

# home

## Lenny Wichmann, Oldenburg, Germany

Before arriving in America, German exchange student Lenny Wichmann was most afraid of living with an unfriendly host family. Now, after spending five weeks with the family of senior Adam and sophomore Eric Zoellner, he is very comfortable.

"It's better [than I expected]. People are more friendly," Wichmann said.

Already, he's become involved in managing the girls' tennis team. The school system is very unique from his school in Germany, Helene-Lange-Schule, which includes grades five to 13, and a completely different class schedule.

"We usually have two hours [of school], then a break, two hours, and a break," Wichmann said.

Although the system isn't familiar, he doesn't find himself missing the old schedule.

"I miss my friends and family, but I'm not homesick," said Wichmann.

After the first semester, Wichmann will return to Germany.

"[My family wants me to stay] no longer than five months. They will miss me," Wichmann said.

## Michelle Fountijne, Steigen, Norway Tora Sivertsen, Switzerland

"I wanted to do something else," said Tora Sivertsen, from Norway, housemate to Michelle Fountijne, from Switzerland. The girls share a room in their host family's home and have become very close in the past month living together. The family already has six kids of their own.

"The kids [are] so cute," said Fountijne.

The girls knew they would be living together when the family chose them as their foreign exchange students, and it made them much less nervous about coming. However, as the girls anticipated their arrival they worried that they might not find friends, or they could get fat.

The U.S. is very different from Fountijne's home in the center of Switzerland, which has only one main street. Sivertsen's town is also much smaller than Kansas City.

"When we have problems with family or friends or whatever, we get homesick," Fountijne said.

## Diego Babuder, Muggia Trieste, Italy

"To be honest, I didn't have many expectations," senior Diego Babuder, from Italy, said.

Although he didn't know what to expect, Babuder has already joined three clubs, and meeting new friends.

"It was a bit scary by that fact that I didn't know a thing about Kansas, but I hoped they were good people," Babuder said.

Before he came to the U.S., Babuder spent three years in a small boarding school, where he was studying to be a pilot.

"My favorite thing [in America] is the school system, technologies, everything," Babuder said.

America has been a new way of life for Babuder, from the school system to extracurricular activities. However, he still misses home.

"Sometimes I'm homesick, but I feel well, very well," Babuder said.

## Bastian Hahn, Moraira, Spain

"Every day I was on the computer looking at pictures of America, [and] the American flag," Spanish exchange student Bastian Hahn said. He came here expecting "American Pie," and has enjoyed his time in America.

"I expected the people to act like they did in the movie," said Hahn.

Hahn traveled here with the Rotary Youth exchange from Moraira, Spain. He moved from Stuttgart, Germany when he was three years old.

He doesn't miss much about his hometown, and hasn't had trouble adjusting to America.

"I wasn't worried. I'm very confident in myself," Hahn said.

## Sirinsopit Pachimsawat, Bangkok, Thailand

Since she was little, Sirinsopit "Bambi" Pachimsawat has been very similar to her Disney counterpart, Bambi.

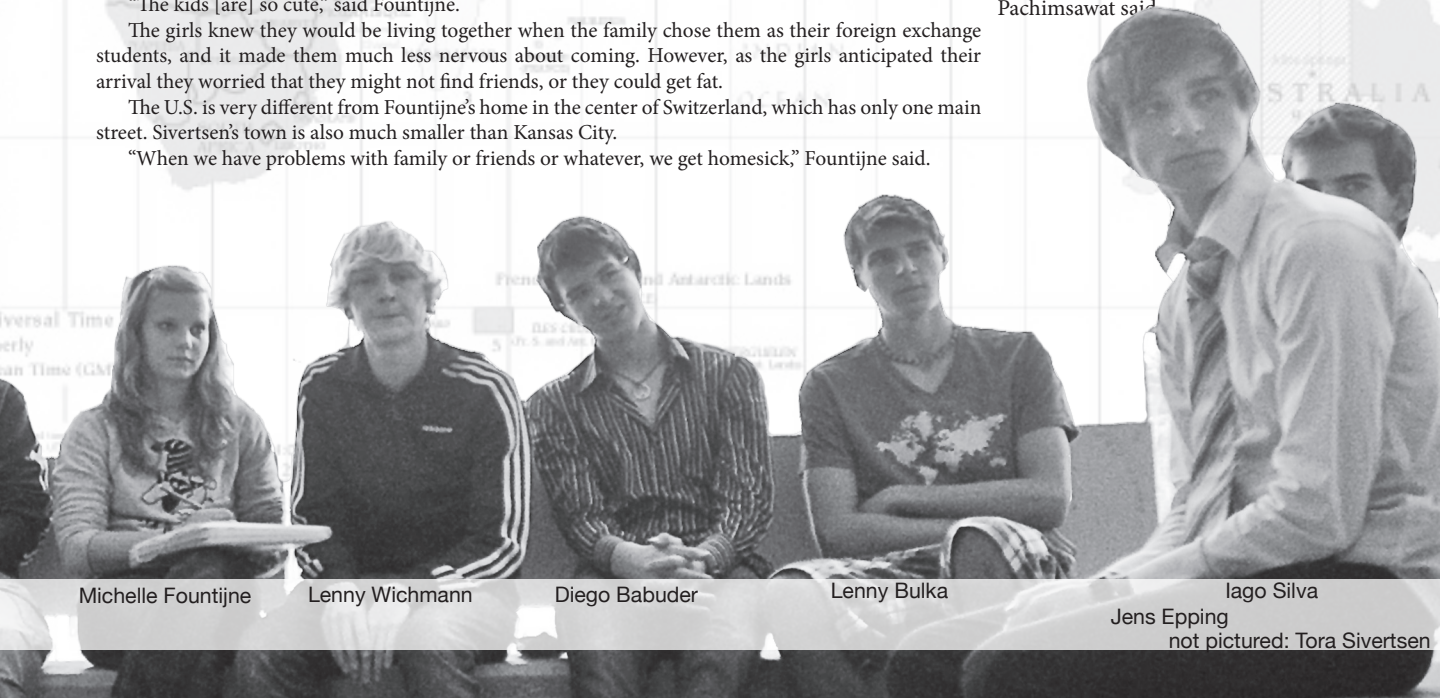
"He [Bambi] is loved by everyone. He likes to try new things and grows up to be a strong person. Good heart and soul," Pachimsawat said.

"I love to act and perform, and I also love to sing."

For the past three years, Pachimsawat has been exploring all genres of dance. She's trying street jazz, hip-hop, contemporary and others, in addition to ballet and jazz which she's been taking for 14 years.

Now that she's arrived in America, she's involved in both drama and choir.

"I'm looking forward to be able to join in as many activities as I can for the year," Pachimsawat said.



Michelle Fountijne

Lenny Wichmann

Diego Babuder

Lenny Bulka

Jago Silva

Jens Epping

not pictured: Tora Sivertsen