



Student Exchange Minneapolis, USA  
28. September – 15. Oktober 2019



# Berlin - Paris - Minneapolis

Samstag, 28. September

## Berlin - Paris - Minneapolis

At 4:30 am our group met up at Tegel airport. Everyone was very tired but also excited to finally be leaving. After checking in our baggage and saying goodbye to our families, we passed the security check and waited for our flight to Paris with Air France. Two hours and a smooth flight later we arrived at Charles De Gaulle airport. Heading to the gate for our flight to Minneapolis, one group member noticed she didn't have her passport on her anymore. This meant the group had to part. While Ms. Todt and Svenja left to retrieve the missing passport, all others continued trying to find the gate. A task that turned out to be harder than we thought because the airport is so big. Once we had found the bus station, a bus drove us to our gate. Luckily Svenja's passport was still on the plane, so she and Ms. Todt were able to re-join the group soon after - Ms. Todt already proving her optimism and supportiveness during this unfortunate incident. Before we could actually board the plane, an employee asked all of us about our trip and our stay in the USA. The 9-hour flight went by quite quickly thanks to the great service and equipment provided by Delta Airlines. Leaving the plane, the time difference was already evident: noon instead of 7 pm. Before we could claim our baggage, we had to undergo immigration formalities and go through passport control, where our fingerprints were taken. Next, all our carry-on baggage was checked for meat, vegetables and fruit, by a very cute sleuth. Our host families were already waiting for us, welcoming us warmly, after we had finally claimed our baggage. The car ride home took about 45 minutes, giving us the chance to chat and get to know each other a little bit. Our first impression of the host families was very positive. They were all incredibly kind and welcoming, so we immediately felt at home. We then had our first American meal at Muddy Cow's where a few befriended host families met up. Many people ordered Mac'n'Cheese or Burgers, and in this all-American diner we got a first impression of the American lifestyle. After settling in, in what would be our new home for the next two weeks, the same group that had been at Muddy Cow's (minus the parents) went to Target, where we could choose whatever we wanted from their huge range of goods. We were excited to finally try a lot of things we'd only seen on TV shows and the Internet. Among many other products we bought things like Root Beer, which is not actually beer or Pop Tarts, which many Americans like to have for breakfast. Since you're allowed to drive from the age of 16, most of the hosts had their own car. So that once we were done with shopping all of us drove over to Amy's, Nora's host, where we played "For the Girls" – kind of a truth or dare game, giving us a good opportunity to get to know each other better. All of us were pretty jet-lagged but it was still too early to go to bed, so before any of us would accidentally fall asleep on the couch, our hosts decided to visit their friend Andy. But because we were all so tired, our visit at Andy's was rather short. Once everyone was back at home, we were all happy to finally get some sleep after a day of overall 15 exhausting hours of travel. Our hosts did a very good job at keeping us all awake, meaning the jetlag wasn't as bad during the following days and our very first day couldn't have been better.

Svenja & Nora



# Blaine City Hall & Police Station National Sports Center

Montag, 30. September



Our first excursion took place on Monday, September 30th.

While our hosts went to school, we visited the City Hall of Blaine. Blaine is also the city where most of us lived. In the conference room we got an introduction on how the city council works. We were able to ask the city manager lots of questions, and I found it fascinating to learn that there are quite a few differences to the regional policies in Germany.

After that, we had originally planned to visit the police and fire station. Unfortunately we didn't have an appointment and therefore weren't allowed to enter the fire station. But the police station was open for visitors and we learned a lot! We got to see the jail and an actual police car, which were the highlights for me personally. As a grand finale, we were all allowed to go into a real prison cell, which was really impressive.

After an individual short lunch break we drove to the National Sports Center. We got a great tour around the many ice and soccer fields. At the end, we were all wowed by the golf course and were even allowed to play for 20 minutes. It was a lot of fun and in the end we all got a present before leaving to go back home.

At 6 p.m. all of us met at Bowlero for a bowling party, where we had the most delicious pizza and could bowl all evening. We also got cards, so that we were able to play arcade games for a whole 45 minutes. It was really fun, especially the racing games! By the end of the party, many hosts and their partners ended up playing Laser-Tag. Everyone had so much fun playing, that nobody even cared who won (the blue team did ;-).

It was a great evening for us to get to know each other better and a great day to start our time in Minneapolis.

Janne

## Welcome Breakfast at SLP

Dienstag, 01. Oktober



The third full day which we spent in Minnesota, was a day packed with new impressions. All of us got up early because we were supposed to meet each other at 7:30 am at Spring Lake Park High School where our group then had breakfast together. First, we received a nice welcome-gift from Mr. Buck: a bag containing a school t-shirt. He then gave us ID cards, so that the teachers would be able to recognize us as exchange students.

Finally, we could shadow our exchange partners, following them around for the whole day. It was very confusing to find my way around campus at first, because the school is so much bigger than ours. About 600 students are in one grade - that's nearly half of all the students that go to our school!

Every single member of our group peeked in on various different classes because all our partners attended an individual set of subjects. So my first lesson was math.

I found it very interesting to see how different the lessons are to ours in Germany. First of all, the students were all working on small whiteboards and on their very own I Pads, which every student receives from school. This was no different in any of the other subjects - in Languages, Arts, Chemistry and History everyone was mainly working on their I Pads.

Moreover, the class atmosphere was completely different to the one at our school. In my opinion, the teachers in American high schools just don't take everything so serious, and they are much calmer. Furthermore their teaching methods are completely different.

Between classes everyone only had short breaks. So, when it was finally lunchtime, everyone ran out of the room in a rush wanting to be first in line for food.

On our way to lunch we passed a wall decorated with many stars made of thick paper. When I asked my exchange student she explained to me that it is a tradition in Homecoming week. Every student in the school has their own star which they are supposed to find in the week of homecoming. At the end of Homecoming they can take their own star home. This Tuesday, it was also Character Day. That meant lots of people were dressed up as their favorite character. A few of us also dressed up!

The lunch hall was very crowded and we had to wait a long time for our food, but together we had a lot of fun.

The last class of the day was German and probably the most fun for me personally. I read a sentence and everyone tried to repeat or translate it.

Even though school was then over, we didn't leave. Many of the students met in one of the gyms to practice their partner dances for Homecoming. We all had great fun practicing the choreography together.

It was a long, but exciting school day.

I was especially impressed with the community of the student body and the joy they find in after-school activities. I think that the sports and celebrations the school offers contribute immensely to this positive school community.

It's really great to have had the chance to experience a real American high school.

Johanna

## Minnehaha Falls & Mall of America

Mittwoch, 02. Oktober



On Wednesday, October 2nd, we met at the Language Plaza in SLP high school, again. When at ten past 8 everybody had finally arrived, we set out for the Minnehaha Falls. Accompanied by some of our American hosts, we had a fun time in the vans and new friendships formed almost immediately.

Having arrived, Mr. Hauck explained to us the origin of the waterfalls name. Minnehaha is the Dakotan wife of the Native American Chippewa chief and warrior Hiawatha in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem „The Song of Hiawatha“ published in 1855. Literally translated the name means „waterfall“ or „fast water“.

More than 850,000 people visit Minnehaha Falls each year, and it continues to be the most photographed site in Minnesota. The falls are located on Minnehaha Creek near the creek's confluence with the Mississippi River and near Fort Snelling, which we visited a week later.

We took pictures and for a (very short) while we walked through the Minnehaha park, which was built in 1849 as part of the Grand Rounds Scenic Byway system, and was part of the popular steamboat Upper Mississippi River „Fashionable Tour“ in the 1800s.

While exploring the park which is part of the USA National Register of Historic Places, we saw the house of John Harrington Stevens (1820-1900), the first authorized resident of Minneapolis.

It was amazing to see, how well everybody got along with one another, and it seemed as if a group spirit had already started to develop. As the weather was rather gloomy, we were all glad it didn't rain. On our walk through the park we tried to teach each other words that are hard to pronounce in German, like Eichhörnchen and Streichholzschächtelchen, before driving to the Mall of America.

In groups of four we were allowed to explore the world's most frequently visited mall, welcoming more than 42 million visitors each year. When it opened in 1992 it was the biggest mall in the U.S., featuring about 520 stores on 390,000 square meters. But there is much more to explore in MOA than just shops and restaurants. The 'Nickelodeon Universe' is an indoor theme park in the center of the mall. Among numerous other rides and attractions, the park features roller coasters, and is the largest indoor theme park in all of America. Other attractions inside the mall include the 'FlyOver America', a virtual reality show of Americas most iconic locations, such as the 'Sea Life Minnesota Aquarium', as well as the 'Crayola Experience'. Sadly we didn't get to see any of these. But that day most of us just wanted to shop for clothing and souvenirs anyway.

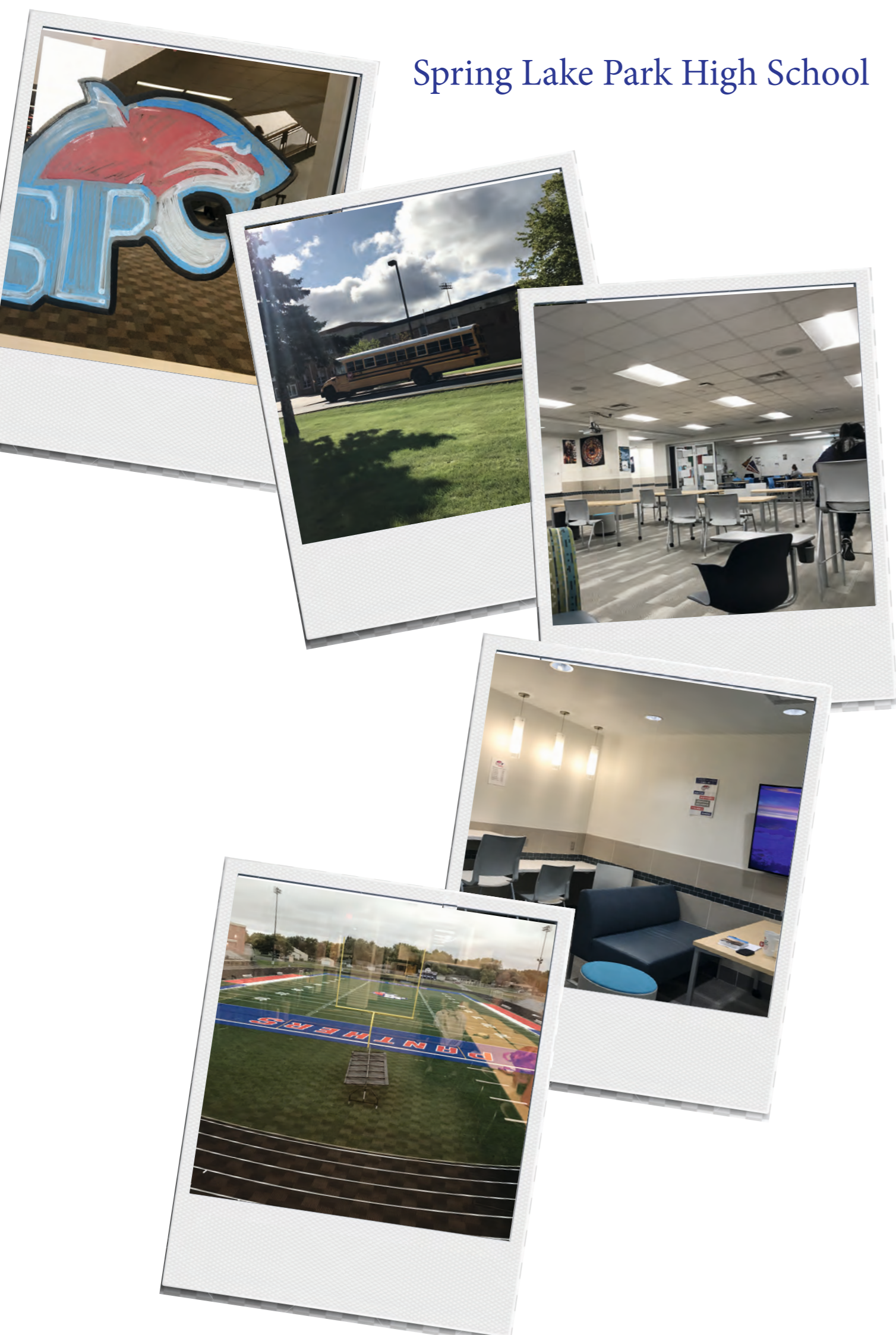
At the end of our shopping spree, many of us had bought more than they could carry or would fit in their suitcases.

Three hours later we headed back to Spring Lake Park exhausted and tired from walking yet happy and satisfied with our compilation of bought shopping items. At the school we waited for our hosts to pick us up and spent the rest of the day with our host families, having a great time.

Erja

# Spring Lake Park High School

Donnerstag, 03. Oktober



On Thursday, the sixth day of our exchange program, we shadowed our host students for another day. The weather was very nice and the sun was out, so that short summer clothes were adequate.

America's high school system requires students to have the same schedule every day for a whole week, therefore many of us decided on roaming around the school to visit classes we hadn't already seen on Wednesday. In Spring Lake Park high school a variety of interesting courses, which aren't common in German schools are offered. One of them a class called outdoor adventure, where I learned to build a campfire on the schoolyard, together with a group of American students.

With my newly gained knowledge, I attended lunch at the school cafeteria, where I was able to enjoy an unusually bad tasting meal, served on a plastic plate one might find at McDonald's.

After school, it's very common for American teenagers to drive to one of the many local fast food restaurants to compensate their school lunches.

We enjoyed the rest of the day with our host families.

Konradin

# Spring Lake Park High School

## Pep Rally

### American football

Freitag, 04. Oktober



On Friday, October 4th, I was in a group with Agata to present the “ghettos” of Berlin to the students of Spring Lake Park High School.

We had arrived at school at 8 am and the first lesson, lasting from 8:10 to 9:02 am, was free period for us, which we could use to practice. Then, throughout the whole day, we presented to five different classes. For some of the presentations Nora, Konradin and Svenja or Janne, Johanna and Erja joined us. Some of the classes asked no questions whatsoever, but other classes later on in the day, asked questions like: “Do you guys like to listen to music with people yodeling?” or “Do you think it’s cool to vape in school?”, and of course they had to ask: “Can you drink alcohol legally?”. It was very interesting to share our German culture with them, and to see the many differences, as well as similarities.

At the end of the day I found my host Tina and we walked to the gym, where a pep rally was about to start, together with other friends I had made within the short time of our stay. The pep rally is a pre-game, which is supposed to get everyone excited for the actual American football game happening that night.

It consisted of the teachers playing a skit, teachers singing and their orchestra playing, the Spring Lake Park dance team performing a routine also including a “Boy-Girl” performance, and all students joined in to play games.

After this we drove home to get ready for the big game and were back at school at 6 pm. At 7pm the actual game started and within the first quarter Spring Lake Park had already scored a touchdown. An American football game consists of four quarters, that each last 15 minutes. One touchdown scores six points and a field kick up to three. At the end of the game, SLPHS won with a score of 48 - 0 against the rivaling North St. Paul Bears.

After this stunning victory we went onto the football field and took some pictures with the players and some of my other friends.

Wiktorja

## Duluth @ Lake Superior

Montag, 07. Oktober



On Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, all of us met in one of the schools parking lots, at 8:45 am sharp to drive to Duluth. On our way there, we shortly stopped for a quick, but refreshing break, afterwards continuing our long drive to Lake Superior.

Lake Superior was so large, that it felt like we were standing in front of an entire ocean! One could not see the shore on the horizon. At Lake Superior we had about an hour of free time, in which we were allowed to walk around freely and explore the lake on our own.

Afterwards all of us had a delicious lunch in a restaurant near the lake before leaving to visit a viewing platform from which we all had a great view over Duluth. And just a little later, we climbed the top of a tower to enjoy another perspective of the lake, where the view was breathtaking!

Then we went to the hotel in Duluth to check in and see our rooms. We were four in each room, most of us sharing the space with our American exchange student.

For dinner we binged on lots of pizza and at around 7pm we drove to a place called Adventure Zone, where we spent most of our time playing laser tag and mini golf.

We all had a lot of fun and got to know each other a lot better, again. After this exciting and eventful but quite long day all of us fell asleep pretty fast, once we were back at the hotel.

Markus



# Gooseberry Falls State Park Splitrock lighthouse

Dienstag, 08. Oktober



On Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, all of us got up at different times and ate breakfast at the hotel. It was available from early to late morning with the food selection being varied, as well as balanced. But as we were starting early, we didn't actually spend a lot of time at breakfast.

Whilst driving to our first destination that day, we saw a picturesque suburb as well as the incredibly stunning nature that surrounded it. Upon arriving, we first walked calmly through Gooseberry Falls State Park, and we were thrilled by the fantastic view we had of the waterfall and its streams. We especially enjoyed the serene atmosphere created by the incredibly beautiful view and the nice weather.

After our short walk we had a picnic at Lake Superior and finally enjoyed the early evening hours by walking along the shore, where we had a great view of the Splitrock lighthouse.

We were then allowed to go off in small groups and choose where we wanted to eat dinner. At the end of the day all of us fell into bed completely satisfied.

Darian

# University of Minnesota Duluth Fond du Lac Indian Reservation

Mittwoch, 09. Oktober



We started off the day with breakfast, which was available from 6 am to 9:30 am every day. After all students and teachers had eaten their breakfast, we were then supposed to get our luggage and meet outside the Super 8 Motel.

By 10 am we had left the Motel in our two vans and Mr. Buck's car and then hit the road to the University of Minnesota, Duluth. 15 minutes later we arrived and entered the grand building. We were separated into two smaller groups because we were given a tour of the campus. Our guide showed us around, giving us an inside view on literally every square meter. We were shown the math hall, their sports and health center, the sciences and civil engineering building, the section concentrating on business and economics, as well as the Tweed Museum of Arts and, of course, the library. We were even allowed to take a quick peak into their chemistry and biology labs. After this she showed us the cafeteria, their very own coffee shop and the restrooms for students.

In the end we all walked over to the student accommodation where we were able to see student apartments, their laundry area and the multicultural center, where all of the different clubs take place. Furthermore, we talked about the study abroad program which the university offers – she explained how it works, what it costs and how one can apply. At the end of our extensive tour we met the other group in the parking lot.

By then it was 12:30 pm and we decided it was time for lunch. So, we drove for about 30 minutes until we had found a place to picnic. After another half an hour, we cleaned everything up, packed all our things and got back into the vans.

Already 5 minutes later we hit our next stop: the Fond du Lac Indian Reservation.

After arriving we first entered the museum where we were allowed to walk around freely and look at all the characteristic items which Native American tribes used. There were different kinds of weapons, feather headbands, belts, moccasins (shoes made from leather!), kettles and cups, some voodoo dolls and even a few dream catchers.

When the time was up, our guide came to show us around a bit more. First he explained a map to us, that showed where the different tribes used to live and how much of the land they once owned, still belongs to them now.

Afterwards he showed us a short informative documentary about how Native Americans live today. The film also mentioned what Native Americans believe to be correct about creation, which I found very interesting. Additionally it explained how the treaties between all of the US states were formed after the Europeans had explored and settled in America. Our guide informed us that most Americans are very ignorant of the Native American history and told us, that one doesn't have to live in the past to be a Native American. Their reservation has a building for government and education, as well as a language program. Lastly our guide explained that there are multiple events where one can meet other Native Americans – there's a whole network. There are 4200 memberships overall, half of which are located in the reservation.

At 2:30 pm it was time to drive back to Spring Lake Park High School. We were supposed to arrive at 4:30 pm, however we got stuck in traffic and didn't arrive until 5:20 pm. Our host families were already waiting for us, patiently, and picked us up directly once we finally made it back.

Leandra

# Fort Snelling    Mississippi River Minnesota State Capitol

Donnerstag, 10. Oktober



On Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, we had to get up really early to meet in front of the school at 7:30 am for our excursion. When everybody had finally arrived we split up into two groups, so that we would fit into the two vans, which Mr. Hauck and Mrs. Todt were driving.

At first we had trouble finding our way to Fort Snelling and when we arrived the weather was pretty foggy and cloudy. As we had to wait a while before we could start our tour to Fort Snelling, we hiked down to see the Mississippi River first. When we finally started our Fort Snelling tour, we visited six different places. First, we saw an old house that used to belong to the major, and our guide talked to us about the history of it. After that we went to see a house which two slaves inhabited, with our guide telling us an incredible story about the history of slaves in America, and how they tried to free themselves. Right after we looked at the third station on the list of our guided tour, the blacksmith. The woman who worked there ended up giving us a pin she had made, whilst explaining the history of blacksmithing to us. At the fourth station we only talked about how people used to do laundry, but the fifth station was really interesting. There, we got taught how soldiers marched these days. After finishing our marching exercises the guy there asked us what we think could be done to prevent wars. That was a very tough question for all of us and we had to think about it for a little while. In the end we all agreed, that more contracts were probably necessary to ensure the peace on earth. After this he also showed us how soldiers used to shoot their guns.

After that, we hiked back to the vans and had a little picnic which Mrs. Todt had prepared for us. The last point on our agenda was a guided tour through the Capitol of Minnesota which is, to a certain extend, a copy of the one in Washington.. an impressive building! Shortly after we drove back to school and on the ride back most of us just fell asleep. When we got back to school we waited, until our host parents had arrived to pick us up and drive us all back home.

Merve

# Minneapolis New York City

Freitag, 11. Oktober



All of us had to leave the homes of our hosts very early at 7am, since we were meeting at the airport of Minneapolis at 8. After two weeks full of excitement, happiness, love and seeing and experimenting so many new things, it was sadly time so say goodbye to our host families and to Minnesota. None of us had expected to form such close friendships in such a short amount of time, with people who were unfamiliar to us at first and have a different cultural background.

At the airport, there were no problems with the check-in and the security check. Our flight was not delayed, so we departed at 10 am from Minneapolis, leaving Minnesota.

At around about 2 pm we arrived at LaGuardia Airport, with an hour time difference, since we were coming from Minneapolis. A shuttle bus brought us to our hotel, which was called "Broadway Hotel and Hostel" located on 230 West 101st Street. The hotel had a very nice lobby, 7 floors and, luckily, an elevator. Although, as we only discovered later, unfortunately it was very slow. Most of us stayed together in rooms of four and after seeing our rooms, unpacking and changing, we met downstairs in the foyer. All of us were hungry and quite tired but also very curious and ready to finally explore New York.

Mrs. Todt and Mr. Hauck gave us our subway tickets and city passes, which made transportation and sightseeing a whole lot easier. Of course, being hungry led us first to go get some food only a few blocks away. Half of us decided to eat burgers at "Five Guys", whilst the others had their dinner at a Mexican grill called "Chipotle".

Afterwards we took the subway to the Hudson Yards Vessel – a structure and landmark in the Hudson Yards, which had just opened in March, and serves as a viewing platform. From which we were able to overlook a big chunk of New York already.

Additionally, we went for a walk in the High Line Park. This park is a 2.33 km long closed-down subway route in the west of Manhattan. From 2006 until 2019 this subway line was rebuilt into a park: the High Line Park. Its line ends right next to the Whitney Museum of American Art, known informally as the „Whitney“. It is a famous art museum in Manhattan, which was founded in 1930 by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney. That day, the museum offered a special entrance price for charity: "Pay what you wish".

The "Whitney" had a great rooftop terrace with a wonderful view over the Hudson River and New York's skyline, at night. After an hour of visiting we decided to head back to our hotel with a quick stopover at the Times Square. As it was on our way, we used the opportunity to look at one of the most popular and busiest city centers in the world – the masses of people, huge buildings and massive billboards were all very impressive!

We took some pictures and then walked to the nearest subway station. Luckily everything worked out smoothly and without any problems, so that we were back at our hotel around 10:30 pm. We quickly agreed on the time, when we would have breakfast and everyone went to bed tired but with a great first impression of New York.

Luisa & Katharina

## 9/11 Memorial

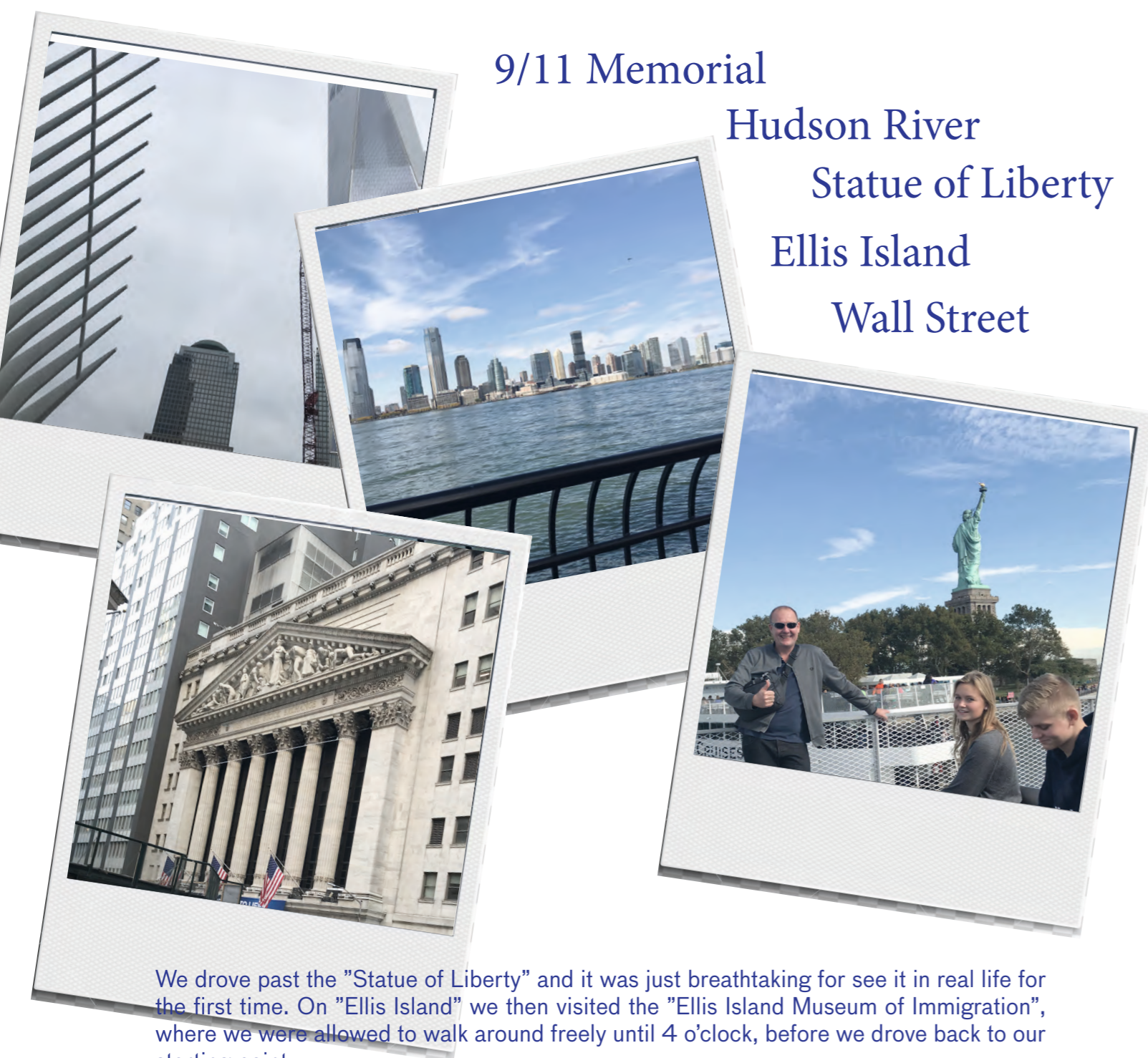
Hudson River

Statue of Liberty

Ellis Island

Wall Street

Samstag, 12. Oktober



We drove past the "Statue of Liberty" and it was just breathtaking for see it in real life for the first time. On "Ellis Island" we then visited the "Ellis Island Museum of Immigration", where we were allowed to walk around freely until 4 o'clock, before we drove back to our starting point.

After leaving the boat, we walked to a bronze sculpture named "Charging Bull" or "Wall Street Bull", located in the Financial District of New York. This bull is basically just a symbol of the aggressive American financial optimism and prosperity.

Lots of tourists were standing in line to take a picture with the bull and all of us were kind of staring because some of them had the audacity to take pictures of or even with the bull's genitals.

But we didn't stay long, anyhow because we still wanted to walk along Wall Street, where we spoke about its history and took another infamous "Hauck-Selfie".

By that time it was late afternoon and we discussed if we still wanted to walk to the Brooklyn Bridge, but since one of us had bad knee pains and all of us were hungry, we decided to do it the next day. Therefore, we took the train back to our hotel and left to eat at a small Italian restaurant named "Famiglia", where we ate pizza, which was very delicious.

When we left the restaurant it was already dark outside and when we wandered back to our hotel, not hungry anymore, all of us were relaxed and in a good mood, even though it had been a long day.

On Saturday we had to get up very early. We ate breakfast in the small, but comfortable lobby of our hotel and only thirty minutes later we were already talking about the plans for the day.

After this brief meeting, we were quickly out the door, walking to the train station on our way to "World Trade Center" – a train station, located in Manhattan, close to where the actual World Trade Center used to be. Once we stepped out of the train and into the huge hall of the station, we immediately admired its outstanding architecture. Its design, created by world-famous architect Santiago Calatrava Valls (who even designed the "Kronprinzenbrücke" in Berlin!) was very overwhelming and almost overpowering. Still standing admiringly in that same hall, we took a group photo and even the so-called "Hauck-Selfie". We then tried to find our way outside, to reach our next stop, but it proved harder than we thought. Once we had made it outside, after a lot more "aahs" and "oohs" and even more photos, we were finally ready to start walking in the direction of the 9/11 memorial. Upon approaching this place of commemoration, grief and memories it was immediately clear to all of us that we had to treat this place with the utmost respect and care.

We agreed on a time, by which we were supposed to be back at our appointed meeting spot, but until then we were free to walk around the memorial at our own pace. All of us had time to think about the fact that, about 20 years ago, almost 3000 people died here. And as this sad reality struck us, making many of us quite emotional, we decided that we wanted to remember the dead in a minute of silence.

Once we were all ready to leave, we entered the 9/11 Museum, located just next to the memorial. There, our guided tour started with a short 15-minute movie about the terrorist attack, which happened on September 11th 2001 and still had an enormous impact on the American society, 10 years later. The movie showed pictures and videos from that specific day, also featuring an interview with George W. Bush who was president at that time, in which he even called this terroristic attack an "act of war".

Shortly after, we split into different groups and had the opportunity to explore the museum on our own. The impression I got of the museum was that it was both profound and moving at the same time. It showed pictures of every victim, told their stories and one could listen to family members talking about losses and their loved ones. Extremely sad was the fact that you could read about what the victims were doing just a few hours before the planes crashed into the two towers.

At noon, we met at the exit and while walking to the Hudson River talked about our impressions and emotions, regarding this terrible historic event.

Once we arrived at the river all of us admired the beautiful skyline of New York and the long-awaited sunrays, before taking a short break to eat our lunches. When we had finished we started to walk along the river and through "Battery Park" until we arrived at the spot, where we could board the ferry boat, which would bring us to the "Statue of Liberty" and "Ellis Island". Normally, people have to wait for hours to get on a boat, but we "only" had to wait for 45 minutes and the boat trip was totally worth it!

With the sun shining bright and the warm temperatures all of us felt relaxed and just in general very happy.

Empire State Building

Macy's  
Flat Iron Building

Guggenheim Museum

Brooklyn Bridge

Sunset @ East River

Sonntag, 13. Oktober

That day, we started our daily breakfast a little earlier, so that we wouldn't have to wait so long at the entrance of all main attractions we had planned to see.

We left at 8 o'clock to take a train, just down the road from our hotel at Broadway. Next we took the subway Line 1 in the direction of South Ferry and changed trains at 103rd street from where a yellow line brought us, as fast as possible, to 34th street, so that we could finally visit the Empire State Building. Since we were early we didn't have to wait at the entrance for ages and passed the Empire State security checks quickly, a procedure we'd experienced many times. During our stay in New York, we must've passed about five security checks over the whole time we were there, not even including all the airport security checks! – America just seems to care a lot about its safety. Anywhere you go, you can find signs, warning you not to bring any weapons inside, whereas in Germany that would be self-evident.

In the Empire State Building we then took the elevator up to 86th floor, where there's an outside viewing platform overlooking the city. From up there, we had an amazing view. So good in fact that my friends and I decided to try and find important and popular buildings, such as the Trump Tower. I was really proud that we actually found it near Central Park, where it was clearly identifiable! Standing up there was definitely an awesome experience, which I wouldn't have missed for anything in the world!

After enjoying that impressive view we left to go to Macy's, an American department store, which, with all its expensive and luxurious stores, reminded me a lot of the KADEWE in Berlin. We then went to Flat Iron Building, which you possibly know from the movie "The Amazing Spider-Man". We had to take the subway, once again. In some way the building does actually look like an iron. Sadly we couldn't see all of the building, as great parts of it were being renovated. On our way to the Guggenheim Museum, we also passed the Upper East Side, which was really exciting! I witnessed a taxi stopping in front of an apartment with two men quickly running out of the building to open the car door for a woman, who had just arrived. While she was walking in, not even paying attention to them, they also carried her suitcases in – I was impressed by the wealth and the obvious social status some New Yorkers enjoy. Our next stop was Guggenheim museum which, as it consists of a spiral ramp with concave lines, almost reminds the visitor of a giant seashell. As a visitor you start the tour through Guggenheim museum at the top, walking slowly down the spiral, all the while looking at famous paintings of popular artists like Cézanne, Picasso, Kandinsky or Monet. It's definitely an impressive combination of modern art and architecture!

Afterwards we walked across Brooklyn Bridge and met at a park in Brooklyn near the East River, where we then watched a beautiful sunset, with the Statue of Liberty as a backdrop. On our way back to the hotel we took an extra fast train, which only stops a few times. But taking this train proved more difficulties than we had expected at first, since where we had to get off, was one of the stops, the train just passed. After what felt like a 30-minute ride, but must have only been about fifteen minutes, our train suddenly stopped in a tunnel, just waiting for ten long minutes. One stop earlier a man with a guitar had also entered our train compartment to entertain everyone. But even though his singing wasn't bad, it was very annoying to have to listen to his music all the time, whilst being stuck in the subway. He just didn't stop singing! After a long ride back to Broadway, we ended the evening with a dinner, either at Chipotle or an Asian restaurant. Sadly this was our last evening in New York, as it was already time to leave this wonderful city the very next day.

Lea



Montag, 14. Oktober

Museum of Natural History  
Central Park

Dienstag, 15. Oktober

Berlin

Minneapolis

Thank you so much for your hospitality.  
It was a wonderful experience.

Berlin



Mr. Buck



Mr. Hawck



Mrs. Cassidy



Mrs. Todd

