



Central High School

P.O. Box 68, 44W625 Plato Road, Burlington, Illinois 60109 847-464-6030 / 847-464-6039 fax
www.burlington.k12.il.us

Principal – Matthew E. Haug
Asst. Principal – Jon Puklin
Athl. Director – Steve Gertz
Dean of Students – Carri Oslager

January 31, 2012

Dear Parents and German Language Students of Grades 9, 10, and 11,

We are cordially inviting you to our first informational meeting for the GAPP exchange program in 2012/2013. The GAPP (German American Partnership Program) is a school-to-school exchange program that pairs an American school and a German school to give students the opportunity to visit each other's schools and to experience each other's cultures by experiencing the lives of their families and others in their community. GAPP is endorsed by both the German government and the U.S. State Department.

Over the past 14 years, the German department at CHS has participated several times in a GAPP exchange between *Central High School* and *Ferdinand-Sauerbruch-Gymnasium*, a high school in the German town of *Großröhrsdorf* (this is in the state of Saxony, near the city of *Dresden* in Eastern Germany).

16 students and two teachers from our partner school will visit us for two weeks in October of 2012. During that time, they will be guests at Central High School. They will be hosted by families of German Language students that choose to participate in the GAP-Program. In return, CHS students participating in GAPP will have the opportunity to travel to Germany in the summer of 2013 with Mrs. Bliss (CHS German teacher/Foreign Language Department Chair) as well as Mrs. Mullahy (CHS Career Tech Ed Teacher/ CTE Department Chair). During their stay in Germany, the American GAPP students will be hosted by those German students who are coming to CHS during this fall.

The experiences of the participating students from the past years have been very positive. Not only were students able to improve their language abilities, but many of them have also formed long-lasting international friendships way beyond their graduation from CHS. Even entire families have travelled to visit the family of their exchange child/sibling.

If you are interested in learning more about the GAPP Exchange 2012/2013, we would like to invite students and their parents to the informational meeting on:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AT 7 P.M. IN THE LMC AT CHS
(Library Media Center) at CHS

The meeting will last approximately 60-75 minutes. Attending this meeting does not imply any commitment to the program. We encourage you to attend this meeting even if you are not quite sure at this point if you/your child will participate in any part of the exchange (traveling and hosting, or hosting only). This meeting will assess the general interest in the exchange program, share information regarding the application schedule, travel plans, tentative cost, program requirements, expectations, how to deal with cultural differences, etc. Former participants will be present to share their experiences. This will also be a good opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the program.

Participants GAPP 2010/11





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We are looking forward to seeing you at the meeting! If you are interested in participating in the program but unable to attend the informational meeting, please contact Mrs. Bliss at abliss@burlington.k12.il.us or by calling her at the high school after 2:30 pm (847-464-6030). Students, to help us plan for the meeting, please let us know by February 21 if and with how many family members you are planning to attend so seating can be correctly accommodated.

Please note: If **bad weather** causes the meeting to be cancelled, it will be **rescheduled** for March 1, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the LMC. (**Not** a regular meeting, we would use that date only in case that the February 26 date has to be cancelled.)

Thank you for your time and support of the German Language Program here at CHS.

Sincerely,

Anette Bliss
(CHS German Teacher)
(CHS Foreign Language Department Chair)

Cathy Mullahy
(CHS CTE Teacher)
(CTE Department Chair)



Trier – Ruins of Roman Bath



Kölner
Dom
=
Cologne
Cathedral



Ferdinand –Sauerbruch-Gymnasium



Berlin – Holocaust Memorial



GAPP 2011 Participants – Cafeteria of Partner School



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