

West Salem student selected for Tokyo science academy



Joice Johnson, Statesman Journal

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(Photo: Courtesy of the Fagan family)

A West Salem High School student is one of eight students from across the United States — and the only one in Oregon — selected to participate in the second annual Tomodachi Toshiba Science & Technology Leadership Academy in Tokyo, Japan.

Sophomore Emma Fagan, 15, will join other students who qualified through their participation in the Toshiba/National Science Teachers Association ExploraVision competition. Japanese students from high schools with high marks in science and mathematics education and international student exchange will also participate in the academy, according to a press release.

Fagan said she applied for the academy by completing an essay on a prompt of her choice. She decided to write about lower fuel emissions while increasing the production of energy. She was also asked to write about why she was interested in a cultural exchange program.

The news that she had been selected arrived in May.

"I was pretty excited," Fagan said. "I just kind of entered to see if I could possibly get in."

Because there is such a difference between American and Japanese cultures, Fagan said, she is looking forward to experiencing a new culture and getting to know students from Japan.

The week-long academy will start Aug. 4. It is sponsored by Toshiba and administered by the NSTA under the U.S.-Japan Council. Students from both countries will work in teams to solve global issues. They will develop a community of the future based on help from Toshiba engineers, the press release said.

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