



REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS

To learn German

Be a current German student the year you participate and CONTINUE your German studies the year after the exchange if in grades 9-11. Seniors will be considered on a case-by-case basis if there is room in the program.

To participate

While we usually need additional host families in the spring, full participants must host (exceptions made only in extreme circumstances) and be actively involved in both sides of the exchange. Families must also support and participate in GAPP events and fundraising.

To be responsible

Participation demands maturity, independence, collaboration, and integrity. Students must be able to juggle multiple responsibilities and spend a lot of time out of their comfort zone in Germany. Families also need to meet deadlines and make payments in a timely manner.

HISTORY

GAPP was established in 1972 to facilitate bilateral transatlantic exchanges between schools in the U.S. and Germany. GAPP is the largest bilateral exchange program between the U.S. and another country with over 750 U.S. schools and more than 400k alumnae-alumni.

GAPP has been a long-standing tradition at SLHS, started over 25 years ago by Mike Pokorney. After the retirements of both Mr. Pokorney and his partner teacher in Deggendorf, Jess Garrett brought her partner school in Murnau, Bavaria on board to continue GAPP.

Frau Garrett and Herr Schneider started working together in Tucson, AZ in 2012 and the first SLHS exchange with the Staffelsee Gymnasium took place in 2018.

The program has further evolved as the mutual desire of SLHS and the IGS Osnabrück to have an annual exchange led them to find each other. 2025 marks the first exchange between the two schools.



CONTACT

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GAPP

German American
Partnership Program

SLHS EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Jeffco's only annual bilateral transatlantic exchange- our mission is to establish long-lasting interest in the partner country and deepen relations between the US and Germany. We provide intercultural encounters for all participants and facilitate the acquisition and improvement of proficiency in the target language.

OUR PARTNER SCHOOLS

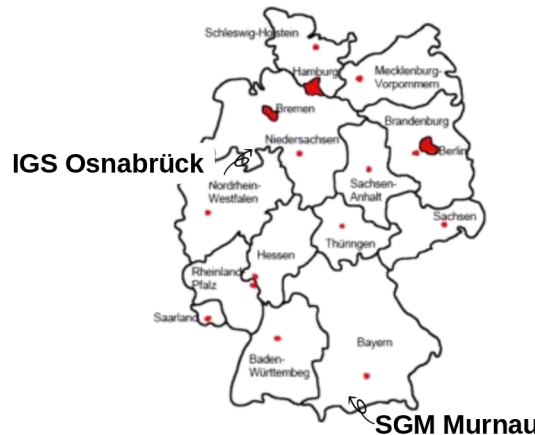
We currently partner with two schools, one in odd years and one in even years. Each provides a unique experience and perspective of the German language and culture. Repeat GAPPers also have the chance to see different types of secondary schools and become intimately acquainted with different regions of Germany.

STAFFELSEE GYMNASIUM

This college preparatory secondary serving grades 5-13 is about an hour south of Munich. Frau Garrett has been working with the SGM since 2012. Murnau is near a large lake and we typically visit in July during even years. Bavarian culture often takes a center stage during these GAPP exchanges.

GESAMTSCHULE OSNABRÜCK

This comprehensive secondary school confers three types of diplomas to its student population in grades 5-13 and is situated on the river Hase. 2025 is our first exchange with the IGS and we typically visit in June during odd years.



GAPP TIMELINE

Fall: Determine participants, find additional host families if needed, begin student training

Early Spring: Parents and students meet to prepare for our guest's arrival and coordinate events and carpooling

Late March/Early April: Hosting of our German exchange students, including a student-only bonding weekend

Summer: American students travel to Germany for roughly four weeks, one week is spent traveling and acclimating, three are spent living with a host family and attending our partner school

WHY GAPP?

Benefits to Students

- step into adulthood by forming lifelong global ties
- experience German language & culture safely and authentically
- immersion through host family experience
- facilitate acquisition and improvement of proficiency in German
- foreign exchange experience for college applications and future scholarship/career opportunities
- personal growth through intercultural encounters navigating life in a host family and attending school in Germany