I consider myself to be a logical person. I want to know the reasons why certain occurrences happen within our world. These thoughts triggered within me an affinity and aptitude for mathematics. This affinity has only grown with time. I have participated in individual math competitions, as well as my school’s math team where we compete in a league with other schools in the county. I also joined the Math National Honor Society, where I tutor local students who are struggling in their respective math courses. I wish to not only build more upon the math that I have learned so far, but I also want to help others better understand it so that they may come to love math as much as I do. I am also a big video game enthusiast which eventually prompted me to wonder about how video games work and the process required to create one. I based a research project on this very subject and even had the opportunity to work on it with a video game design professor at MIT. This naturally led me into the field of computer science and computer programming. When I discovered that Computer Science heavily uses mathematics in many of its applications, I became interested in it as another possible career choice. I began to delve into it by working with simple programming languages such as Python and JavaScript. Eventually, I took my knowledge of programming, and together with my love of video games and math, began developing my own Pokémon game this past summer. This project is something that I have invested much of my time into, and have loved seeing it come to life in front of my very eyes. While I have spent a lot of time making my own character sprites, world maps, and story script, most of my time has been spent specifically on the actual coding and programming aspects of the game. The programming has come with many challenges, especially because the language is unique and built specifically for Pokémon games. Although challenging, it has also been a fun and rewarding endeavor. Right around the time that I began developing my video game, I had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Carnegie Mellon campus and to see firsthand what exactly the school had to offer. Prior to the trip, I had done plenty of research on the school, and I was thoroughly intrigued with what I had discovered. I learned that it was one of the top rated schools for computer science in the nation, which piqued my interest as computer science is my first choice for a major. As soon as I arrived, I immediately felt a comfortable familiarity with the school. It reminded me of my community here in Ellicott City. There was diversity among the student body, the students were academically motivated, and many even reminded me of myself. I was very impressed with the Gates Center for Computer Science. While I was there, I was able to observe students playing Scrabble with an AI, which astounded me and made me realize that these are the kind of experiences that I would like to have at a university. Later in the tour, I learned that CMU offers a program called the BXA, where computer science can be combined with the arts. I have played the viola since third grade, and wanted to continue playing in college, but no university offered such an opportunity unless you were a music major. This program was yet another example of how CMU seems to be the perfect fit for me. I was even able to observe the product of this program inside the Gates Center, as one of the projects on display showcased how computer science and music theory could be combined. Overall, Carnegie Mellon provides everything that I want from a university, and even more. I would feel extremely fortunate to be accepted into such an academically challenging, yet unique university.