



König-Karlmann-Gymnasium Altötting

Sprachliches und Naturwissenschaftlich-technologisches Gymnasium

Ganztagsbetreuung, Individuelle Profilbildung



Ansprache des Schulleiters Rudolf Schramm beim Jubiläumsabend im Jahr 2019 an der Warwick High School anlässlich des 30-jährigen Bestehens des USA-Austausches:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Deputy Secretary for Education, Mr. Stem,

Dear Principal of Warwick High School, Dr. Kristy Szobocsan,

Dear Superintendent of Warwick School District, Dr. April Hershey,

Dear Mrs. Andrews and dear Mr. Hoffman,

Dear Mrs. Klinger, dear Mr. Wagner and dear Mr. Galneder,

As principal of the König-Karlmann-Gymnasium I am delighted to be able to visit our partner school Warwick High School here in Lititz/Pennsylvania – far away from my Bavarian home in Germany – for the first time ever. The reason why we, my wife Petra and me, boarded the aircraft to follow our students from Altötting and their chaperones is simple and clear and for sure at the same time it is a most joyful reason: We are celebrating here and today the 30th anniversary of the school exchange program between our school, König-Karlmann-Gymnasium, and your wonderful school Warwick High School.

Before laying out in more detail the importance of international exchange programs, I really want to tell you that my first impressions of Lancaster County in general as well as of Warwick High School especially are the most positive ones. Dr. Hershey and Dr. Szobocsan I am really impressed! You have got a great school, a school which is really well equipped with very friendly and disciplined people, staff as well as students. Congratulation! As principal of the König-Karlmann-Gymnasium I can tell you that we are very proud and happy to have such a fantastic partner school here in the US!

Now let me talk about the question I came up with earlier on:

Why are international student exchange programs so important?

Well, it simply is something very special when young people of different countries meet. Young people meet each other in an open-minded way, free from prejudices and outdated stereotypes. And in my eyes this creates the magic of such an exchange program. Young, open-minded people

of different countries meet and most often easily make friends. Friendships which were made while being a teenager often last for a lifetime!

But such friendships are not only a benefit for the individuals but also for the countries involved. Friendships between people create friendships between peoples and countries. I think this is important for each and every country but I dare say it is of greatest importance especially for my country as we all know that Germany's history has had most difficult phases. Not only in my eyes student exchange programs have had a major impact to the fact that today we are not only on good terms with countries which once fought on the other side in the Second World war. Former enemies became our closest friends, the USA, France and Great Britain just to mention the most important ones.

We Germans of the 21st century are very grateful for what Americans have done for our country in all the years since 1945. You have supported us and are still doing it. And I dare say both of us have gained from it: Former enemies have become close allies and more than that: friends.

As mentioned above student exchange programs have contributed a lot to this wonderful development ... and they still do.

When I was a teenager I myself had the chance to participate in an international school exchange. Unfortunately the exchange wasn't with an American school but with a school in our neighboring country France. I need say that the impressions I gained as a young person had a huge impact on how I have envisioned our neighboring country ever since. Sympathy has grown and a feeling that we are belonging together due to the fact that we share the same values and ideas of the Western World.

Exactly what experienced myself many years ago is still happening in this great school exchange between our two countries.

It is wonderful and fantastic that the GAPP exchange program between our schools Warwick High School and König-Karlmann-Gymnasium has been going on for 30 years now. This long time proves that long-lasting friendships were made on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, long-lasting friendships between students and teachers as well. I think we can really be very proud of that!

The fact that we are able to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our GAPP exchange program is by far not something that can be taken as something naturally given, but it is the outcome of the work the teachers involved have put into this program for so many years. Teachers from the American side as well as from the German side have prepared the exchange programs very well and into detail every year and also invested time – most often in their vacations - to chaperone the groups. This is why I want to give a very special "thank-you" to all the teachers who have been involved in the program in the last 30 years.

My special thanks go to

- Mr. David Hoffman, the father of the exchange on the American side who was courageous enough to start the GAPP exchange – not really knowing too much about the partners to come! I really hope you are pleased with what you got!
- Mrs. Irene Kerndl, I dare say the German mother of the exchange who started the program in 1989 and was our first teacher to ever chaperone a group to Warwick High School.
- Mrs. Wendy Andrews who took over from „Herr“. „Frau“ ,as she is simply called at Warwick High School I learnt, has done a marvelous job to keep the exchange going in the last years.... well not just going on but thriving I am happy to say. The record number of 30 students she was able to take over to Germany last year is more than proof for her wonderful work. Thank you so much.
- Mr. Andreas Galneder who continued the work of Mrs. Kerndl concerning our exchange program between our two schools in a perfect way.

A school exchange program can only exist if the school board and administration support it. Therefore, my thanks also go to the School Board of Warwick High School and especially to the superintendents, Dr. Hershey and all her predecessors, the administration of Warwick High School and its heads, today represented by Principal Dr. Szobocsan, as well as to my predecessors at KKG Mr Eggingger, Mr Lamatsch and Mr Jonda.

Before coming to an end let me point out that today should not only be a day to look back to the impressive 30-year-history of the exchange but also envision the future of this GAPP exchange program. Today's jubilee should be both motivation and mission to make sure that this wonderful exchange will last many years to come so that we will be able to celebrate many more jubilees of the GAPP exchange between König-Karlmann-Gymnasium and Warwick High School.

Here and today I declare that I personally and KKG are absolutely willing to do so and support the exchange wherever we can!

Therefore, my and our motto should be:

Long live the German-American School Exchange, long live the school exchange between König-Karlmann and Warwick High School!

Thank you very much for attention!