



Knight Light shines on

Moritz Hellmann

by Meghan Rothermel and Haylea Erickson

Seventeen-year-old Moritz Hellmann, a foreign exchange student from Germany, is nearing the end of his stay in the United States. He will be leaving around June 19th after graduation.

He came to the United States through a youth exchange offered by Rotary International. A couple thousand youth apply for this opportunity every year and he was lucky enough to be chosen.

He counts his host family, the Chases, among the many things he will miss in the United States, along with the people he met and the friends he made and the new freedom he has acquired. "Some things are a lot more free," says Moritz. "Here you can do a lot of things as you want to. There aren't as many people telling you what you can do or can't do."

Hellmann says that living in the USA is a lot different from living in Germany. He spent his whole life prior to this experience in the large city of Munich. Now he lives in the small town of New Durham.

“It’s a lot harder to get around,” Hellmann says, “I don’t have a car so I have to have people pick me up.” In Germany, kids go to four years of elementary school. Then they choose between five-year, seven-year, and nine-year schools. Moritz is enrolled in the nine-year preparatory school that will get him ready to attend college. Though he goes to school for one more year, his school day is shorter, starting at 8 a.m. and ending at 1:15 p.m.

Another difference in the school system is that they start teaching languages at a young age. Moritz was taking Latin, English, and French all at the same time last year. He wants to possibly go to college to study law in Germany, where college tuition is usually free, but he will still most likely apply to schools in the US to see if he can get accepted.

Hellmann enjoys playing sports, including golf, track, and skiing. He took part in these sports in Germany and has been a member of the Kingswood teams as well.

Moritz is looking forward to his return home, but hopes to visit in the future.