

The German American Partnership Program (as we know it today) began in 2009 at Happy Camp High School by Angelica Brown. It is considered a short-term exchange whereby German students stay with American students and then nine months later they switch.

The German Program has taken over 160 students to Lörch, Germany, which is in the Stuttgart Region (southern Germany).

Fredrich Lörch Gymnasium School (<https://www.gfii-schule.de/>) travels with two teachers and about 25 9th & 10th graders to Weed and Mt. Shasta every other September.

SUHSD then reciprocates, bringing the Weed and Mt. Shasta students who participated in the program in September, to Germany in the same school year in June. The SUHSD students participate by either hosting or acting as a “school buddy” while the German students are here.

The German students and their two teachers were here this year from August 30 – September 10, 2018. During their stay, the German students lived and went to school with their American host students. This year Mr. Oates and Mr. Ristuccia from Weed High and Mr. Harryman and Mr. Spaulding from Mt. Shasta High acted as tour guides for the German students taking them on different field trips in Weed and Mt. Shasta.

On June 12, 2019, **21** SUHSD students will fly to Frankfurt, Germany. 3 students from WHS and 18 students from MSHS.

The trip itinerary has been completed and as you can see we will travel through southern Germany and Austria for 7 days, and then stay with the German families for 13 days. During the German family stay, students live, eat, & speak with their German family. They go to school daily with their German sibling and on some days the Lörch Gymnasium School provides field trips for our SUHSD students, similar to the field trips that SUHSD provided to the German students when they were here visiting us.

Through the German American Partnership Program students learn the following:

- Acceptance and understanding of a different culture and community perspective.
- Enhanced interest in global issues as well as a broader general knowledge of global issues.
- Enhanced self-development and self-awareness leading to enhanced self-confidence and self-esteem.
- Increased maturity.
- Integration into another family as well as the development of life-long friendships.
- An appreciation of home and family.
- A sense of accomplishment.
- An increased ability to develop independent opinions, make informed decisions and strive to attain new goals.

- Increased comfort level in “foreign” environments.
- An awareness of group dynamics and personal sensitivity towards others.
- Personal flexibility.
- Increased ability to reach compromise.

The overarching goal of the German American Partnership Program is to promote “soft diplomacy” or “cultural diplomacy” which means: “the exchange of ideas, information, art and other aspects of culture among nations and their peoples in order to foster mutual understanding.”¹

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_diplomacy