GAPP Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 7, 2016

**Attendees:** Beenken and Matott Families absent

**Exchange Dates Reminder: Wednesday, March, 23rd – Thursday, April 14th 2016**

Germans arrive in Chicago on Sunday, March 20th and will spend 3 nights there (see itinerary) and then will come via Lamers coach bus to Wisconsin Rapids.

**Communication:**Phone lists were re-distributed. Attendees were asked to make updates to the information as needed. Frau Timmermann reminded the host families of the need to regularly check their e-mails. Updates and reminders will be sent to families via e-mail if there are changes to the itinerary and to remind families of sack lunch needs, drop off and pick up times. Additionally, Frau Timmermann encouraged families to contact her if there are any concerns with their German guest.

**Cell Phones for Chaperones:**

Frau Timmermann reported that no source could be found this time to loan the chaperones two American network phones. Frau Biroga has assured her that this would not be a problem for this exchange.

**Itinerary Items:**

Frau Timmermann passed out an updated itinerary both in outline and calendar formats.

***Welcome Dinner*** – Mrs. Couthurst, Metcalf & Sullivan are coordinating this dinner. Dinner is at 5 p.m. The sign up list was passed around. Families were reminded to make a dish to feed no less than 12 and to let them know how many from each family would be attending.

Frau Timmermann reminded families to have someone at AHS before 4:30 when the group is scheduled to arrive so that no one is left standing without someone to greet them.

***Farewell Dinner*** – Mrs. Becker, Rustad, Newton will coordinate this dinner. This group will contact everyone via e-mail to sign up for items as the date gets closer.

***Field Trips:***

Frau Timmermann went over the joint field trips and requested that permission slips before spring break. Students on the trip to Green Bay/Mtwc also need to bring in $20. Frau Timmermann also shared that due to musical practice and the ACT prep class that there would be room for adults on the trip. Mrs. Rustad asked to go along. It was also determined that a stop would be made at McDonald’s in Manitowoc before heading back to Wisconsin Rapids. Frau Timmermann will inform the McDonald’s there of the intended stop so that they can be prepared for a busload.  
 ***Joint Trips:***

***3-24 Madison*** ($ for lunch, send snack and beverages) Times: Bus departs at 6:30 a.m – 5:30 p.m.  
***3-28 Green Bay*** $20(send sack lunch, snacks and beverage) Times: Bus departs at 7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
***4-12 Amish Trip*** –( Send Lunch/Snacks/Beverages Times: Bus departs at 7:30 a.m – 6:30 p.m.

***4-05 Stevens Point*** (send sack lunch/snacks/beverage for German guest)   
***4-06 Courthouse*** – Need Drivers/Inclement Weather  
The following volunteered to drive the group in case of inclement weather:  
Mrs. Sullivan (6) Mrs. Bord (6) Mrs. Asbeck (9)  
Mrs. Renner (5) Mrs. Metcalf (6)  
***4-14 Departure Day*** – Send Snacks and Beverage: Bus Loads at 9 a.m. GAPP Partners are excused from their 1st hour class and part of 2nd hour as well.

***Prom:*** A group picture will be taken at the Mead Inn at 4 p.m. Frau Timmermann will contact the Mead for permission. If weather is good, an outdoor picture can be taken on the library steps.

**Other Organizational Items:** *Money in Hot Lunch Account* – Families were reminded to have additional money in their accounts for the German guests. The Germans will eat here 10 times.  
 *Homework “Help” from Germans*- German students should not be asked to give answers to assignments or do essay work for the Americans. Frau Timmermann has had it occur that some American students have bragged about their German partner doing their work for them. This is being dishonest.  
 *Newspaper/TV Contact:* Mrs. Rustad and Mrs. Ladick will contact these to see if someone would be interested in running a story.

**Fundraising:** *Younkers Community Day:*   
Mrs. Becker shared some brief information about participating in such a fundraiser. No interest shown to pursue this as a fundraiser  
 *Mother’s Day Bakery*:   
Mrs. Renner shared her suggestion to offer baked goods. After much discussion it was decided to offer it to AHS families only. Mrs. Preuss and Mrs. Coulthurst volunteered to advertise it and create a flier. Frau Timmermann agreed to seek permission from the Advancement Office.

**Cultural Information:**

Frau Timmermann passed out a yellow handout with hints and tips for host families. Items Frau Timmermann highlighted were:

English proficiency: Students in Germany have been learning English since 3rd grade so their skills are much better than our students’ German ones. Students learn British English and British pronunciation. You might have to speak slowly and clearly, avoid slang, physically show/demonstrate what you mean or re-word. Speaking in a louder voice usually doesn’t help bridge any communication gaps.

Food/Mineral Water: Germans are used to a much more robust type of bread and mineral water. Similar bread is available at Copps – the Artisan breads (Jewish rye and the Multi-grain). These cost about $4 a loaf. Carbonated, unflavored mineral water is also the type of water Germans drink. Most do not drink tap water. Mineral water is available at Copps and Wal-mart.

Hygiene/Laundry: Show your guests how to use the faucets in the bathroom and shower. This can be confusing. Invite them to give you their dirty laundry. Europeans typically wear clothes more than one day in a row so don’t be alarmed by this.

Time on Skype/E-Mail/Cell /Facebook with Home and Home Friends.

Discourage excessive amounts of time spent conversing with friends and family back in Germany. They are here to be part of your family. Please alert Frau Timmermann if the young person in your home is constantly making or receiving calls to or from Germany. Calling to Germany can be very expensive, especially on a cell phone. Students should use e-mail or Skype to update their families every once in a while. If a family feels that their German partner is spending excessive amounts of time in his/her room or does not interact with the family due to the distraction of the technology, Frau Timmermann is giving families permission to remove it for an extended period of time, per our own GAPP policy.

Church Attendance: Please be aware that your guest may only attend church sporadically, if at all. Keep in mind that most do not adhere to fasting on Good Friday and be sensitive to their needs.

Bathroom Doors: All doors in Germany are shut at all times. Make sure that you and your family members LOCK the bathroom door so that you are not surprised by your German walking in on you since shut doors are normal to them.

Nudity/Foul Language: It might not be uncommon for your guest to walk from the bedroom to the bathroom in their underwear. You might want to provide them with a robe.

Foul language might be used since many young people think it is “cool” or “neat” to use English cuss words. Unfortunately, most do not understand how strong and inappropriate this language is because they do not have the same feel for these words in the foreign language. Please speak with your guest if there is a problem with this so that they understand the impact of using this type of vocabulary.

Guns: Families were reminded that gun availability is very different in Germany than here. It is rare that a family own a gun in Germany. Please be sensitive to the safety of your guest and to the parents’ perspective if/when you allow your guests to handle a gun or gun use is demonstrated on your property.

**GAPP 2017 Travelers’ Meeting**: Wednesday, May 4th 5:30 p.m.  
Tentative Agenda: Dates, Costs, Expectations, Passports, Insurance, Luggage, Spring Fundraisers, Royal Event