



The McCormack Messenger

December 2011



Why would people send their children to a private Christian school in Germany? This is how our vice principal explains it.

First...a Christian education in word and deed. They hope that their children will experience glimpses of the majesty and mystery of God, naturally and thoughtfully throughout the curriculum and co-curricular experiences.

Second...an academic program that is appropriately rigorous, where each student is challenged and stretched without being broken or exhausted. An academic program that is devoted to developing their minds, hearts and souls.

Third...a wholesome atmosphere. For some families, BFA can be and might be the only safe haven of sorts from a previous school setting that was not in the best interest of their child(ren).

Fourth...academic support. Special services (ELL, Discovery, Speech, Resource, Counseling and Asian Care) provide needed resources, programming and support to students who cannot receive these services elsewhere.

Fifth...post-secondary training plans. Guidance for families negotiating their children's individual post-secondary dreams and desires is provided through testing services (ACT, SAT, CLEP), our transition program, interest inventories, carefully scripted programs of study to meet post-secondary plans, and help in the post-secondary application process.

Sixth...breadth of programs. Music, drama, art, graphics, sports, AP's, outreach, industrial arts, yearbook, clubs, small groups and other programs/classes fit the needs, desires and interests of a wide variety of students and families.

Seventh...a safe place of belonging. Families are seeking a community that desires to know the unique nature of each student. A community of staff and students where students can be free to be themselves and ask the hard questions of their life in a safe place during the very important formative teenage years.

Finally, there isn't usually an English speaking school in any of the 50 nations in which these students' parents live and work. Developing their academic language in something other than English makes university studies in North America very difficult. Also, in some countries, homeschooling is against the law.

PRAYER



Please thank God for:

- His provisions that met our needs during 2011.

Please pray for:

- Endurance to stay strong during the next semester.
- Wisdom as we make decisions about our work and living arrangements for our year away from Germany from June 2012-July 2013.

To read our previous newsletters, see www.trinitychurchminot.org/mccormacks.htm



Why is David dressed like the Grinch?

There are more pictures on the back!



Personal Contact Information: "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel." **Philippians 1:3-5a** We would love to hear from you.

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A peek at our lives in Germany



David is dressed like the Grinch because he was asked to help with our fall musical production: Seussical. He had a small part, but it was enjoyed by all. In the first picture, everyone in Whoville was a bit afraid of the Grinch, but then they realized that he was the reformed Grinch! David also had a small part as judge Yertle the Turtle when Horton the Elephant was on trial for being a little crazy because he thought there were people living on a speck of dust.



This is one of the four students David accompanied during a recent recital. Recital evenings are always so enjoyable.



David also provides piano accompaniment for the high school choir.



About two Sundays per month, Helen is part of the team that leads Sunday morning music.

A DISCOVERY SUCCESS STORY

"When our family arrived in Kandern in 2001, I had suspicions that my oldest daughter had learning issues. I was so blessed to discover that BFA had the Discovery program. She was tested the following year and received 2 years of therapy. The Discovery therapy was very instrumental in helping her to get on track with consistent performance in her classes. But the story doesn't end there. In 2005, my youngest daughter entered 1st grade. It soon became apparent that she had learning difficulties. She was having troubles just learning her ABC's!! I worked with her all through 1st grade and had her tested by the Discovery department. She was diagnosed with an LD but, it was uncertain that there would be a therapist available to help her when she entered 2nd grade. I was heartsick but trying hard to trust God to bring someone to BFA to work with my daughter. The Lord did provide and from 2nd grade through 5th grade she was able to participate in the Discovery program. In 6th grade, she made the honor roll for every quarter! We are so grateful that the Discovery Program was available at BFA and that the Lord provided therapists to work with and encourage our daughter. We have truly been blessed."

Helen was blessed to work with this second daughter beginning when we arrived in 2007 until she entered 6th grade in 2010. Thank you for making this possible!