

Down the Hall

If you had the opportunity to live with a family overseas would you go? Why or why not?



"Yes, because it would be interesting to see how other people live."

--Sara Chambliss, sophomore

"Yes, to just get out and see the world."

--Larry Newcomb, sophomore



"Yes, because it would be a great experience to see how other people live and what we take for granted."

--Shea Taylor, senior



"No, because I'm too afraid of heights."

--Glenda Jo McFerron, junior



"Yes, because it would be new and different."

--Cristy Phillips, senior



A great experience of another lifestyle

Public schools should offer regular overseas trips for their students

BY CLAUDIA VEJRAZKA

GUEST WRITER

When I came to Rockcastle County and started school here, I found out that there are many students that do not know very much about Europe and how people live there. It made me sad when I heard questions like "Do you ride on horseback to school?", because this shows me that there are young people who have no idea what life is like on the other side of the ocean.

This lack of knowledge shows me that regular overseas trips are a necessity. These trips would be the perfect opportunity to clean up the prejudices on both sides, not only here but also in the minds of people in Europe.

A possibility to offer these trips in a not so expensive manner is the partnership between high schools here and high schools in Europe. The school I used to go to at home

in Germany has partnerships with schools in Italy, Russia, and here in the States. The way of exchange is through letters between students of these schools all year round and trips to the other country, where the students stay in host families.

Right now students from Italy are staying in Germany for three (3) months. Next year some of the students from Germany will travel to Italy.

The students are not the only ones that have the chance to get to know the other culture more intensively than they would as a tourist. Other people like the host family and all the surrounding persons have this possibility throughout the exchange.

The students should not expect to get on a trip overseas every year, but once in his or her high school time every teenager should have the opportunity to stay abroad. These

kinds of experiences help young people to think not only in terms of a limited area like the US, but more globally. This is an ability every person of today's society should have, especially when you think of how many companies have branches all over the world.

For me the possibility to stay in another country far away from home is a great experience. Nearly all people I have spoken to about their experiences abroad have confirmed that. They told me that it was the greatest time of their lives. They have learned a lot from it and it helped them to judge without prejudices over other people.

I have found out that the saying "It is not right! It is not wrong! It is just different!", which my exchange organization told us, contains a lot of true facts and it is a way of thinking everybody should have the opportunity to experience.

Students starving for English

BY HEATHER KIRBY

Every year students are deprived of important curriculum, due to lack of time. Students and teachers rush through their English classes trying to cover all of the bases. With literature, portfolios, and writing practices teachers do not have enough time to cover everything.

As a result of block scheduling, students lose thirty-six hours in English classes.

While block scheduling is beneficial to students by allowing students more classes per year the loss of nearly forty hours is detrimental to a student's reading/writing ability. In a system that emphasizes writing skills so strongly, it seems morally corrupt to allow the deprivation of a subject that is the basis of our education.

Students should have longer

English classes to provide a better understanding of all the aspects of the subject.

Due to the fact that English is the basis of the curriculum taught to the student, a better understanding of English will aid students in other studies. For instance, to begin learning a foreign language, students need to have a solid understanding of the parts of speech before they can go on to learn another language.

An increase in writing skills would also boost students' portfolio scores. If English was year-round teachers could take the extra time to focus on different writing styles, especially transactive writing, which often lowers portfolio scores.

I realize that if English classes were year round some people may feel that they would be excessive.

But, when you consider portfolios, literature, writing styles, and writing prompts it's really not that much time.

Teachers could spend the first hour of each class teaching the English curriculum and the last thirty minutes for portfolios, a sure fire way to bring scores up. This would also prevent that end of the year portfolio rush.

By having year round English all four years of their high school career, students will boost their reading/writing skills. The extra time will allow classes to cover more of the important aspects of the English curriculum. All in all, students need more time for English classes so they can acquire a sound background in the subject that is the root of our education.

Good luck, Rockets!