GAPP Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2012

Absent:

All families represented.

**Announcements:**

* Passport Copies: Frau Timmermann reminded families to send in two copies of the front passport pages to her at their earliest convenience. Each family should also keep an additional two copies, one for home and one to put in the student’s luggage.
* Photo Album need to be presented to Frau Timmermann before Christmas break.
* GAPP Powerpoint presentation outline due December 1st. Students will be using a GAPP Period 10 time to work on this in their groups.
* Exchange Rate to date is 1 Euro = $1.27. Frau Timmermann reminded families that she will calculate with a higher rate due to the volatility of the currency market.
* WAFLT Travel Scholarship Applications – only two students applied. Frau Timmermann will be meeting with a group of colleagues to review the applications and determine which one to submit for Assumption. Only one submission is allowed per school. Only one or two $500 scholarships are awarded in the entire state.
* New GAPP Project/Theme Requirements: As shared with the group in August, GAPP has institute new requirements for exchanges beginning this year. One of these changes is the requirement for a joint theme or project. This will require changes to the portfolio and the reflection paper. These changes will be made and shared with the participants and their families, once the theme has been chosen.
* Chaperones: Jerry Osowski, retired music teacher from Nekoosa, and Ann Taylor, teacher’s aide and office administrative assistant for Nekoosa Public Schools, will assist Frau Timmermann with the chaperoning duties. Frau Timmermann thanked everyone who expressed an interest with helping chaperone the group.

**Fundraising Update:**

1. Advent Calendars – Sales are going well. Please check with parishes about selling between or after services.
2. Christmas Tree Light Recycling– everything is set to proceed.
3. Other – no new fundraising ideas presented at this time.

**Baggage Restrictions:**

Frau Timmermann handed out the baggage restrictions for the flight. Only one piece of “free” checked luggage is allowed. It may not exceed 23 kg or 50 lbs. There are also limits on overall dimensions. Excessive weight and size fees are susbstantial. One carry-on and one personal item are allowed. There are weight and dimension restrictions on these as well. Please refer to the Lufthansa website and/or the handout for specific information.

**Packing List:**

Clothing: Frau Timmermann handed out a green sheet of suggested items to pack. Emphasis was placed on limiting the number of outfits, specifically **not** packing an outfit/shoes for each day of the stay. Layering will be important. While dress code is not required, no short-shorts or low cut, spaghetti strap tops will be allowed. Likewise, clothing with USA or America printed on it should be avoided. Especially necessary is a light-weight water resistant/repellant hooded jacket.

Footwear: Flip flops should be packed for the shower, but will not be allowed for any touring. Frau Timmermann presented an example of a sturdy, water resistant walking shoe (leather tennis shoes). Cloth or mesh top shoes should be avoided since these do not protect against rain.

Medications: Each traveler should carry their own medicine kit, e.g. pain reliever, band-aids, and any over the counter allergy medications. Motion sickness tablets were also highly recommended not just for the flight, but also for bus and car trips. Roads are much curvier and the driving habits also can contribute to motion sickness.

Prescription medications, unless liquid and more than 3 oz., need to be packed in their original containers and put in the carry-on luggage.

Electronic Devices: Since US cell phones won’t work in Germany, each traveler will need an inexpensive watch so that when given free time, they know when to meet up with the group. A travel clock/alarm is also recommended for our group trips.

Additionally, participants need to check to see if their gaming devices and other electronics are dual voltage compatible. Germany is on 220 voltage. Furthermore, plug sizes are different than the in the U.S. Frau Timmermann showed the current converter kit and German plug size. Current converters can be purchased at all luggage stores, as well as Walmart, Target etc. Radio Shack carries the plug add-ons. Costs vary for the kits ($20), while the plugs are under $10.

Purses/Handbags

All purses and handbags must have zip closures. Open handbags are too susceptible to spillage and potential theft.

**Host Family Gift Ideas:**

Frau Timmermann handed out a list of suggested gift items. She emphasized picking items which are light weight and easy to pack. Look to buy a family gift, rather than individual ones. Shipping ahead of time can be done, but would involve postage costs which typically exceed the value of the items being shipped. Frau Timmermann is also looking for flat, light-weight items to take over as gifts for the mayor and other tour sites, for which we are not being charged. These gift items might need to be distributed among the travelers since Frau Timmermann typically had one piece of luggage just for gift items and the other for her personal belongings.

**Next Meeting: Monday, January 21st 6:00 p.m. Room 214
Tentative Agenda Items: Itinerary/Costs/Handling Money**