



# Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.

Jasper, Indiana · Pfaffenweiler, Baden-Württemberg

**September 2022**

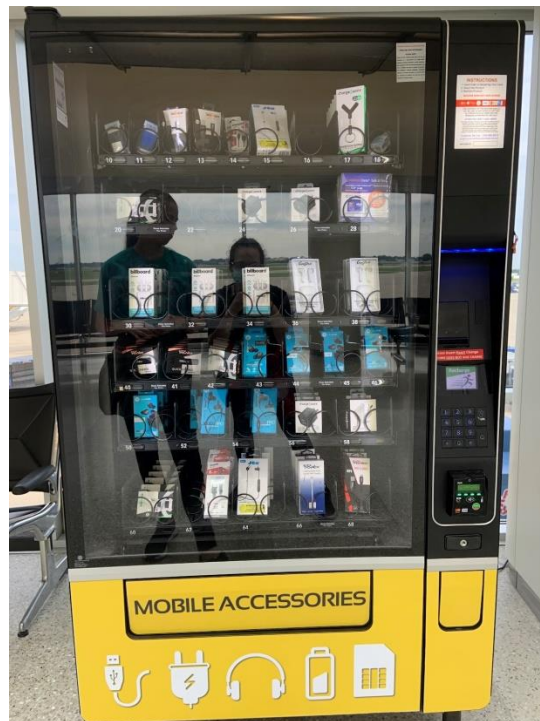
**Jasper High School German Exchange Blog June 2022**



Today we started our journey. The fellas took a picture and then played cards waiting to board. (Ryan)



Leaving for Dallas to start the journey. (Kylene)



Never seen a USB cord vending machine before! (Autumn)



June 13th, 2022 (Abby)

Today we ate at a German cafe and the food was AMAZING. it was something new and had something that most of us have yet to have. we also explored the city of Rothenburg. it was beautiful. we went to both city walls and played frisbee. the weather was good and it was fun to hang out. We took so many pictures and had eaten some really good ice cream. food here is a lot cheaper than I imaged it would. I think that was something I didn't expect. the group I was with had decided that we were going to walk along the wall and see across the city. We planned on seeing the tower but the is a plan for tomorrow. --

Abby 🍷💜

On June 14th, we went on a tour of Rothenburg. We went on into a lot of museums and we went into a lot of shops. One tower we went up had a very very tall view. We could see all of the old-style houses and their orange roofs. The roofs had shingles in the shape of a beaver tail which was something special to that region. At the end of the day, we went on a tour guided by the night watchmen which was very cool. The church on the left of the picture below had the patron saint of St. James. It needed an extra wing built so they built a portion over a road which was very interesting. Over all, the people didn't have a lot of emotion or reaction to us. We could get away with knowing only basic German. Very touristy city and I think the rest of Germany will be different in the atmosphere, architecture, and civilian encounters.  
(Hayden)



June 15<sup>th</sup>

Yesterday we celebrated Stan's 77th birthday and arrived in Munich. When we got to Munich we played in the park of the youth hostel and played chess on a massive chess board. Then, we took a walk to the U-Bahn and had some time. After the free time we went to dinner and ate Gnocchi and this Potato stuff. After dinner we went down to the game room and played billiard and ping pong until 9:40. Then we went to bed.  
(Levin)



June 16 Kylene

Today we used the subway for the first time in Germany. We went to the Marienplatz and say a giant mass going on. Then we climbed the city hall tower. You could see over the entire city. Then we went to go grab lunch which was okay. The pasta Abby and I had earlier this week was better.the we saw a cathedral call

Frau Kirchen. It was beautiful. Then we went to BMW Welt and saw some really cool cars and a bike made out of legos. Next we went back to the Hostel to eat dinner. It was pretty good. It was some sort of pasta. Then we went to the river and tried to skip rocks. We also had a ping pong tournament. It's still not finished but I lost to Ava in the first round. (Kylene)

June 17 Madison



On June 17, we went to the Marienplatz in Munich to hear the music and watch the glockenspiel. Then after lunch, we took a trip to Dachau which is a concentration camp near where we are staying. It felt unreal to be there and to actually experience where all the horrible things happened to the people who were there. You could feel there was a somber feeling in the air. After we went to Dachau we went back to the Marienplatz to shop and roam around in the city center. It is a very busy place with people, pets, and street performers. Today me and the girls went into shops and got clothes and snacks. Cassie and me both got traditional dresses as a souvenir. After shopping we went back to our hostels ate dinner then all the kids played ping pong in the game room! (Madison)

June 18 Ava



Today we all woke up early because we had to get on the subway to get to a train at the central train station. After that we got to where we needed to be, but then we had to wait for a bus so a bunch of us got some fries from a this small shop nearby. Then the bus finally came and we had to ride another before we could get to the place where will get on a tram to take us up. After all of this everyone ate at the restaurant at the top for lunch and there was also a gift shop. Then we had to do everything again but backwards. Then we ended our day with dinner at the hostel. (Ava)

June 19 Noah



Today we met with our host families in person finally after a long 6-hour bus ride. I've met my family on a zoom call before but this was the first time seeing them in person so it was cool and a new experience.

June 20 Cassie



Today was our first full day with our exchange students. We went to school with them and had to sit through all of their classes. It was hard to follow along because they were speaking really fast and I didn't understand anything in the Italian class. Around 11:30, we had a meeting with the principal and gifted him a blanket with a J for Jasper on it. We had asparagus for dinner and we played cards afterwards. It was so funny to try to teach them all of the card games. My exchange partner wanted to learn how to play poker but she didn't understand it at all. They're very excited to learn all of the cool games.

June 21 Ryan



Die Mädchen auf der Staufener Burg



Today, we started out the day like normal by heading to school, where we had our first period of the day. After that, we were given a list of questions, things to find around Staufen in a scavenger hunt sort of game. We spent around 2 hours running around the city and after all points were totaled, the girls took the win over the boys. After that, we went back to school to meet up with our partners for lunch and then have our last class of the day. After school, the fellas (ryan, noah, hayden, levin) all hung out with our partners at noah's place. We played soccer and frisbee and had dinner before heading back home for bed.

#### June 22 Autumn

Today, we went to visit Freiburg in Germany. This involved us leaving Staufen on a train, and catching another train to get to Freiburg. We got a tour of the city, which included stopping by a church, given to us by a former teacher at Staufen, and we had free time after the tour for a visit to the bakery and for ice



cream before we headed back to Staufen. When we got back, I had a computer class with my exchange partner, and we went to her literature class after that. We also decided to go to shops in Staufen and go shopping for clothes and books. We wrapped up the day by eating family dinner and watching a movie together.

June 23 Logan



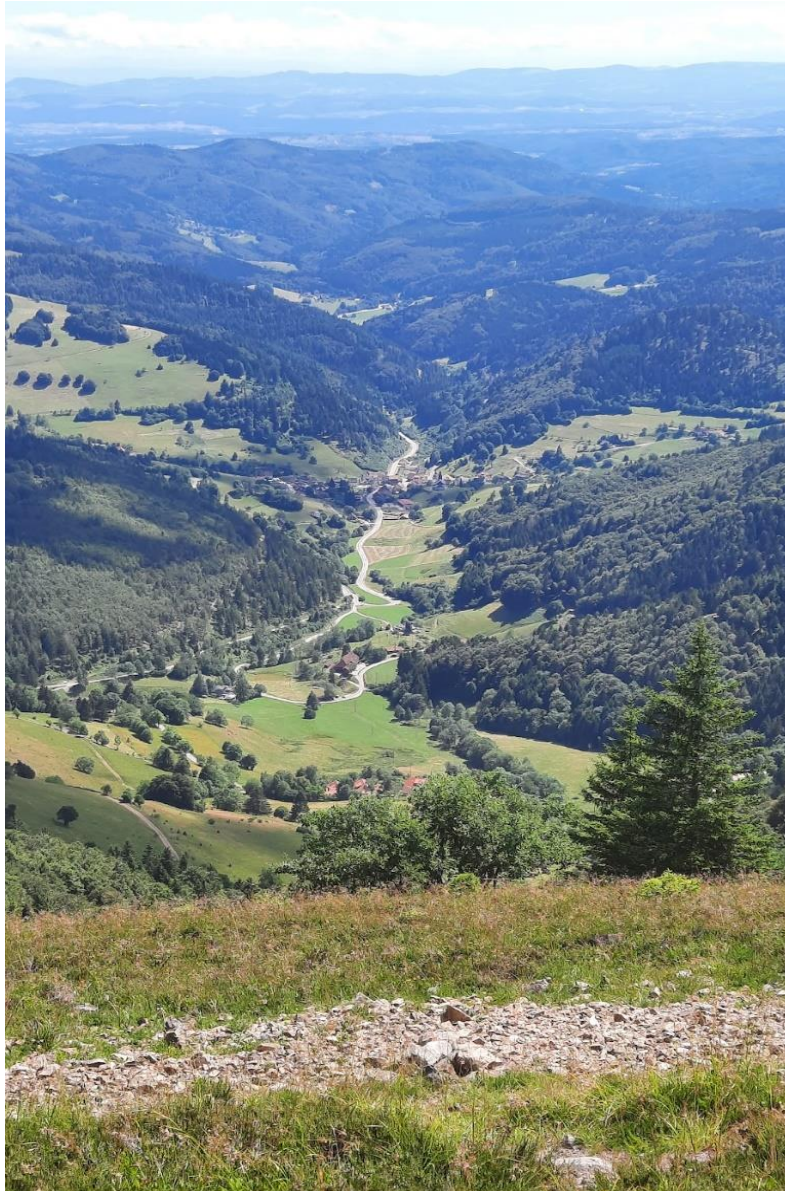


Today was a nice day, I started the day by being interviewed by 7th graders, all of which had funny questions, such as "do you like Minecraft", "do you like Ronaldo or Messi", and "what's your favorite state". After that I went to school, had an English class that I could follow along with, and met up with Mr Halverson and the rest of Gruppe 19. After that we went on a bus towards Pfaffenweiler, and went to the Rathaus to meet the current Burgermeister and the one before him. On our walk to the vineyard we saw 2 grandchildren of the former Burgermeister, and he briefly introduced us. After a small hike up a hill we had lunch atop said hill. It was bratwurst and they were very delicious. Then after eating we had a brief history lesson about Pfaffenweiler. Shortly after the history lesson we went to a cemetery, and after another game of 'follow the leader' of whomever was in front we realigned ourselves and got ice cream. Then we walked to the soccer field to have a barbecue and celebrate with students and host families, which was moved inside due to heavy winds picking up. After moving inside I helped people get their things inside so they weren't blown away. After closing the blinds, they dented outward. I went to take a look to help when I see Paul and 2 German men whom I didn't know. After helping them fix it we all go back inside and finish eating and enjoy the rest of the time. (Logan)

#### June 24 Abby

Today was an easy day compared to some of the ones that are in the upcoming days. School was different today as the students went through job presentations kind of like the job fairs. it was interesting to listen to what different professions had to say. me and a few other students also spoke to a 5th grade class and let them interview us in english. they asked us all sorts of things and it was hilarious to listen to them freak out over fortnite. All in all today was a good day. i'll get to see Simon, Lenny, Mattis, and Elias today as well. Although the next few days will be chaotic i enjoy being able just to hang out with naina. (Abby)

June 25 Hayden



Today was a very busy day. The quad squad (Hayden, Levin, Ryan, and Noah) and hosts decided to walk up the nearby mountain and have a picnic. The Belchen is the fourth highest peak in the Black Forest and was about a 30 min walk up the windy path. When we go up there, we could see the 4 countries of Germany, France, Austria, and the Swiss Alps peaking above the clouds. It was surreal to see that far and have the prettiest view in all directions. Our picnic consisted of fruits and vegetables along with sandwiches that we brought. After eating, we took the Belchenbahn down which was similar to a closed ski lift. Later, we went to one of our class mate's birthday parties in the evening. (Hayden)

June 26 Levin

We went to the track to play soccer/ultimate frisbee and played for a few hours. I ended up getting hit in the head with a soccer ball traveling at like 60kmph and my sunglasses are now broken but it was fun. When we took a break from playing, we went to an ice cream shop in Staufen and it was very good. I then rode a bus back home and it took over an hour because the buses don't drive as much on Sunday. At 9:00 Tobi and I went for a walk and compared Europa Park to Holiday world and talked about the differences between the gymnasium's school system and Jasper's.

June 27 Kylene



We went to Zurich Switzerland today. After a lot of train rides where me and Ava listened to a lot of music. At about 2:00 we made it to Zurich. First we went to get food as a whole group. Me and Cassie got this steak to split. The food there was so good. After we ate our lunch the girls went in one group and we started walking. Our goal was to find Swiss chocolate. We found some at one of the grocery stores. Then we went into a toy store and some people got legos and other games. Next we had to find some ice cream Sandy's recommended 3:00 ice cream. We did and it was some of the best ice cream I have had. When we were done with our ice cream it was time to head back to the train station and had to go back. All in all Zurich was absolutely beautiful. (Kylene)

#### June 28 Madison

On June 28, We went to Europa park. Europa park is a theme park with all the different countries in Europe. I would compare it to Disney in the US because of all the details in the shops, roads, and attractions. Also because the lines were a bit long but that's to be expected in theme parks like this one. When we first got there me and my group went to get a locker to put the things we don't need for the day away. No one could figure them out though so we had to ask an employee for help. After that we went on our first ride of the day which was a 4D ride and it took you through Europe. I thought it was a very cute ride. Then we went on a few of the more bigger attractions. For me those were the best because I like rollercoasters. Then it was time for lunch and a couple of us went to a burger place but I wanted to get Asian food so I got noodles with vegetables at a different restaurant. Afterwards it was time for the biggest ride because we got a virtual space in the line for blue fire. We went on the app to get the virtual spot and it worked so we didn't have to wait in the big line for that one. The last thing we did at the park was get a dessert and we got Dutch pancakes. Which were really good, I got the cinnamon and sugar toppings on mine. It was time to catch the bus back to the train station after that so we ran to the main exit because we didn't think we would make it on time. In the end we made it and then went back home. (Madison)

June 29 Ava



June 30 Noah

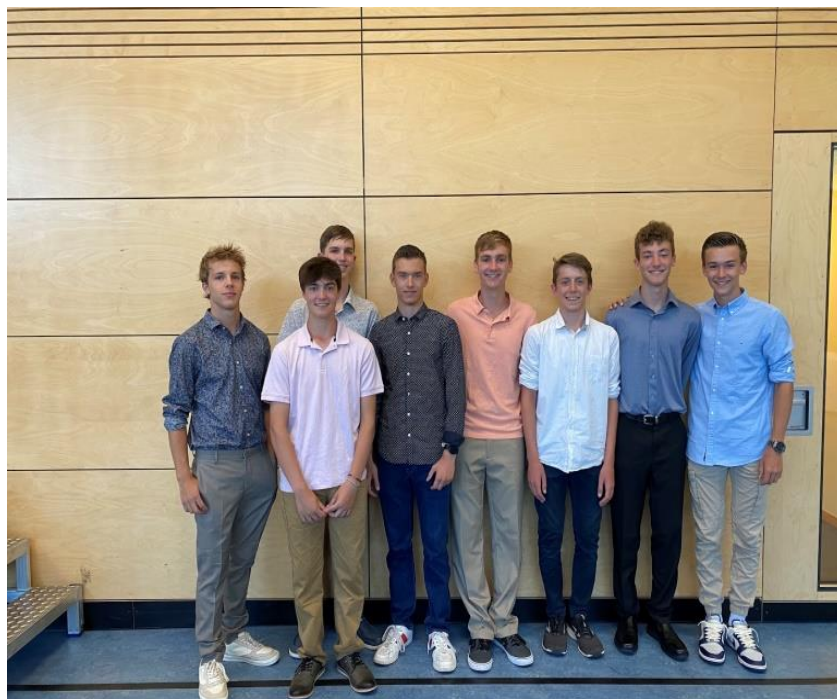


Today Ryan, Levin, Hayden, and I went to Pfaffenweiler in the morning to introduce the elementary students there to band instruments and were to convince them to join band. I played the tuba, Levin clarinet, and Ryan and Hayden trumpet. The clarinets have completely different notes in Germany as well as the tuba. I had one with 5 rotors to press and I usually only have 3 or 4. It was also in a different key which means the rotors made different notes like the clarinet and I wasn't able to play it very well. The band director was very funny and definitely convinced a lot of kids to join band since he was a fun guy and made them laugh a lot. It was a cool opportunity for us and we all enjoyed it. When we got back to school we only had sport class left at the end and we played soccer and threw some javelins. None of my friends or I had ever thrown any so it was unique and fun to do. (Noah)

July 1 Cassie

Today we went to school like normal. We had a homeroom today at 9:40 to read the script for the play we watched tonight. We also practiced "Back Home Again in Indiana" so we were prepared to sing it at the celebration tomorrow. We went to the stone quarry, and then while we were there we ate some hot dogs and drank some coke. They play started and it was about immigrants coming to America. Just like some of the citizens of Pfaffenweiler did. It was two actors putting it on. One was playing different instruments to set the scene and the other was performing. Then when it was over they had music that we knew playing. We stayed and talked for a while then we went back home.

July 2 Ryan



The highlight of today was the partnership celebration. It was the 37th year of the sister city partnership between Jasper and Pfaffenweiler. Noah, Hayden, Levin, and I all played with the Pfaffenweiler band at the celebration. After the dinner at the beginning, there were lots of speeches by the mayors and the consul generals - the US one living in Frankfort and the German one living in Indianapolis. My dad (Max Verkamp) also had a speech and my sister Lauren translated for him. Near the end of the night, Jasper and Pfaffenweiler exchanged gifts with each other, and the evening came to an end. (Ryan)

July 3 Autumn

For today, we started out by walking from the Catholic Church in Pfaffenweiler, and made it to an outdoor area where we celebrated mass together with the people of Pfaffenweiler. After this, there was a festival by the Stone Quarry in Pfaffenweiler where there was music, food, and a demonstration by a local stonemason

on how stone is used. When I got back to my host family's house, I worked on gathering my things so I could start packing. After dinner, we then played Uno outside on their patio, and jumped on the trampoline with my host partner's younger brother. We wrapped up the night by watching Ghostbusters, a movie I had never seen before. (This of course shocked them.) Autumn

#### July 4 Logan

Yesterday was pretty interesting because me, Kylene, Ava, and Abby were asked questions from some sixth graders, but all of them were really shy. Afterwards we began our journey to Gutach. We started with the charter bus, and then we picked up some adults who were also in Germany. We then went to the open end museum, which meant there was no roof, took a tour, and then went and got lunch. A lot of people ordered schnitzel for lunch, and lunch went till around 3-4. Following that we had a kind of long bus ride which took us to the building from my first blog in which there was a celebration/mini barbecue. That concludes the whole day.



The time has really flown by. It seems like just yesterday that I got on the bus at JHS bound for the airport. I will not be coming home empty handed though. I have memories and friendships that I made that will forever stay with me. (Ryan)





This information is from the September 2022 Jasper DeutscherVerein newsletter