

DESTINATION: SPAIN!

Ten Keene Central students will live with local families and take Spanish grammar and conversation classes in Salamanca, Spain next summer.

The 12 day language study trip will also include visiting the exciting capital of Madrid. Instead of a package deal, the Spanish Department has designed a high-impact trip which promises to be a powerful combination of language and cultural immersion.

Over the past nine years KCS has sponsored several trips to NYC, Spain, Italy and Greece. Because of this, our students from an early age, eagerly anticipate their opportunity to venture out of our mountain home to the wider world.

Thanks to the support of HPEF, other foundations, the students' own payments and fundraising, these ten young Spain travelers will come home with a better understanding of the world and themselves.



MUSIC & THEATER

The Seagle Music Colony of Schroon Lake visits Keene Central School where they performed Little Red Riding Hood.

Luiza Parolin is from Brazil and has a twin brother and a younger sister. Luiza is living with Mark and Paulette Peduzzi and is currently playing on the girls varsity soccer team. When asked about her experience in America and in Keene, Luiza responded, "Everything looks like it's in the movies. People at Keene are so kind and helpful. I'm glad to be here and I feel so lucky to be around these amazing people."

Susanne Ruud is from Norway and also has a twin sister and two other siblings. Susanne lives with Dominic and Melissa Eisinger and is currently playing on the girls varsity soccer team. When asked about her experience in America and Keene, Susanne responded, "It surprised me that they didn't know what handball is! It's one of the biggest sports in Europe. Everybody is so welcoming and supportive. The school is really small, but it has school spirit. Go Beavers! I love meeting new people and I came here to experience something new!"

Jonah Wu is from Taiwan and is staying with Kathy Recchia and Fred Balzac. Jonah is currently involved with various activities and enjoys band and music. Jonah says that the air is cleaner in Keene and was surprised with the differences in school here in America versus in Taiwan. "I want to be able to make friends with everyone," stated Jonah about being in such a small community.

Chloe Dinh is from Vietnam and is staying with Scott and Hannah Smith. Chloe has three siblings and is very excited to experience American culture. Chloe is becoming involved with school clubs and stays active in supporting her peers at soccer games. When asked about her experiences in America and Keene, Chloe responded, "Everybody is SO nice, polite, and friendly. Everything is so convenient. All of my schoolmates are very supportive and welcoming and all the teachers are very understanding!"

Inigo Azcona is from Madrid, Spain and comes to small-town Keene Valley to experience a new way of life. He is living with John Haverlick and Debra Whitson and is now the "older brother" as he is the youngest of three back home in Spain. Inigo plays on the boys varsity soccer team and participates in various school activities. When asked about his experiences in America and Keene so far, Inigo responded, "The people surprised me. Keene is like a family, a big family. I want to have my best year in the USA."

SeokJae Hong is from South Korea and is staying with Mark and Gwen Sturges. SeokJae just completed his sophomore year of high school in France and comes to Keene eager to continue his studies abroad. SeokJae plays on the boys varsity soccer team and enjoys being involved in school activities. "The school has less than 200 people, it's so cool. Everyone has computers and all the people are nice."

High Peaks Education Foundation



www.highpeaked.org

TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE

Smartboards funded by HPEF have changed the learning environment at KCS, enriching educational programs for both students and teachers.

ISP SUCCESS IN 2012

The International Students Program at KCS is currently up and running with the help of HPEF. The six international students are living with families in Keene, Keene Valley and Jay.

Despite numerous changes to the Keene Central School District this year, one of the most noticeable is the presence of six international students that were brought to KCS as a part of the International Student Program. A committee of school staff, community members, and interested parents and students researched the idea of bringing culture and diversity to KCS and the Keene community. Thanks to the High Peaks Education Foundation, who provided funds to kick-start this program, KCS was able to bring a student from six different countries around the world to the very heart of the Adirondacks to attend school for one academic year.

This self-sustaining program allows students from around the world to pay tuition to come study at Keene Central School. The tuition covers the cost of various academic needs, including counseling, English as a Second Language support, school breakfast and lunch. The tuition they pay also provides a small stipend for room and board to the families that host these students for the year.

HPEF provided the funds to get the program off the ground and also provided funds for the six flags that are on display in the lobby outside the cafeteria.

The success in the inaugural year of this program has already been evident in numerous ways throughout the school and the community. The host families have already spoken about what an amazing experience it is having students from different countries be a part of their families. Mark Peduzzi said, "I'm already sad that Luiza will be leaving our family in June." Debra Whitson also commented, saying "I don't think we will be able to let Iñigo go back home; he is a great kid."



The impact that this program is having on KCS students, as well as the international students, is profound. High school students speak to the value of having a different perspective in the classroom, especially classes like American History and Government. "I wish we had this program sooner," said senior Torey Patenaude. Many seniors echo similar sentiments as they prepare to graduate, highlighting the importance of diversity and culture and the impact it will have on them when they leave Keene.

The hope is that this program will continue to foster cultural diversity in Keene and give the international students a glimpse into a wonderful community nestled in the mountains.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PROGRAM@KCS

