



### Exchange Destination

- ✎ Freiberg am Neckar – located in SW Germany, just north of Stuttgart.
- ✎ Population: approximately 16,000
- ✎ School: Oscar-Paret Schule

### Purpose of the Exchange

- ✎ Fostering cultural understanding
- ✎ Improve second language skills
- ✎ Unique opportunity to experience German school and family life

### Trip Details

- ✎ Departure approximately June 16, 2013
- ✎ Berlin – 4 days. Sights – Brandenburg Gate, Reichstag, KaDeWe department store, Berlin Wall, Potsdam/Sans Soucci, Potsdamer Platz, Fernsehturm
- ✎ Munich – 3 days. Marienplatz, Residenz, Pinakothek art museums, bike tour of the city, Dachau/Neuschwanstein, Allianz Arena tour
- ✎ Freiberg am Neckar – 2 weeks. 2 day trips will be planned to Heidelberg and another city (Strassbourg?)

### Program Requirements

- ✎ Students will attend all pre-trip meetings
- ✎ During the trip, attendance at school and scheduled group activities is mandatory
- ✎ Participation in fundraising activities is optional but strongly encouraged.

### Selection Criteria

- ✎ 2 seniors will be allowed
- ✎ Students must be enrolled in German for the following year, either at Stoney Creek or at their university.
- ✎ 15 students will be taken. After the 2 seniors, the rest of the group will be evenly divided between the students going into their junior and senior years.  
2 graduates, 7 seniors, 7 juniors.

Students will have to complete their application and turn it in before the deadline, including letters of recommendation.

## Additionally...

- ☞ The students traveling to Germany are ambassadors for Stoney Creek and Rochester. They must have administrative approval in order to attend. This means... no behavior problems, no drug or alcohol related issues, and no unexcused absences.
- ☞ There will be a minimum GPA requirement.
- ☞ Above all, students must be mature, tolerant, cooperative and trustworthy!

## Match-ups

- ☞ Students will be matched with a German student, and that match will hold for both ends of the exchange.
- ☞ Boy-girl match-ups will be allowed only as a last resort.
- ☞ Decisions will be made based on the GAPP [participant interest sheet](#) that students on both ends will fill out.

## And because it comes up...

- ☞ There is a zero-tolerance policy on drinking. I hope I don't have to make the decision but if I do, students will be sent home.

## Challenges for our students in Germany

- ☞ The reality is most of our students lack the language skills necessary to embed themselves into a German school. What this means, then, is that their goal should be to IMPROVE their language skills. They don't go in being fluent, they won't come home fluent, but it's amazing what 3 weeks of an immersion environment will do for them.
- ☞ Example: Frau Dunning in Portland

## Documentation

- ☞ A valid passport is required, but a visa is not necessary.
- ☞ Students will be asked to provide an emergency contact form, as well as copies of any prescriptions they are on. If medication is lost in Germany, German pharmacies will fill a prescription from an American doctor.

## Quotes from previous students

- ☞ "It was hard trying to understand my host family sometimes, but I usually managed to get the gist of it. Sometimes it was frustrating when they are having an entire conversation and I understand a quarter of it. Then they randomly turn and ask me a question and I have no idea what they were just talking about. When I did understand it, it felt pretty good knowing that my listening skills came through. As the trip progressed my listening and speaking skills improved dramatically. At the beginning of the trip I could only understand 30% of what they were saying. By the end I could probably understand 75%."

### On living with a host family...

- ☞ "I liked living with a host family. I think if I were to stay with all Americans in a hotel or something it wouldn't be as beneficial at all to my learning and experience. I think when you're alone with a family in another country speaking another language and doing things you don't normally do is the best experience, no matter how awkward they really are. If I were to isolate myself in the American parts of Germany there would be no point in going. The only con I can think of is that it might be uncomfortable or sometimes embarrassing to live with a family by yourself, just because they do a lot of things different."

### Pre-meeting topics

- ☞ Ordering items
- ☞ Using the subway/giving and receiving directions
- ☞ What to expect from meals
- ☞ A typical German school day
- ☞ Texting and other "teen" stuff
- ☞ The customs experience

### On being a foreigner in another country...

- ☞ "Being in Germany I thought it was a great experience. I thought it was hilarious that after a week of being in Germany, the American group was annoyed with the other tourists in Germany. I also noticed that a lot of stores and restaurants take advantage of the ignorance of tourists, but I think that happens everywhere in the world. I think that I will have a lot more respect for foreigners here because I know how hard it is to try and say a simple phrase in another language, and I know what it's like not having any idea how to get anywhere."

### The Financials

- ☞ The cost of the trip will be added up and divided evenly between the participants. My costs and the costs of our chaperones, minus food, will be included in that.
- ☞ GAPP does provide grants for students in need, and there will be several fundraisers throughout the year.

### When the Germans visit us in September 2013

- ☞ The goal is for the German students to stay with the student they hosted in Germany.
- ☞ They will be with us for 2 weeks. During the week, they will go to school. Weekends are family time.
- ☞ They are your new family members, not guests!
- ☞ Stoney Creek will host a welcome reception dinner. Parent planning involvement is expected.

Expense	Cost
Flight	1500
Meals ~ \$30/day	200
Hostel: Berlin	150
Potsdam	40
Bus tour: Berlin	35
Subway: Berlin	25
Train: Berlin -> Munich	50
Hostel: Munich	150
Allianz	20
BMW Welt	
Subway: Munich	25
Bike tour: Munich	25
Dachau	25
Train: Munich->Freiberg	40
Train: Freiberg->HD	20
Train: Freiberg->Flughafen	50
Insurance and incidentals	300
	2655

### Timeline

- ☞ September: Parent meeting and sign-up; applications due; students chosen
- ☞ October: 15<sup>th</sup> payment/deposit due
- ☞ December: 2<sup>nd</sup> payment due
- ☞ February/March: 3<sup>rd</sup> payment due
- ☞ May: balance due

### Questions?

### “Topic”

- ☞ GAPP requires us to choose a ‘topic’ for the exchange and do a small project.
- ☞ This project can be a blog, a scrapbook, a webpage...
- ☞ The topic that SCHS will be tackling is the auto industry. The form this will take will be developed later.

### My Goals

- ☞ Primary goal: to get your kids back safely
- ☞ Secondary goal: to make sure the kids have a positive experience