

GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Students earn scholarships for study abroad experience



Gastonia, N.C. – The German Language and Culture Foundation of Charlotte presented a check on April 12 for \$10,250 to fund a study abroad experience for 10 high school students. The scholarships will support the students' two-week visit to Gotha in the German state of Thuringa.

"Students will live with host families and attend school with their host brother or sister," said Ashbrook teacher Hannah Anderson. "They will take day trips to visit famous sites such as Wartburg Castle where Martin Luther translated the New Testament into German, Johann Sebastian Bach's birth house in Eisenach and the Buchenwald Concentration Camp in Weimar."

The students who will travel to Germany this summer are Sam Deason, Kayla Gist, John Niemeyer and Morgan Willis from Ashbrook High School and Justin Adams, Matt Boaz, Zach Cooper, Kayla Price, Matthew Smykowski and Haley Sparrow from Forestview High School.

"These students have been taking bi-monthly classes outside of the regular school day to learn about the German culture and customs and what to expect while in Europe," said Anderson.

This is the fourth time GCS students enrolled in German language classes have received the opportunity to learn about the language and culture through a study abroad experience.

"Students who travel abroad have the opportunity to apply their new language skills in a hands-on situation," said Forestview teacher Sabine Schmid-Rankin. "They then bring this experience back to the classroom."

Ashbrook and Forestview are the only two Gaston County schools to offer five levels of German language courses.

Superintendent L. Reeves McGlohon said, "Gaston County Schools is grateful for the financial support from the German Language and Culture Foundation. We sincerely appreciate their efforts to provide students with a study abroad program that will enhance the academic experience."