



The High School View

The High School View is staffed and prepared entirely by students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and published on their behalf by The Martha's Vineyard Times.

Around the world for April break

BY LULU WHITE

More than 50 students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) participated in school-sponsored travel abroad this April break, and returned eager to travel more. The Minnesingers sang and performed their way around Austria and Germany, Project Vine took its first international trip to London and Italy, and students in the world language department stayed with host families in Spain.

Minnesingers in Austria and Germany

The Minnesingers went abroad to experience singing in European cathedrals and

churches. Sophomore Emily Boyd explained, "Singing in cathedrals was a really cool experience because there aren't any places like that near us that are made for voices. They were really powerful spaces to be in."

Students and chaperones spent the first two days of their trip in Salzburg, Austria. "Salzburg was beautiful," said senior Katie Ogden, who's in her first year as a Minnesinger. "It was so cool to see in person all the places I researched."

While joining the Minnesingers as a senior can sometimes make it difficult to form connections within the group, Katie found that traveling together helped her

get to know a lot of people more deeply. "This trip was a great opportunity for me to balance a lot of different friendships. I feel like I was able to get closer with a lot of the younger girls I might not get to see very often outside of Minnesingers," she said.

Sophomore Georgia DeRoche echoed the idea of deepening connections through travel. "I feel like I got a lot closer to my friends," she said. "It was really a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I'm so happy I got to share it with them."

It was harder for students to talk about their experience visiting the Dachau concentration camp. On their third day in Germany,



The Minnesingers in front of the Bavarian Alps.

COURTESY MINNESINGERS

students visited the camp and were given free time to read about its history in the museum. The group met in the main remembrance site, a circular stone wall structure with a memorial at the center. Some members chose to sing a spiritual song titled "Poor Wayfaring Stranger," in honor of the lives lost in the camp.

On their last day, Minnesingers and choir members from the Emmanuel Kant Gymnasium (an advanced high school in Germany) had a shared concert, and a dinner where students got to learn about one another.

Freshman Hyde Turner celebrated her 15th birthday on the final day of the trip before heading back to Bos-

ton. She said, "When I found out my birthday was during the trip, I was really annoyed, but getting to spend it with everyone and my new German [friends] made it one of my best ones!"

They will share these songs with home audiences on May 11 and 12, during their spring concert in the Performing Arts Center. HSV

Project Vine in England and Italy

BY OLIVIA MACPHERSON

While Project Vine, MVRHS's alternative program, is known for prioritizing field trips and experiential learning throughout the year (their traditional overnight excursion to Penikese Island each fall is one example), students and teachers in the program have never traveled this far from home together.

Math teacher Ellen Muir said, "When we first came back to school from COVID, students told us about missed trips, and how they were feeling trapped on the Island. We wanted to provide a unique international experience."

Senior Tayla Ben David said, "I wanted to be part of something monumental for Project Vine. This was the first time they've attempted an international trip, which I felt would be important for not only the program, but the teachers involved."

Students and teachers alike planned well in advance.

Students took action steps on their own to renew or obtain passports, speak to their cell phone providers, and get in touch with their banks or credit card companies. Additionally, they studied and watched videos on how to better pack and prepare.

While abroad, they visited numerous sights such as the London Eye, the Globe Theatre, the Pantheon, and the Vatican. "He rode right by us in the Popemobile!" said Project Vine chair Dani Charbonneau. "He

waved at us — along with the crowd in the square; he was about 20 feet from us."

Despite the trip starting off with a complication — the boats were not running due to poor weather conditions — students persevered, and the group found their way together.

Ms. Muir said, "Our group had an amazing time together exploring two international cities. Everyone got along wonderfully. Each student acted responsibly and with kindness." HSV



Students from Project Vine take a selfie in front of the Fountain of Neptune in Rome.

DANI CHARBONNEAU

World language students in Spain

BY LULU WHITE

World language department head and Spanish teacher Erin Slossberg spearheaded the Spain trip this year, which included a five-day home visit with families in Valencia, Spain.

"[Staying with host families] is different from how we've done it in the past," Ms. Slossberg explained, "but I think students really made good connections!"

Students spent some days going to school with students in their host families, and went on field trips around Valencia.

Prior to their homestays, the group flew into Madrid, and their first few days there were action-packed. After an overnight flight, students walked around Madrid, visited the Royal Palace, and explored El Retiro, a famous park, before heading to a museum and then onto their welcome dinner.

In the following days, they



Students on the Spain trip in the Plaza Mayor.

JUSTINE DEOLIVEIRA

visited an ancient monastery and a small town called Segovia, which included a trip to an old castle and a Roman aqueduct, in addition to more free time in Madrid.

The group then took a high-speed train from Madrid to Valencia to meet their host families at the station. Ms. Slossberg said, "It was a very exciting moment — there was so much energy in the air, and a lot of nerves."

On the train back to Madrid, however, Ms. Slossberg shared that there were a lot of tears and hugs goodbye. A lot of kids formed strong relationships with their host

families and siblings.

On the day before they left, the group split up to focus on more modern history in Madrid.

Ms. Slossberg said, "Some kids visited the soccer stadium where Real Madrid plays, and the rest of us went and did a street art tour of Madrid. We met a guide, and went around this really neat neighborhood called Lavapiés, where they hold an annual street art contest. It was a really interesting experience. The neighborhood is so eclectic and colorful, it was a really different way to see the city." HSV

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