



Prospective GAPP Student/Parent Spring Informational Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, May 23rd 2018 @ 6:30 pm

- **Welcome –**



- Introduction: Frau Holmquist & Ms. Christensen (Teacher Chaperones)
- Information about the German American Partnership Program and the 2019 GAPP trip can be found on Frau's website at the link below or the QR code to the left:
<http://frauholmquist.weebly.com/gapp-exchange-trip.html>
- How was the GAPP 2017 trip? Pictures on Frau's website (see the town & school where you'll be going!)
- Sign-up now to save money!
- Jot down questions as we go – there will be a Q&A at the end!

- **Where are we going? What are we doing?**

- We will be going to Germany for a 26 day exchange. We will spend 3 nights in Rome, Italy and 3 nights in Vienna, Austria during the exchange, among other day-trips and excursions in and around our host city of Eggenfelden.
- There is a tentative itinerary listed on Frau's website. Here's a run-down:
 - On June 27, 2019 we will fly to **Rome, Italy** (3 nights)
 - Activities: Tour of Rome: Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon, and Piazza Navona. We'll go to the Vatican Museums & Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, the Colosseum, Piazza Venezia, and the Forum. The third day will be a day-trip to **Pompeii** and explore Mt. Vesuvius. We'll stop for lunch in **Naples**, the birthplace of pizza!
 - Fly to **Munich, Germany**, bus to **Eggenfelden, Bavaria** (3 weeks)
 - Activities: Live with German host family, go to Karl-von-Closen Gymnasium (high school). Welcome & Goodbye parties, city scavenger hunt, meeting the mayor, visiting the elementary school, etc.
 - Field trips: Train to **Vienna, Austria** (2 nights – city tour, natural history museum, shopping, amusement park), bus to **Neuschwanstein Castle** (day trip with partners), train to **Munich** (day trip – group tour of **Dachau concentration camp**, student group free time in city), bus trip to **Salzburg, Austria** (day trip – Berchtesgaden Salt Mine tour, student group free time in Salzburg)
 - Return to **Seattle** from Munich on July 18th, 2019.

- **Did you know you can get credit at EHS for going on GAPP?**
 - GAPP is a .5 (semester) credit here at EHS.
 - In order to earn the credit, students must visit mandatory meetings during the spring leading up to the trip. The meetings will be once every two weeks.
 - The meetings will cover various topics: school in Germany, food & living with a family, school behavior, information on places we'll visit, and other general preparation.
 - What if my student does a sport? They will need to make arrangements with their coaches to miss practice.
 - While in Germany, the students will be required to keep a journal, complete their GAPP notebooks, and present a presentation on "American life" for their host classes.
 - GAPP is added to your student's transcript the following fall as a letter grade (A, B, C, D)

- **How much does GAPP cost?**
 - **GAPP 2019 costs approx. \$3200.00.** This year we are using the travel company Explorica for our flights and travel in Rome. One non-refundable down-payment will be made to EHS and the rest of the payment to Explorica (payments can be made online or over the phone).
 - **You must register BOTH with EHS and Explorica.**
 - **Explorica enrollment:** two options:
 - **Automatic payment plan:** \$50 is due when a participant enrolls. The deposit goes towards the total of your trip.
 - Balance will be divided into monthly installments deducted from the form of payment. The payment amount varies until the day the participant enrolls and must be withdrawn from the account on the 5th or 20th each month. They will find the exact amount on the Tour Center or they can call into Customer Care
 - **Manual payment plan:** \$99 is due to enroll the student, \$500 is due 30 days later of enrollment, then 75% of the balance is due 110 days prior to departure with the remainder being due 65 days prior to departure
 - **Accepted Payment Forms:** We accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Please make checking accounts or money order payable to Explorica
 - **Credit card:** Final payment is due 65 days prior to departure
 - **Checking account:** Final payments is due 35 days prior to departure
 - IF YOU SIGN UP WITH EXPLORICA BEFORE MAY 30th 2018, YOU WILL SAVE \$100
 - **Code: Holmquist2019**
 - ISIGN UP WITH BEFORE MAY 25th 2018, YOU WILL SAVE AN ADDITIONAL \$50
 - No code necessary
 - The non-refundable \$300 EHS desposit is due to the EHS Cashier by Wednesday, October 10th.

- The GAPP/Explorica fee includes:
 - Round-trip Airfare (and airfare Italy to Germany)
 - All Hotels on Field Trips
 - Bus/Train Transportation to and from Field Trips
 - Entrances Fees on Field Trips
 - Most Meals (Homestay, Italy travel and Field Trips)
 - Costs Related for Class Fees at Gymnasium
 - Costs Related to the Homestay
 - Tips for bus drivers/tour guides/group dinner waiters, etc
 - Travel Insurance
- The GAPP fee does not include:
 - Passport
 - Souvenirs
 - The field trip when we host

Extra Information:

- **What can I do over the summer?**
 - Fundraising: There are four fundraisers over the school year that students can use to raise money for their trip: 1) Entertainment Books 2) Advent Calendars 3) Winterfest (family help) 4) Greeting Cards. There are already many students fundraising towards GAPP (If you fundraise and end up NOT going on the GAPP trip, you can use the funds for any local fieldtrip)
 - This upcoming summer break is a wonderful time to continue fundraising for the trip! Here are a few suggestions:
 - Start a "Kickstarter" or "GoFundMe" account. Encourage family members to donate instead of buying you birthday presents! Write them a lovely letter asking them to donate!
 - Mow lawns, do yardwork, babysit, ask neighbors and friends if they need any extra work done.
 - Have a garage sale! Ask all your neighbors to pitch in and donate their profits to your trip!
 - Ask local businesses to sponsor your trip. You could volunteer hours there or promise pictures or a letter to the editor of the local paper in return.
 - Have a bake sale! Ask a local grocery store to let you sell your goods outside their store.
 - Do you have your own idea?! Share it with Frau!
 - Early trip preparation:
 - Passport: If your student doesn't yet have a passport, this would be an ideal time to get them one. Sometimes processing may take a long time. I find Walgreens to be a great place to take passport pictures. If your student does have a passport, it must be valid for at least up to 6 months AFTER they have returned from travel (valid through January 28 2018) or they will need to renew. (It is also smart for parents to make sure their passports are up-to-date in case of emergency.) Here is the link for passport information (application/renewal) for Enumclaw: <http://www.ci.enumclaw.wa.us/166/US-Passport-Information>

- Bank/Money: In Germany we recommend that students use cash (Euros) whenever possible – just like the Germans do! Students will have regular opportunities to visit the ATM. This will help them from running into problems with stores/restaurants not able to take their US cards. Chip + PIN cards are used in Europe. If your students has no experience with having their own bank account, using a credit/debit card with a pin number, or using ATM, the summer would be a good time to practice.
 - Cell phones: Students are encouraged to bring wifi-accessible cell phones to Germany – please check with your specific carrier before leaving about fees regarding international calls and data. Teachers will not be policing phone/data use abroad. Phone cards are an option. There will most likely be wifi available at the host family/hotels, but public wifi is not always free. Make sure your student understands without a doubt the fees associated to using their cell phone/cell plan in a foreign country.
- **Hosting the Germans next Spring:**
 - Part of the GAPP experience is hosting your German partner when they come to Enumclaw (Frau & the German chaperones will carefully pair you with a partner – more on that in the Fall!)
 - The German partners will visit from March 30-April 19, 2019.
 - If you are certain that you are unable to host, we may be able to make an exception and find another family willing to host (one family is not allowed to host two German students) – BUT one of the best parts of GAPP is the reciprocity of the exchange... you show your partner hospitality and a good time here in Enumclaw, they'll show you a great time in Eggenfelden!
- **What we'll cover over the next year:**
 - Exact flight information:
 - When do I get to the airport?
 - What should I bring in my carry-on?
 - What should I wear on the flight?
 - Do I get to sit next to my friend?
 - Travel Insurance:
 - Frau does get travel insurance for the whole GAPP group for while we are abroad through a German company called Bernhard. More to come on the policy – but feel free to investigate any additional coverage you might add through your own insurance or Explorica.
 - Money:
 - How much is GAPP exactly going to cost?
 - How much spending money do I need?
 - How do I get Euros in the US?
 - How do I use a German ATM machine?
 - Packing:
 - What do I bring? What's the weather going to be like?

- European voltage (electric razors/blow dryers/cell phone chargers, etc.).
- Overnight hotel stays:
 - Do I get to share a room with my friend?
 - What do I need to bring?
- Behavioral & academic expectations:
 - This will be a whole meetings worth of information! ☺
 - You cannot be failing any classes to go on GAPP.
- GAPP Class meetings & expectations:
 - There will be a number of meetings and assignments that students must attend/complete in order to get credit for GAPP as a class. They will be clearly outlined, posted, and announced throughout the year.
 - You cannot do GAPP and opt of the credit.
- What if I want to stay behind in Germany?
 - We will talk about this next spring. Please keep in mind that it is an option for your student to stay behind in Europe (at which point the school would have no legal jurisdiction over the student).

Please sign-up as soon as possible for the most SAVINGS.

Questions for Explorica: (Customer Care #) 888-310-7121

Our next GAPP meeting will be at the end of September in the new school year.

?? Questions & Answers ??