November 6, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

 A student exchange is an opportunity to develop international friendships, improve foreign language skills and to learn about the world beyond the classroom. Students at St. Francis Prep have a chance to take part in a student exchange sponsored by the German-American Partnership Program (GAPP). This program is jointly sponsored by the U.S. and German governments. Knowledge of German is not required for participation in the program.

 St. Francis Prep has carried out GAPP exchanges since 2004 with a partner school in Germany. For the second time we will have an exchange with our new partner school, the Franciscan School Kreuzburg, which is located near Frankfurt. It is a school of 1250 students run by the Franciscan brothers. Prep students will be matched with students from the Franciscan School, live with the families of their German partner students and attend some classes during the first nine days of our stay in Germany. They will also go on local excursions. The remaining four days will be spent touring the sights in the German capital of Berlin. This year’s trip will be from August 20 to September 3, 2020.

 Families of Prep students who join the program this summer will be expected to host their German partner student from October 9 to October 24, 2020. The German students will attend classes at the Prep and also go on several trips to Manhattan with their German teacher. Some excursions with students from both the Prep and the Franciscan School Kreuzburg are also planned.

 The costs of the program to your family include the expense of hosting the visiting student while he/she is here, the airfare for the flight to Germany and the cost of insurance, as well as the trip to Berlin. The total cost of the trip to Germany should be approximately $1500.

 The stay in Germany can count as part of a half year elective Social Studies course called “Independent Study: Cold War.” We will be attending presentations about the Cold War in Germany and going to Cold War sites in Berlin during the two weeks. Students in the course will be required to write a research paper upon their return to the Prep. More information can be found on the Social Studies website under “Independent Study – Cold War.”

 If you are interested in having your child participate in this program, he/she should fill out the application form and return it to me by Monday, December 2. If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to contact me at gkruger@sfponline.org.

 Regards,

 Gerard Kruger

 St. Francis Prep GAPP Coordinator