

GICS – Message from your Intern Host Committee

Dear GICS families,

As our second year at GICS comes to a close, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the interns that have come to help us at Goethe International Charter School this year. While we have already said goodbye to Tilman Steurer, Julia Furtman, Sarina Lichtenberger and Leslie Thiels who were with us in the earlier part of the year, we will soon have to wish farewell to Martin Rodenheber, Carolin Koehler, and Helene Rupprecht. Please join me in thanking them for their daily contributions to our school, during recess, at lunch, but most of all in the classroom. They have greatly enhanced the students' learning by supporting them with the German language and by bringing the German culture to the classroom. We hope you enjoyed your stay here with us and may our paths cross soon again. ☺

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of a few Goethe families. On behalf of all GICS students and families, I would like to thank these families for providing the interns with room and board, for arranging transportation, and for integrating them into their family. Please give a big thank-you to:

- Carol and Joe Earle – Ethan (3rd)
- Susanne Hempel and Jeremy Miles – Alex (2nd) and Daniel (2nd)
- Angelika and Robert Gunn – Ronan (5th), Carina (2nd) and Odin (K)
- Caitlin Reed and Michael Gutperle – Milena (K)
- Berit Kerner and James Ho – Leah (4th)
- Robin and Frank Beuthin – Emma (2nd)
- Stephanie and Steven Jaeger – Hannah (4th) and Zoe (3rd)

For some of these families, this has not been the first time hosting and some have already committed to hosting again this fall.

However, we are still looking for additional host families. If you have a guest room or an office that you can temporarily turn into a guest room, please contact Donata Takahashi at 310-484-9769 or donata.takahashi@yahoo.com.

You may ask: Why host an intern? Here are some of the reasons:

Allow your family to develop a meaningful relationship with someone from another culture.

Interns will interact with your family, friends and neighbors, creating international friendship and cultural understanding on a local level. Your memories will last a lifetime!

Learn about another country and culture.

Interns are prepared to share their culture through food, music, and personal interaction. Living together on a daily basis will soon break down pre-existing stereotypes.

Create an unforgettable experience for your Amity Intern.

Opening your home and welcoming an Intern into your family allows him or her to see the best that US culture has to offer.

Support your local school.

Help your school create a rich and engaging foreign language program. By volunteering your home, you will allow many students to benefit from having an Amity Intern.

Learn about yourself and your culture.

See the US through the eyes of an international visitor; create an invaluable educational experience for yourself and your family.

Host Families are not compensated and typically provide:

- A private room
- Meals
- An occasional ride
- Integration into the family and community

For the fall, we have invited five candidates. On the reverse side are their mini-bios. I hope to have arrangements made for all of them before school is out, so please contact me asap at 310-484-9769 or donata.takahashi@yahoo.com

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Theresa Bohn

Now a student at the University of Education in Karlsruhe, Theresa Bohn grew up with three sisters in Endingen am Kaiserstuhl. Throughout her career, Theresa has kept very active as a math and German tutor, a basketball coach, a church group leader, and a scoutmaster. When she was sixteen years old, she spent a year abroad in a suburb of Chicago where she stayed with a host family with whom she is still in contact to this day.

Theresa credits her teachers with her desire to become a teacher, to be a role model, and to convey the joy of learning. She deeply believes that each child has talents that are worth supporting. Theresa especially loves to work with young children and wants her students to know that school is fun, learning is important, and that their dreams can come true.

Tanja Weber

Tanja Weber hails from Freiburg, a university town near the French and Swiss border. She brings with her extensive babysitting and tutoring experience. Before matriculating at university, she completed a year-long internship at a local Kindergarten that confirmed her decision to become an educator. She currently studies English, math and Spanish and is on track to become a high-school teacher.

Tanja's objective is to help students increase their German vocabulary and to assist them with grammar and pronunciation. She hopes that the language will become alive, purposeful and attainable by giving students the opportunity to have conversations with authentic German speakers. In addition to planning language lessons, she would love to contribute to extracurricular activities, such as sports, music, arts and crafts, and cooking.

Eva Brenner

Originally from Bad Endbach north of Frankfurt, Eva Brenner is currently finishing up her studies at the Justus Liebig-University in Giessen with a degree in German linguistics and literature, as well as in Special Education. Her goal is to teach German in elementary and middle school, focusing on children with learning, social and emotional disabilities.

While at university, Eva completed two five-week teaching internships, during which she planned German grammar lessons and taught under the guidance of a mentor. In addition to the classroom teaching experience, Eva assisted a school counselor in observing students and arranging support plans for those in need. She also served as a youth camp counselor, both in Germany and the U.S. As an ambassador of her home country, Eva aims to encourage kids to learn about different cultures and to strengthen intercultural relationships.

Elisabeth Burkhardt

In 2007, Elisabeth Burkhardt spent six months in Rome, Italy as an au-pair and another four months in Mallorca, Spain, as a kids-animator. Even though both experiences were exhausting at times, they were also vital to her decision to work with kids and to become a teacher. Originally from Affing in Bavaria, Elisabeth is currently studying English and Italian at the University of Augsburg.

While she hopes to improve on her English and to learn about American culture during her internship at GICS, Elisabeth is also very excited at the opportunity to enjoy the Californian sun and to hang out at the beach. Elisabeth plays the piano, likes art, and does gymnastics.

Michael Lohmer

As an English tutor, a music teacher (drums) and a soccer coach, Michael Lohmer has extensive experience working and interacting with children and young adults. He is currently studying English and Sports at the Johannes-Gutenberg University in Mainz and is preparing for his finals this fall, after which he will be joining the Goethe community in early October.

Michael believes that someone who will be teaching English should have stayed in an English-speaking country for an extended time period, not only to master the language, but to also be able to teach about the culture from first-hand experience. Michael is looking forward to incorporating sports and music into the daily schedule and would love to help teach PE and music classes at GICS.