

Three local students attend Governor's School at NDSU

By Courtney Wilhelm

Summer may be a time for students to take a break from school, but for others it provides an opportunity to expand their horizons.

Three local high school students, Ben Gilbertson, Kindred, Hope Erickson, Galesburg and Jacey Baumler, Wheatland, are attending Governor's School held at North Dakota State University from June 6 through July 17.

Gilbertson is enjoying his second year at Governor's School, currently participating in science discipline after taking computer science last

summer. Erickson and Baumler are participating in the English discipline.

To be selected, students must apply for the program and be recommended by teachers from their high school. They must also submit an essay with their application and have high test scores to be accepted. There are a total of 67 students attending this year.

Governor's School offers students a unique opportunity to further their education. They are able to choose a discipline in one of five areas: English, science, mathemat-

ics, performing arts and information technology (formerly referred to as computer science). It also gives students a taste of college life, providing them an opportunity to learn responsibility and build character along the way. Students are expected to be responsible for themselves by doing their own laundry and being on time for lectures and events. "It's like college for high schoolers," says Gilbertson.

The Governor's School program is also a good way for students to begin making plans for college. "It's helped me get a better grasp on

what exactly it is that I want to major in and eventually have a career in. I learned so much here. I learned about types of English that I hadn't even heard of until I got here," says Baumler.

Students are also expected to participate in many activities as a group. Students are given the chance to build leadership skills while they form special bonds and friendships with other students who share similar interests.

The program lasts for six weeks. The students are required to stay on campus and participate in their cho-

sen discipline and activities.

A typical day begins at 8 a.m. and goes until 8 p.m., with lunch and dinner breaks. During the evenings, students participate in different events. On Mondays, various guest speakers make an appearance to give a presentation on ethics. Following the presentation, students are given a chance to stay and discuss the topic with the speaker and their peers. Tuesdays and Thursdays offer students a chance to participate in a fine arts course, including printmaking and band. The group travels on weekends, the destination being

both fun and educational.

Director of Governor's School Lonnie Hass is satisfied with the program's turnout and the positive changes he has seen in the students. He enjoys watching the students become more responsible and be so involved in the activities. "I'm really pleased with them," Hass says about the students.

The students are just as satisfied as the instructors. "I back this program 100 percent," says Gilbertson. "There's no better place to spend the summer."



Hope Erickson



Ben Gilbertson



Jacey Baumler