

Belle Meade School

May 2014 Newsletter



Host Family Boarding



Host family boarding is like having a home away from home. Whether it's just during the weekdays or for the full week, all three students say the experience has been wonderful and that they are grateful for their host family's generosity.

Says Ana, a five-day boarder, "My host mother is the best 'dorm mom' I could ever ask for. She's a magnificent chef, a super cool mom and the most dedicated worker I've ever known. I always look forward to coming home to a delicious meal and a kind word. Also, I never thought I'd have little siblings, but I've found that I really love spoiling my younger 'sisters' and even helping with a math problem or two."

Options for host family boarding include seven-day and five-day boarding. A fulltime boarder, James is very diligent about his role in the community and enthusiastically states, "What I like most about boarding here in the Belle Meade community is the opportunity to work with the soil. I really enjoy farming and I feel like I'm contributing to the school."

For one student in particular, boarding has been a very exciting experience. Originally from Switzerland, Pascal says he enjoys living in the United States and "...meeting new people, learning about the culture and language. My host family has really helped me with my English, and I also like living with another student because it's an intellectual challenge."

"Living with a host family is very interesting," James continues, "[...] how they can open your eyes to new things that are important that you say you don't like, but learn that you do like. I have the opportunity to meet new people and see how they live. [Boarding] has really helped me learn the area and districts as well."

Ana, Pascal and James

The Caving Trip

On May 1st we went to West Virginia for two and a half hour van ride to Pendleton County. When we reached our destination, we unloaded, put on our head and body gear, took our lunches, and walked up a really steep hill. When we reached the entrance of the cave, we ate our lunch. Then on our way down to the cave David accidentally dislodged a rock and it barreled down the hill, nicking my leg and just missing several others. After this unplanned event, we headed to the opening of the cave. The first cave was called New Trout. This cave was a very wet, humid, and hot and there was a lot of clay inside. Also there were stalactite hanging from the ceiling. Afterwards, we went in the other cave called Hamilton. This cave was cool dry and had many different passage ways to explore. After exploring for many hours, we all came out dirty and happy after a fun day in the caves!

Amelia



Seneca Rock

Hiking up Seneca rock was great. We all went up the easy way instead of rock climbing which is probably a lot of fun, but we just walked up. The hike up is beautiful; it takes about 45 minutes to get up and a half our to get down. After we got to the top, a couple of kids actually went up to the tippy top of the rock and the view was amazing. Seneca Rocks is a large crag and local landmark in Pendleton County in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia it's a tourist attraction.

Ethan

Washington DC Field Trip

The natural history museum was a fun part of the D.C. trip. The museum had so many interesting things in it like the human evolution, genome, and mammals exhibits.

Part of my time I spent tracking Pascal, Odie, Celeste, and Ava which was fun because I got to see all the exhibits they went to. Then I went with Elliott and Lauren to explore more of the museum.

by THE UNKNOWN



The Supreme Court

The first thing we did as soon as we got to Washington, D.C. was go to the Supreme Court. We waited outside next to the rotunda until we were allowed to go in. We all went through security pretty quickly; then walked into the hall leading to the hall of the Supreme Court. The hall was like a mini museum. It had sayings on the wall, medals, a justice's chair. Once we were ready, we filed into an elevator and waited at the doorway of the Supreme Court itself. It had the most beautiful ceilings; they were red and blue and white with all different flowers. We were supposed to be quiet. Finally we walked into the Supreme Court. It too had beautiful ceilings and friezes (stone slabs carved with famous people). A very nice lady told us how a regular court case works and when they are in session. When the lecture was finished, we filed out of the court, down the hall, and out to the rotunda steps. That concludes our trip to the Supreme Court.

Ava

THE BOTANICAL GARDENS

The Botanical Gardens is an amazing place to go when you're visiting DC. It has different areas with different types of plants and flowers from different places. We entered in the Garden Court, walked into the Jungle area and continued from there. Some other areas in the garden are these: The Garden Primeval, Medicinal Plants, The Children's Garden, Plant Adoptions, Hawaii, World Deserts, Orchids, and Endangered Species.

Celeste



Guest Speakers

As our school is often inclined to invite guest speakers, on May 7th, John Kiser visited our school to give a talk. He has researched religion and religious studies for years. We discussed the different aspects of religion, "Why does religion include good and evil?" "Does religion make us smaller and bigger?" "Is religion necessary at all?" and others. I really enjoyed his talk, and thought he brought up interesting and thought provoking questions. Guest speakers are one of my favorite things about Belle Meade. They allow us to see the different aspects of people's lives. I enjoyed John Kiser's talk, and hope to have more like it in the future.

Leif



Opera in the House

The other day we were visited by an amazing opera singer. His name is David Rampy, and he is Ana's father. While he was here he told us about the life of a professional opera singer. He shared the places he went and the things he did; it was super interesting. After all the fascinating facts, he sang a song to us, and it was the most beautiful singing I've ever heard. I enjoyed hearing him sing so much. It was a real pleasure to have him come and sing to us all.

Emily



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2014 BELLE MEADE SCHOOL GRADUATE! DAVID GERRISH III



Belle Meade "Life"

It is hard to summarize six years of life in the span of a paragraph, but the thing that stands out most is the key word 'life'. Belle Meade forced me to experience more than I ever would have at a "normal" school: from hiking, to camping, to caving, to the entire farm experience. Belle Meade's teaching style has also allowed me to flourish. It allowed me to learn at my own pace, letting me understand the material I was presented. All in all I have entirely enjoyed my time here, and it has left an ever lasting impact on my life.

David

*Best of Luck:
we love and
will miss you!*



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