**Virginia Beach Leadership Workshop
Journal Entry #6**

 This week was the High School Leadership Workshop, beginning Monday morning spanning until Friday night. In order to complete final preparations for the High School Leadership Workshop, the staff returned less than 24 hours after we left from the Middle School Leadership Workshop to work. If nothing else, this job requires a willingness from the staff members to sacrifice their own time, sleep and summer in order to provide the best experience possible for the delegates that attend this workshop. So having less than a 24 hour including sleep break between two of the most physically and emotionally demanding weeks isn’t a huge problem for me. After catching up on some of the information provided by Downs and Adrian (2004), I realized that the communication functions can help explain why I and the rest of the staff are so willing to sacrifice so much. Communication functions refer to the various ways that communication roles affect an organization. Specifically the motivation function, which describes how management works to motivate their employees usually through persuasive speeches or even daily conversations, is one aspect that plays a role in why our staff is so dedicated. Our boss always works to make all staff members feel worthwhile through communicating with everyone daily on a one on one level. At the end of each staff day, he will give his report of the day and discuss what things went great and what we can do to improve. Personally, hearing this talk each day inspires me to work even harder. Our boss’s talks are just one reason why we are so motivated to work so hard and are willing to sacrifice so much of our own time.

 I talked earlier in my journal entries about a number of rituals that we have as a staff. One of my favorite ritual or tradition that we have on staff is our Heritage Night during the High School Leadership Workshop. Each year we have this Heritage Night to welcome in that year’s delegation to the workshop family. A presenter engages the audience in the history of workshop and some of the most memorable moments since the programs origin in 1967. The telling of stories is one of best ways to pass on the history of anything. The same stories are told most years, as those are the ones most special to the staff. However, I do not find myself to get sick of hearing these stories, which is likely the reason why Heritage Night is my favorite.

 At both middle school and high school workshop, we hold a banquet at the end of each week. I was the team leader in charge of the banquet this year, and had an absolute blast planning and implementing it. We created lay out plans for the dining hall, centerpieces, and banquet panels in order to transform the dining hall from the usual to something special for the delegates. I also worked very closely with the catering staff at Virginia Wesleyan College in order to receive the linens we needed, the silverware required and the correct food for the banquet. Planning and implementing this banquet helped me realize that I really could consider a career in event planning. I am looking into possible internships for over this coming winter break to get a better feel for it though!