

### Bericht 3 (Oktober 2010)

Der dritte Monat ist angebrochen. Ich habe mich so gut eingelebt und fühle mich hier schon richtig Zuhause. Wenn man bedenkt, dass ich meine amerikanische Gastfamilie und diese Stadt bis vor drei Monaten gar nicht kannte, ist es schon beeindruckend, wie sehr mir meine Gastfamilie und diese Stadt ans Herz gewachsen sind.



Ich habe vor zwei Wochen die Bekanntschaft mit den hiesigen Spinnen gemacht. Einer dieser Spinnen hat mich in der Nacht gebissen. Die Einbissstelle ist sofort angeschwollen und die Haut hat sich rot verfärbt. Wir sind zum Arzt gegangen und ich wurde dort behandelt. Die Ärzte kennen sich mit Spinnenbissen aus, das ist hier wohl nichts Ungewöhnliches. Dank der Medizin ist der Biss sehr gut verheilt.

Am Columbus-Day, an dem wir alle schulfrei hatten, hatte mein Gastvater das Glück, Logenkarten für ein Vorbereitungsspiel der Dallas Mavericks zu ergattern. Die NBA geht erst Ende Oktober los, aber zurzeit laufen diverse Vorbereitungsspiele, die genauso interessant und sehenswert sind. Wir hatten die Möglichkeit, ein wirklich spannendes Spiel unseres Heimteams Dallas Mavericks gegen die Cleveland Cavaliers zu sehen. In der Pause wollte ich zu Dirk Nowitzki, der nur einige Meter vor uns saß, gehen, aber leider hielt mich die Security zurück. Die Plätze in der ersten Reihe sind den VIPs vorbehalten. Dass unser Team knapp verlor, war nicht weiter tragisch, wir hatten ein tolles Spiel gesehen.

Ganz Texas ist gerade im Texas Rangers Fieber. Die Texas Rangers sind unser Baseball Team. Unser Heimteam hat es wirklich geschafft, nach über 50 Jahren endlich wieder in die Finalspiele zu kommen. Hier herrscht eine Stimmung, die man ungefähr mit unserem „Sommermärchen“ nach der Fußball EM vergleichen kann. Baseball hatte mich eigentlich vorher nie besonders interessiert, aber wenn man hier lebt, wird man ganz schnell in den Bann gezogen und ist Baseballfan. Zu den Finalspielen bekommt man kaum Karten. Entweder sind die längst vergeben oder zu teuer. Aber vor den Finals waren wir in dem Stadion und haben ein Collegen team spielen sehen und so konnte ich mir einen Eindruck von einem Baseballstadion machen. Das Stadion ist ungefähr so groß wie unser HSV Stadion im Volkspark.

Bei mir ging es Ende September los, dass ich anfang, englisch zu träumen. Inzwischen funktioniert das flüssige englische Reden fast besser, als mein deutsch. Wenn ich mit meiner

Familie in Hamburg telefoniere, passiert es immer wieder, dass ich englische Wörter sage, weil mir auf die Schnelle das deutsche Wort einfach fehlt.

So this is the beginning when it is just easier for me to write in English than in German. Today I want to inform you about my school and my classes. If you don't understand the meaning of some of the words, please remember that I am writing in American English not British English. Some of the words are very different, for instance, we say class instead of lesson; grade instead of mark; students instead of pupils.

I have already told you that I am a Junior in high school. This means that I attend the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. In comparison to our German gymnasium, the high school is easier but I still have to work at getting good grades. Actually, we don't have much homework. Most of our exercises are done within the class period when we are in school.

I like our US History class. We have a very young teacher that is only 25 years old. He graduated from the University and this is his first year to teach. He is very motivated and he teaches in a way that all of the students want to listen to him. Each lesson begins with a short quiz. The quiz covers what we went over the day before in class. Normally, I take notes during class and read them the next day before I go into US History class so that I am always prepared to answer questions.

In my English class I have already had to write an essay. It was advantageous that I had already learned about essays in Heidberg Gymnasium in my German classes. At the moment we have to read a book. I have chosen my own book and decided to read "Islands of the Damned" written by R.V. Birgin. This book is about a Marine who is fighting in the time of the American-Japanese War. It is a true story and was so exciting that I read the entire book in only a couple of days. When I was finished reading the book I had to write a summary about the book.

I also attend a class that is named BCIS which means computer science. At the moment we are taught typing, which means that we have to read, write and correctly quickly. In the beginning there were some difficulties because I had to adapt to the difference in the keyboard. The American keyboard is different from the German keyboard because the "Z" and "Y" are switched with each other. Last week I heard that we have to finish the last exercises and our teacher is going to grade them. Unfortunately, I did not hear this earlier, so I thought it was just another exercise that would not be graded. I did not start on the exercises when everyone else did because I was in a hurry. We are not able to make these exercises at home because they were saved on the school server. So when I began to work in the exercises, I used very single minute available to finish them. This week I asked my teacher if it was possible to have extra time in order to finish all of the exercises. She asked me how many exercises I had completed and I told her that I had completed 17 of the exercises. She smiled at me and said that I only had to complete 15 exercises to make an A.

A very important part of my school classes is tennis practice. In addition to regular tennis class, I also have a tennis aid class. This is a class that I assist the tennis coach with teaching tennis to the Middle School students. We have tennis courts next to our High School which is where everyone learns and plays tennis for both the High School and Middle School. I will get a grade for assisting with the coaching of the Middle School students in my tennis aid



class too. After tennis aid we normally have tennis class and after school practice. Normally we practice for two to three hours per day. I am the member of our Varsity tennis team. The Varsity Tennis Team is the #1 team for the school. Only eight boys and eight girls make the Varsity tennis team out of nearly 75 students that participate in tennis. I am very glad to be able to play for the Varsity tennis team and represent the school against other High Schools in the North Texas area. At the moment, I am the #2 player on our Varsity team. I play doubles together with the #1 player on the boy's tennis team. When we are at matches, we normally play singles, boy's doubles and mixed doubles. Currently we have tournaments against other schools every week. From November through February we only practice and we will begin tournaments again in March. During the spring season of tennis we will play a lot of matches and tournaments. This is when the biggest competitions take place. By the way, our sports team is named the Bobcats team.

I will write more information about my school, my tennis and my free time in the next month.

Have a nice time until then.

*Daniel Balk, Krum High School, Texas (Oktober 2010)*