



SET YOURSELF APART

GERMANY

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS

I saw multiple teaching styles and learned new management skills and incredible ways to teach English. As the one who couldn't speak the language I felt confused, left out, and angry at times. This experience was so important for me as a future teacher...to understand what it feels like to be a language learner and to make sure all students feel included and have equal opportunities to succeed. After visiting the holocaust memorial in Berlin and the concentration camp memorial in Dachau, I also found myself thinking about how I am going to teach children to respect and accept people of different cultures and races. It seems so simple, but is extremely important.



The entire cohort at the Stuttgart Fernsehsehturm (TV tower) and Sarah (standing on the left) with her host, Verena.

[Read Sarah's Blog.](#)



WALDORF SCHOOLS

The Waldorf education model was founded in Germany and we not only toured a school there, but had the opportunity to visit the Aurora Waldorf School near Buffalo before we left. ***I fell in love instantly.*** I've never seen anything quite like Waldorf and the feelings I got walking through the school are hard to explain. There are acres of land for the children to explore, singing and movement through the lessons, art and woodworking and sewing, and a feeling of happiness and comfort throughout every space. The students receive the curriculum they need, but in a creative and fascinating way that helps them succeed. The motto is for students to learn using ***head, heart and hands*** and it's clear the kids have confidence and pride in their work. I hope to bring some Waldorf styles and this motto to my future classroom.

FERNWEH: an ache for different places, a craving for travel

FRIENDSHIPS & CONFIDENCE

There is no better way to become more independent than to live on your own/with a host in a different country! My host showed me what it's like to be in your 20s in Germany...what people eat, how they spend their afternoons and evenings. I took the trains everywhere and explored the city on my own. I never thought I'd be able to do this and am so proud that I did. I used to be afraid of being on my own, afraid of change - but now I embrace both. I did the things I feared most in a completely new environment, and it changed me in the best way. I truly stepped out of my comfort zone and am so different from the shy, nervous girl who left Buffalo for Germany. ***I have already been thinking of which IPDS program I want to do next, and where I want to travel on my own!***