

Our Summer ADVENTURES

By Alyssa Maddocks

While walking down the beautiful streets of Rome, he breathes in the delicious aroma of the authentic Italian cuisine. He inspects the nearby antique buildings; in awe at the tasteful beauty of the Italian culture. This spectacular scenery is exactly how senior David Taylor ended his many travels in the summer of 2015.

In June, after nearly 13 hours of travel, Taylor and the rest of the Spanish students from MVHS arrived in Antigua, Guatemala, where they spent the next week. After that, they traveled another 10 hours to reach the beautiful destination of Belize. This exciting two-week adventure would consist of salsa dancing, zip lining, hiking, visiting Mayan ruins, and going to local orphanages and schools to play with the children. Taylor's favorite memory in Belize was when they played an intense game of soccer with the local school kids. "Once the kids saw the soccer ball, their eyes lit up," Taylor said. "I walked out onto the field and immediately the local boys and young men gathered to play."

After recovering from the exhausting, yet beautiful and rewarding vacation to Guatemala and Belize, Taylor hopped aboard another plane to Italy a week later. After 16 brutal hours of travel, he arrived in Milan, Italy, where he would spend the next two weeks visiting his former foreign exchange student, Luca Raschi. His time with Raschi included traveling to nearby cities such as Venice, Belluno, Florence, Pisa, Bologna, Ferrara, and last but not least, Rome. "Everything in Italy is gorgeous," said Taylor. "It's old and antique, but there is a certain aesthetic appeal to that. The pizza is to die for, confirming the stereotype, along with the rest of the Italian cuisine." Despite the long hours of traveling, the high cost, and the large spider bite that Taylor suffered while in Italy, he says he would absolutely recommend that students travel. "It gives you an entirely different view on the world and where you come from," he said.

Spanish Trip to Guatemala

Below: A group of junior and senior students pose for a picture during their Spanish trip in Guatemala.

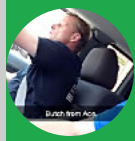


Need a Ride?

Above: Senior Anne Liberko interacts with two Guatemalan children during the Spanish trip.



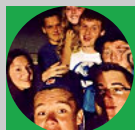
What was your favorite summer memory?



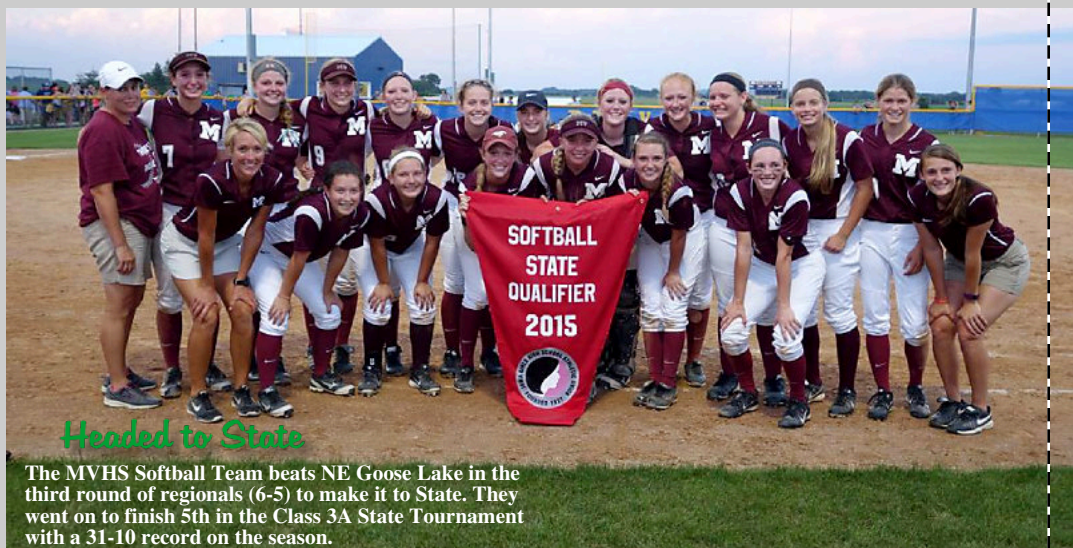
"Other than the school trip to Guatemala, my favorite memories this summer were going on Ace deliveries with the store mechanic Butch. Constantly complaining about something. I shouldn't be laughing but it's hard not to crack up. That guy is so funny." - Matt Hermesen White '16



"My favorite memory from last summer was playing at the state tournament with some of my best friends." - Libby Ryan '17



"My favorite summer memory is going to the elementary park almost ever other night with the 'Park Krew'" - Erin Belding '16



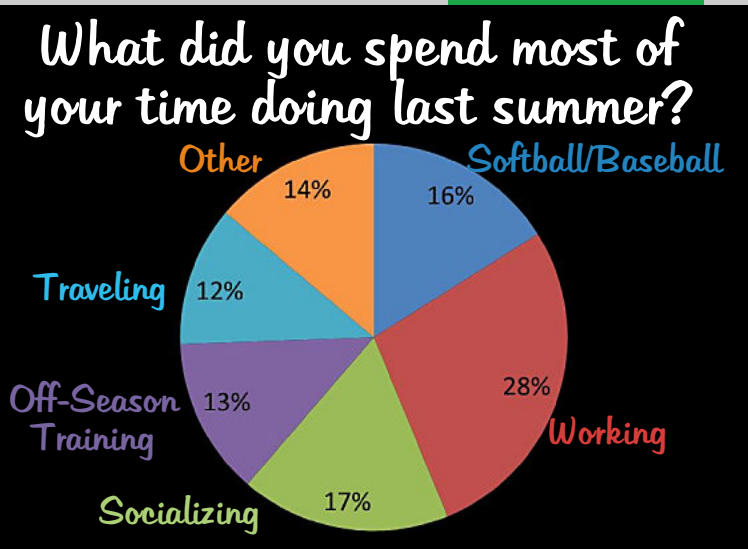
Headed to State

The MVHS Softball Team beats NE Goose Lake in the third round of regionals (6-5) to make it to State. They went on to finish 5th in the Class 3A State Tournament with a 31-10 record on the season.



On Top of the World

Senior David Taylor admires the view after his long climb up the Pacaya Volcano in Guatemala. Photo by Taylor Sherman.



Important Contributions

Above: Sophomore Keaton Fleck traveled to Guatemala to build a home for a low-income family.
Above Left: Senior Connor Herrmann and junior Jack Cochrane work hard in summer agility sessions, training for the upcoming football season.
Left: The Thundering Herd traveled to Decorah for a leadership camping trip. The group stands in front of the Whippy Dip after stopping for a treat.



Unforgettable Memories

Above: Staff from the Mount Vernon Pool wins the trophy for the best float at the Heritage Day Parade with the theme "Back to the Future."
Above Right: Journey Dawa, Chelsea Shortt, and Sam Murray pose for a picture after participating in Ragbrai, which went through Mount Vernon in July.
Right: Mount Vernon and Lisbon girls meet to play soccer in Solon once a week.



More Adventures

Above: Senior Riley Clark poses for a picture with a Guatemalan girl during the Spanish trip in June 2015.
Above Left: The travelers from the Guatemala Spanish trip learn how to salsa dance.
Left: In July, the Robotics Team fundraised for their upcoming season with a stand uptown as Ragbrai came through Mount Vernon.