

Students from South Korea, Germany study at RCHS

BY AUDREY BURKE

Annyung, or servus to the new foreign exchange students Hyun Woo Lee from South Korea and Florian Trummer from Germany.

Though Lee and Trummer are well traveled around the regions they live (Lee has been to Japan, China, and various other countries. Florian has traveled around much of central Europe) neither have visited the United States before. They are however, enjoying their stay so far in America.

Some of the most prominent differences that they have noticed since coming here relate to food and school.

"The bread is too soft and tastes like paper," says Trummer. Lee doesn't have much of a taste for American food either.

Mr. Bill Jack Parsons, of Trummer's host family, says that he and his family have learned a lot about his culture through talking to him, such as food and its preparation.

Moving beyond food, they do enjoy school and the diversity of

the states so far.

"The school is big... and there are uniforms at our schools," is one of the major differences Lee has noticed since starting at RCHS.

Trummer has also noticed a huge difference. In Germany the 11th grade is similar to starting college. Students can go to a university or start an apprenticeship.

Despite the differences, teachers and host families agree that both are adjusting well.

Math teacher Scott Adams believes Lee is a good math student with, "lots of potential."

According to Ms. Debbie Coleman, Trummer adds a new and interesting perspective to her U.S. History class.

"His questions are from a different point of view," she says.

Things other than school and food are different as well, such as sports.

According to Trummer, in Germany sports teams aren't part of the school as they are here. But, that doesn't stop Trummer from want-

ing to join in. He is interested in cross country and has joined the team. Lee, however, isn't planning on getting involved in sports activities, but he has joined Key Club, Chess Club, and Math Club.

Having people from another country provides the host family with an opportunity to learn about another culture. Ms. Dana Bullock of Lee's host family said that there hasn't been much of an opportunity to learn much about his culture other than that of education. She hopes now that they are all beginning to understand each other better and that her family will learn more.

The host families have also had to make adjustments to accommodate their visitors. For Bullock though it wasn't a problem, since they had a spare room for Lee. The biggest change so far is that they have gone to a couple football games which she said her family doesn't usually do.

Parsons, father of an elementary school aged child, says the only real



Audrey Burke

Hyun Woo Lee, from South Korea, is just one of two foreign exchange students studying at RCHS.

adjustment they have had to make is that of feeding a teenager.

Despite the adjustments it seems from the comments of teachers, host families, and Lee and Trummer themselves, they are looking forward to an interesting learning opportunity.

ACT prep options plentiful at RCHS

BY PAULA ROWLAND

For students in Rockcastle County, the thought of testing doesn't cross their minds until early spring, but for the upperclassmen at RCHS, it is an entirely different story. Years have turned into months and now months have turned into weeks as the date for the October 26 ACT nears.

The ACT is a very challenging and time-consuming test which can last anywhere from four to six hours. Students should be very well prepared for the lengthy morning of the ACT by getting at least eight hours of sleep and eating a healthy breakfast.

"When you are taking a test from eight in the morning until noon, you better have had plenty of rest or you won't be able to think or work properly," said Guidance Counselor Dale Whitaker. "You don't want to walk in there without any food in your stomach either. Students may not realize just how much time this test will take, but if you're hungry and didn't sleep well the night before, it will feel like an eternity and your scores will show your lack of enthusiasm."

Preparing for the ACT isn't as easy as some may think. According to Whitaker, the number one thing students need to prepare is make sure they have been (or are) taking the appropriate classes.

"That is something that stu-

dents really need to pay attention to. If you are taking easy classes that you can just float through with ease and without any effort, you have hardly any kind of preparation at all," said Whitaker. "Not taking the appropriate classes (stronger or higher level courses such as Honors English, AP (advanced placement) Calculus and AP US History) will make scoring on the test very difficult."

He recommends seniors who already have their schedule for the remainder of the year join the Kaplan Program or at least come after school for the prep classes.

"They will need all of the practice they can get if they haven't had the appropriate classes. These can help bring a student's score up by at least two or three points, which can change the entire outcome of the test."

Getting helpful hints and strategies for the test isn't as hard as some might think. RCHS and the 21st Century Community Learning Center work hand in hand to help prepare students. ACT prep classes are offered after school on Mondays from 3-5 and on Tuesdays from 5-7.

RCHS English teacher Nancy Bussell assists students on Saturdays during the Kaplan Program with the English and reading sections, while alternative school

principal and Chris Hendrickson assists them with the math and science sections.

The Kaplan Program is a program in which students register to get advanced preparation for the test. Students involved in this will attend a different session on an announced Saturday, with the sessions lasting three hours.

"During these sessions, the students will be given a book that will have nothing but tips for the ACT. These tips will really help raise the scores of the students by a few points. The program will also give the students three practice tests which will be practically identical to the real ACT. This can help improve student's scores also," said Brandon Hargis, coordinator of the 21st Century Learning Center.

"The cost for the program is only \$175.00, which I know probably sounds like a lot, but the original price is \$599.00. We are really trying to help students as much as possible."

Bussell supports a positive attitude towards the Kaplan Program also.

"If you lived upstate in Lexington or some place like that, you would have to pay the entire fee of \$600," said Bussell. "The 21st Century Community Learning Center has helped us by paying almost all of the fee for the sessions. I think

Top Tips for ACT

1. You are never penalized for guessing, so make sure that you ALWAYS fill in every question.
2. Make sure to read your directions VERY carefully and understand the question completely.
3. Answer the easy ones first. If you do not understand something, move on and come back to it later. Remember you are being timed.
4. Use common sense and the system of evaluation in answering questions.
5. If you have time after you are finished, be sure to go back and review every answer.
6. Most of all be very well rested and have plenty of food in your stomach. Taking a test for four or more hours can be disastrous without food in your stomach and rest in the body and mind.
7. NO CRAMMING!!! If you try to rack your brain the night before, you'll only end up lowering your score.

Helpful ACT websites:

www.act.org
www.testinfo.net
www.mtsu.edu

students should take advantage of this."

Sessions have already started for the fall, but the Kaplan Program will also be available for students interested in taking the ACT next semester in early January or February.

Students interested in joining the program next semester need to listen to announcements in the morning. Registration forms will be available in Hargis' office (in the library) and also in the front office.