



SET YOURSELF APART

GERMANY

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EDUCATION

The chance to learn about German schools - from the inside - felt like an experience I simply could not pass up. Talking to German students of all ages and sharing stories...it was interesting to see what they were curious about and what mattered to them. I noticed that the teachers not only focused on things like Math and ELA, but also on developing the students' fine motor skills and creativity, which seems like a good way to reduce academic stress and provide hands-on learning. I now have a more open mind about how education "should be done" and what is important.

FRIENDSHIPS

We were able to meet our hosts in Buffalo the spring before we traveled. Living with a host was a once in a lifetime opportunity. I did not feel like just a tourist but instead experienced the sites as well as everyday life "behind the scenes," as if I was living there myself. I formed a strong relationship with my host and her family and leaving was quite emotional. Her mother even learned some English so she could say goodbye! I went into the program for the travel and school visits but came home with many friends...including the other participants. It's amazing how travel can bring strangers together. A few of us made a return trip to meet our hosts in Ireland and my host has come to Buffalo several times. It's the best outcome anyone can ask for!



Kaitlynn with her German host (right) and in Berlin with fellow participants (above).



"This experience not only pulled me out of my comfort zone, it also showed me how well I can adapt and learn in any situation. I am eager to travel more and learn about different places."

ADVICE TO OTHERS

Don't overthink it. You don't have to go into every situation knowing what to expect and how to respond. No need to stress -- go into it with an open mind and a positive attitude and everything will turn out great!