

# Bonjour: French camp comes to McNary

BY MATT RAWLINGS  
Of the Keizertimes

Before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, West Salem High School French teacher Christy Beckstrom had hosted a French Language and Culture camp every summer at the school for more than a decade.

After going through a hiatus last year, Beckstrom brought her camp to McNary High School for this summer, teaching K-8 students from across the district about French language, history and culture.

“With construction happening at West, I didn’t think we were going to be able to do it this year, which was sad because we missed it last year due to COVID. So when this opportunity came up, I was really excited to be a part of the summer programs,” Beckstrom said.

The French Language and Culture Camp is one of more than a dozen camps being featured at McNary this summer — each camp is capped between 25-30 students. The camp wrapped their first two-week session on Friday, July 9 and is currently in its second session.

Campers have gotten the opportunity to learn about basic French vocabulary, through numbers, colors, animals, days of the week, and months of the year. They also learn about culture and history through crafts, games, songs and cooking.

Beckstrom also has nearly to a dozen of her high school students volunteering at the camp.

“They are learning too. They learn how to make French recipes with the kids and it helps them practice their vocabulary and learn songs, things we don’t have time to do in the classroom,” Beckstrom said.

In the kitchen, campers have gotten instructions on how to cook a number of French dishes, such as crepes, cream puffs and fondue.



A: Cordelius Stinson. B: Levi Black. C: Charlotte Potter. Photo by MATT RAWLINGS of Keizertimes



“I love the fact that we are able to cook different things and then eat them,” Whiteaker seventh grader Charlotte Potter said. “My favorite was the crepes.”

Along with vocabulary and cooking, students have received the chance to build catapults and learn the sport of fencing by making swords and shields made out of foam.

“I think it’s important for them to understand the culture. It is not just language,” Beckstrom said. “We try to keep them busy.”

“I just love coming here to learn,” added Cornelius Stinson, who is going to be a freshman at Sprague High School. “I really enjoy learning the culture, the history and the language.”

On the last day of camp for the first session, students created their own Ariane bottle rockets and got the opportunity to launch them in the courtyard later that afternoon.

Beckstrom believes that this camp is not only useful to help teach students about a different culture, but also to help

them prepare for a non-socially distanced school year.

“This year, I think it is really beneficial because the kids are getting practice on what it is like to be in school again,” Beckstrom said. “They are in table groups and working quietly and doing team activities. I think we are seeing their social skills are building back up. It gives them a great base for starting school strong next year.”

## VOLUNTEER of the Week

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### SHAWN LAPOF

#### Where and how do you volunteer?

“The majority of my volunteerism is with Keizer’s Chamber of Commerce. Sometimes in coordination with the city. But it’s always to help perform one of the many events or traditions that make Keizer so great! With some of the greatest people I’ve ever known too! I volunteer with Keizer Fire Department’s Foundation board to help raise funds for the Keizer Fire Department and community programs. I also volunteer with RockWest Training, a non-profit organization helping developmentally disabled individuals grow their skills and reach their potential.”

#### What does volunteering do for you?

“Volunteering helps me stay connected to our community. Allows me to express true thanks to those who have done for me. And is one of the most effective ways I am reminded that there is always something to be thankful for, no matter what.”

#### How would you get others to volunteer in their community?

“From what I have experienced, example is the best recruiter of volunteerism anywhere. When others actually see by example what can be done, what can be gained, what problems can be solved, others will flock to the cause with time and resources. This is how my roles developed.”

## brainfood ANSWERS

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crossword