."

MIKE DONAGHUE remembers the days when he used to have to travel more than 5 miles from the Goshen Scout Reservation to the community's public library just to check his e-mail. Every third day, Goshen said, he'd power on a computer and flip through his messages.

Now, Goshen is one of the few, if not the only, scout sites that houses its own computer lab. Twelve Dell desktops were installed four years ago so Goshen could offer the merit badge program that William Donnell breezed through.

After breakfast every morning the computer lab fills to capacity, Donaghue said. Scouts are permitted to access the computers, whether it's researching material for another badge or completing the computer-oriented badge program. It's a scenario that Donaghue envisioned when the computers were donated by McLean-based Booz Allen Hamilton.

"We wouldn't have built it if we didn't think it would be an attractor," Donaghue said. "We're not aware of any other camp that's outfitted like we are, especially with this particular technology center. I guess we're maybe a little more advanced."

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NVCC 'Guarantees'

From Page 3

“The arrangement covers some private and virtually all the public institutions in Virginia, except for [Virginia Military Institute],” said Bob Templin, president of Northern Virginia Community College.

Required coursework and GPA cut offs for automatic acceptance vary, depending on which four-year college or university a student would like to attend. But all students are obligated to earn an associate’s degree before taking advantage of the “guaranteed admissions” arrangement.

Students who take some community college classes but do not earn their associate’s degree are not eligible for “guaranteed admissions” and have to use the traditional application process at all colleges and universities who participate in the program.

According to Templin, students who earn an associate’s degree tend to perform better academically at four-year institutions.

“When you complete the degree program, your chances of doing well at the university are much better than if you come in and sample a few courses before transferring,” said Templin.

AS THE PUBLIC hears more about the “guaranteed admissions” arrangements, Northern Virginia Community College will become more popular among students who have always intended to earn a bachelor’s degree, said officials.

Competition to get into Virginia’s top-tier state colleges and universities has grown so fierce among Northern Virginia high school students that even one of the South County Secondary School’s recent valedictorians was not able to get into the University of Virginia.

“For students who are interested in going to some of the more selective universities in the state, this is a huge opportunity. For a lot of students, they find it difficult to get into these institutions from Northern Virginia,” said Greg Schuckman, president of the Northern Virginia Community College’s Board of Trustees.

Despite being a good student, Spatz said she is unsure she would have been accepted to the University of Virginia directly out of high school.

“If I had applied to UVA out of high school, I honestly probably wouldn’t have gotten in. My grades were pretty

good but my SAT scores were not very good and I couldn’t take as many [Advanced Placement] courses as I normally would have because of my health,” said Spatz, who graduated from Northern Virginia Community College’s honors program with almost a perfect 4.0 GPA.

STUDENTS WHO are accepted to four-year undergraduate programs could also save a lot of money by attending community college for two years and transferring to a four-year school for the second half of their undergraduate program.

Community college graduates who use the “guaranteed admissions” program are given the same academic standing as a regular junior when they transfer to their new school. They could graduate in the same amount of time as students who attended the four-year institution for their entire undergraduate career, thereby saving a lot of money.

“[Northern Virginia Community College] is cheaper than any other school in our area and it can save our students a ton of money. ... They pay less in tuition. They can stay at home and not pay room and board costs. And they can maintain their current job,” said Joan Zanders,

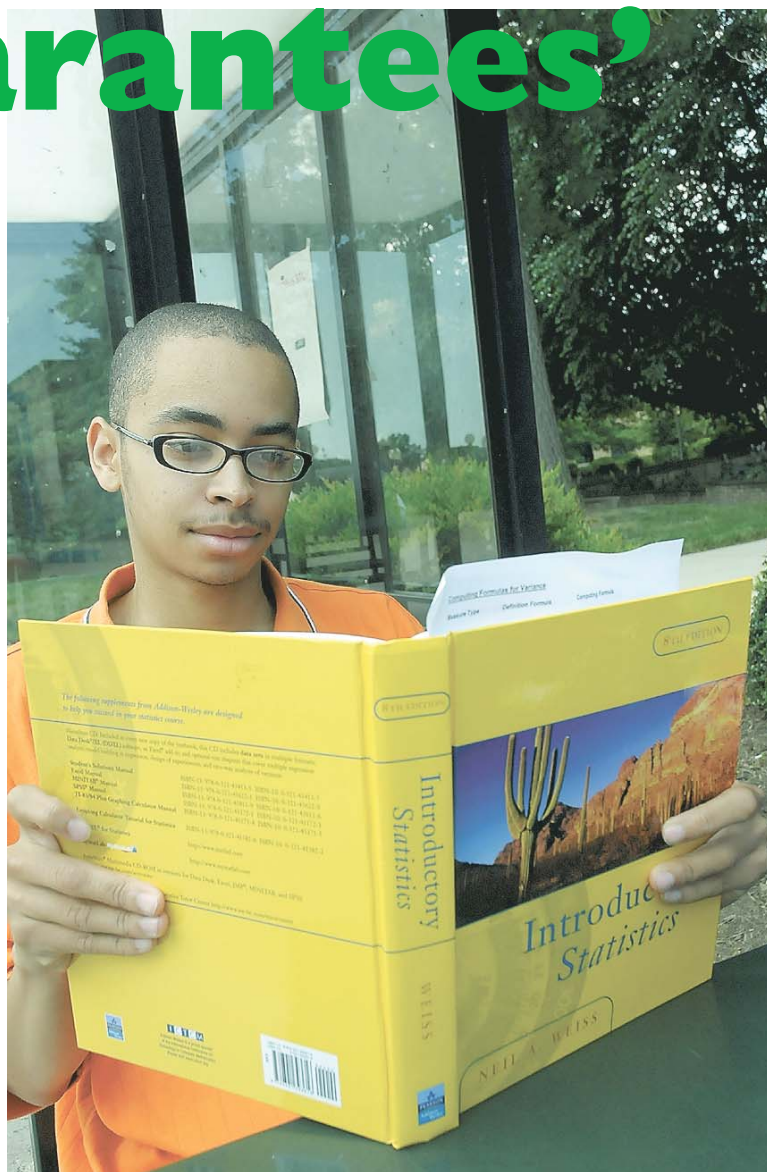
“I am very happy that I did it. It was nice to know I could guarantee my admissions somewhere.”

— Suzanne Spatz

Northern Virginia Community College’s director of financial aid.

The two-year school’s tuition is approximately \$105 per credit hour compared to approximately \$573 per credit hour at George Mason, \$282 per credit hour at Virginia Tech and \$790 per credit hour at the University of Virginia, according to those school’s Web sites.

“We are a good option for lots of folks who would normally go to a four-year school directly but are having a difficult time because of the economic crisis. ... You can still get the degree of your choice but, for two years, you will have



Kyle Hollis looks over his statistics textbook in between classes at Northern Virginia Community College.

Photo by Louise Krafft/Connection

The guaranteed admissions arrangements do not always apply to specialized or highly competitive programs at a particular college or university.

For example, McLean resident William Law was interested in using the guaranteed admissions arrangement at the University of Virginia, until he discovered it did not apply to the school’s business program, the McIntire School of Commerce.

“Since I had my heart set on getting into McIntire, I did not want to make a binding agreement with any other college/program,” said Law, who will attend the business school next fall, in an e-mail. “I think the [guaranteed admissions agreements] are an excellent tool and certainly a major selling point for those considering NVCC. When I talk to people about NVCC, that is generally one of the first things I mention.”

But Melody Spatz said it can often be very difficult to keep up with all the requirements and dead-

lines associated with the guaranteed admissions agreements. For example, students have to send a letter of intent to many schools – declaring that they will definitely attend that school if admitted by a certain deadline. If they are deciding between more than one school, students also must keep on top of the various course requirements that each college wants students using the guaranteed admissions arrangements to have completed.

NOT ONLY is it more affordable but students who perform well at Northern Virginia Community College tend to be very good pupils at four-year schools.

The University of Virginia found Northern Virginia Community College graduates who transferred to their programs achieved as much or more than those who came to the school directly from high school, said Schuckman.

George Mason University found similar results when it compared community college transfers to its other undergraduates, said Andrew Flagel, Mason’s director of admissions.

“There is a pretty strong correlation between a student’s GPA at a community college and a student’s GPA at a four-year college. Actually, the indicators we have for student success from high school – their GPA and test scores – are very weak predictors of how they will do in college,” said Flagel.

THERE IS some fine print to read as students navigate the guaranteed admissions program.

“I think it is a good program but you have to be really well informed. We made flow charts with all of the deadlines on them. ... It is not an easy process. There are a lot of things you have to keep up with,” said Spatz.

STILL, Northern Virginia Community College’s enrollment numbers are up 15 percent from last year, when the total student population was approximately 67,000. Officials said there has been a surge particularly among younger students.

Northern Virginia high schools collectively graduated the largest class of seniors in the history of the region this year, said Schuckman, president of the NVCC’s Board of Trustees. Among Fairfax County Public School students, Northern Virginia Community College is the most popular destination, he said.

Play Ball

From Page 2

experienced or inexperienced you are,” said Gjormand. “We say that ‘everybody’s a winner at Camp Pudge.’”

“I’m very fortunate to have great people working for me, people used to kids and who like working with kids.” Some of the coaches went to Gjormand’s camp as youngsters and now work for him, he says.

The T-ball camp, designed for four to seven-year-olds, usually sells out quickly, Gjormand said. Some of the campers do multiple weeks in different programs. The 15th annual Youth Non-Contact Football Camp, running from July 13 – 16, still has some space available. The eighth and final week of the All-Sports camp runs Aug. 10-14.

The camps run Monday through Thursday, with Friday as a rain make-up day. Camp hours are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“Pudge has a genuine interest in teaching the kids,” said Favero. “He takes such joy in the progress of each player, and he endears himself to the kids and to their parents.”

Registration and payment for the camps is made through the Town of Vienna by mail to the Town of Vienna, Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna, VA 22180, or online at . http://www.viennava.gov/Town_Departments/camps2009.pdf. \$140.00 Vienna resident; \$175.00 Non-Vienna resident.

● MVP Summer Sports Camps Schedule

All camps at Southside Park unless noted otherwise.
 All Sports #1 6/22 - 6/25; All Sports #2 6/29 - 7/2;
 All Sports #3 7/6 - 7/9; All Sports #4 7/13 - 7/16;
 All Sports #5 7/20 - 7/23; All Sports #6 7/27 - 7/30;
 All Sports #7 8/3 - 8/6; All Sports #8 8/10 - 8/13
 Warhawk T-Ball/
 Coach pitch ages 4-7 6/22 - 6/25
 Warhawk Little League Camp ages 8-12 6/22 - 6/25
 Warhawk Girls Lacrosse ages 7-11
 Waters Field 6/22 - 6/25
 Warhawk Girls Lacrosse ages 12-16
 Waters Field 6/22 - 6/25
 Warhawk T-Ball/
 Coach pitch ages 4-7 6/29 - 7/2
 Warhawk Little League Camp ages 8-12 6/29 - 7/2
 Girls Field Hockey Camp Caffi Field 6/29 - 7/2
 Pitchers/Catchers Camp ages 9-12 7/6 - 7/9
 Warhawk Girls Lacrosse Camp ages 7-11 7/13 - 7/16
 Warhawk Girls Lacrosse Camp ages 12-16 7/13 - 7/16
 Football Camp ages 7-13 at Waters Field 7/13 - 7/16
 Baseball Transition/
 Middle School Waters Field 7/20 - 7/23
 Pitchers/Catchers Camp ages 13-17 8/3 - 8/6
 Baseball Transition/
 Middle School Camp 8/10 - 8/13

\$140.00 Vienna resident; \$175.00 Non-Vienna resident


<http://mvpbaseballschoo.com/SummerCamps/All%20Sport%20Camp%20Flier09.pdf>
http://www.viennava.gov/Town_Departments/camps2009.pdf

See <http://mvpbaseballschoo.com/SummerCamps/All%20Sport%20Camp%20Flier09.pdf> for more information on MVP Baseball School.




Donna Manz/The Connection

ON THE COVER: David Favero, Josh Gjormand, Wiley Counts and Nicky Favero and Samantha Gjormand (back row) get ready for another baseball game at MVP Summer Sports Camps.



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Christopher Zimmerman, Music Director

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ELGAR: Introduction and Allegro for Strings
STRAVINSKY: *The Rite of Spring*

October 3, 2009

Jon Manasse, clarinet

MENDELSSOHN: Overture to *The Fair Melusine*
MOZART: Clarinet Concerto
BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 4

November 21, 2009

Chu-Fang Huang, piano

FALLA: *The Three-Cornered Hat*, Suites 1 and 2
GERSHWIN: *Rhapsody in Blue*
RAVEL: Piano Concerto in G
GINASTERA: *Estancia*

January 23, 2010

Augustin Hadelich, violin

HAYDN: Symphony No. 92
BARBER: Violin Concerto
SIBELIUS: Symphony No. 1

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