GAPP Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 20, 2015
GAPP Exchange 2016 – 2017

Attendees:

Sharon Riebe Kay Grundhoffer Cindy Sullivan
Becky Preuss Jeff & Amy Coulthurst Cathy Hunn
Mary Sullivan Jenna Metcalf

Interest Expressed, but unable to attend:

Jungwirth Family Dachel Family
Pierce Family Gudelis Family
Dolan Family Gustin Family

What is GAPP?

Frau Timmermann explained that GAPP stands for German American Partnership Program, an academic and cultural exchange between AHS and the Hans-Leinberger Gymnasium in Landshut, Germany . Students are housed with families and then our students are housed with their families in Germany. Frau Timmermann handed out the pink GAPP Description and Participation sheet which details the program.

Dates: *Tentative Wednesday/Thursday, March 23/24, 2016 (Holy Thursday) to Thursday, April 14th 2016*

German students come during their Easter break, plus are allowed to add on another two weeks. Exact dates are set once partners have been chosen. Additionally, students and teachers fly into Chicago and spend 2-3 nights in Chicago. Families should anticipate the Germans being here during Easter. This year our Easter/Spring Break begins on Monday March, 21st and goes through Easter Monday, March 28th .

Number of Students:

The number of German students coming depends on the number of host families available. Hosting a student is open to anyone at AHS, but first priority is given to those in German class. Approximately 25 students come to AHS. Our highest number was 31 in 2012. Students are the same ages as the hosting students (9th and 10th graders).

Expectations of Host Families

*Meetings/Housing/Transportation*

Host families are expected to attend all planning meetings. These are typically held in September, January and shortly before the group arrives.

Your guest will need their own BED, not their own room. You will need to provide them with meals (some sack lunches on field trip days and/or hot lunch through the hot lunch program)

Transportation to school will also be necessary. If your son/daughter rides the bus, your German guest can do this as well. Transportation for local field trips will be needed for those planned after school. For those field trips planned during the day, transportation is only needed for inclement weather.

*Activities*

Families are expected to help plan and participate in activities. However, students are not expected to be on the go all the time. The GAPP guidelines require a Welcome Dinner (typically held on the day of arrival – tentatively Wednesday/Thursday, March 23/24 ) and a Farewell Dinner (typically held a day or two before departure).

There are two joint field trips, one to Madison and one to Cashton. The American students also have accompanied the Germans to Green Bay/Manitowoc if the trip falls during the Easter break time. The Germans also take several field trips on their own, e.g. to the mayor and city hall, a cranberry marsh, Golden Eagle Log Homes, cheese factory, maple syrup, courthouse/jail, and other sites of local interest. They will also take a bus trip to the Wisconsin Dells.

All Germans are invited to Prom which is on Saturday, April 9th.

Other trips which families have planned independently have been to water parks in Wisconsin Dells or a visit to the Mall of America.

Fundraising Events

Fundraising monies are used towards our portion of each of the joint field trips. The bulk of the money goes towards the German portion of the exchange experience. Frau Timmermann emphasized that it is not her job to earn the money for the students to participate in GAPP. Frau Timmermann will bring fundraising ideas to the group, which are brought to her for consideration.

All fundraisers, which are new, must be approved by the Development Office. Fundraisers which are standard for GAPP are:

**Ski Show Parking** is an opportunity which the GAPP group was able to take advantage of last summer. The group has the potential of earning around $500 for working the event. GAPP has been assigned the Sunday, July 19th (busiest day of the ski show) to park cars. Esther Becker and Shamaine Rustad efforts as members of the Aquaskiers board for us to work the Ski Show. Next year the group could earn even more money by working both the state event and the World Ski Show as well. Frau Timmermann requested a volunteer(s) to assist Esther Becker with filling the time slots to work. Frau Timmermann offered to work the early shift beginning at 4:30 a.m. No one volunteered to solicit workers.

**Oktoberfest** which will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2015

**Advent Calendar sales** our most profitable fundraiser

**Christmas Tree Lights** – recycling unwanted, old, and broken Christmas lights with collection sites set up at the local parishes.

**Other Fundraising Events:**Schwan’s sale, quilt auction, cookie dough sale, and Port Edwards garage sale, Little Caesar’s pizza kits sales are just a few other events which GAPP students have worked in order to earn money both for the Germans’ visit and their own trip.

GAPP 2017- Looking Ahead

How does my son/daughter get to travel to Germany in 2017?

Frau Timmermann shared with the group that hosting does not grant automatic participation in the trip to Landshut in 2017, nor does hosting require that a student travel to Germany. She highlighted the requirements detailed on the pink handout, e.g. German language study, grade requirement, eligibility, physical examination, letters of recommendation, behavior and meeting financial obligations to ACS . All of this information, plus more, is available at the GAPP web site <http://ahsgapp.weebly.com> There is a link on the ACS web site under Exchange Program. Frau Timmermann further emphasized that the German trip is for .5 credit and that participants receive a grade for the German portion of their GAPP experience.

Dates

The tentative dates for the group are Sunday, June 18th – July 13/14th 2017. The tentative departure date is after the state soccer tournament and the Germans’ two week Pentecost break. Frau Timmermann shared that the visit in 2017 will include the Landshuter wedding events. In 2013 the group was fortunate to get tickets to attend the jousting and night games. Frau Timmermann encouraged the attendees to look at the web site to see pictures of the pageantry of this historical reenactment. Frau Timmermann will have more information from the principal at Hans-Leinberger regarding the 2017 dates upon her return. Exact departure nad return dates will be set in the summer of 2016 and are based on both schools’ schedules and best flight availability and pricing.

How much will it cost for my son/daughter to travel to Germany in 2017?

GAPP is the most economical student travel program available. Since only a travel agent is used for booking tickets, there are no additional fees being paid to an organization to help plan the trips. The Americans plan the German itinerary and make the arrangements, while the Germans do the same for the Americans’ trip. Frau Timmermann shared that students for the past 5 trips have paid $1600, $1700, $1800, $2200 and $2000 for their month-long stays. True costs have been between $2000-$2800 for each trip. The amount that the students and families have fundraised for each trip has significantly reduced the total cost. Frau Timmermann cautioned that airfares, airline policies and the Euro exchange rate are factors which she cannot control. Parents should be prepared for the true cost of their child’s trip to be around $3000.

Other Discussion Topics

*American Application Forms*

Frau Timmermann had the application forms available for anyone who was certain about their child’s participation in GAPP. Forms will be available again at the September meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 2, 2015

 Tentative Agenda Topics:

 Selected Partners/Questions to Applications
 Deadline for Hosting Decision
 Fundraisers: Oktoberfest, Advent Calendars, Christmas Lights