

	Station	Guided Tour for Toledo Exchange students on Wednesday, June 13 / assignment for Friday, June 8	guest / group
1	GHO	<p>Gymnasium Haus Overbach in Barmen -a district of Jülich- is an accredited high school of free sponsorship of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. At present enrolment is about 800 students. When the school was founded in 1930s, it was boys only. Inthe early 1980s Overbach became co-educational.</p> <p>The school boasts a symphony orchestra (OSO), wind band (OBO), the choirs of the Overbacher singing school as well as numerous sports groups. Overbach is widely known for the Overbacher Adventssingen of the Wind Bandorchestra and the Overbach choirs, which looks back at a tradition of 36 years.</p> <p>Another event attracting wider audiences is the so-called " Overbach Special "with guest celebrity speakers such as Reinhold Messner (mountain climbing), Reiner Kunze (author), Michel Friedman (Jewish politician) and Jürgen Fliege (TV talk show host).</p>	Mrs Perez Kevin, Stephan U., Jan, Daniel
2	the Chapel Statue of St. Francis de Sales	<p>On Sundays the Oblates celebrate mass for Christians that come from local parishes. During the week there are divine service for students. The chapel and other buildings were added to existing buildings after the Oblates bought the place in 1918, when they got permission from the German emperor to open a monastery in Barmen. An oblate priest had negotiated a peace deal between German troops and the tribe of the Hereros, who had been fighting each other in the then German colony of South-West Africa.</p>	Mika Szaroleta Raphael, Stephan K, Yannic, Alexander H.
3	Mansion house Library "Eine Welt Laden"	<p>Since the 14th century Overbach was the residence of the knights of Barmen. In 1919 the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales opened subsidiary in Barmen. The mansion house was built in ca 1899. Under the ownership of the Oblates it has been constantly modernized. Two of the larger rooms downstairs are being used now as the school's library. Apart from reading books and periodicals there is a reference library and access to the internet. The "Eine-Welt-Laden" offers products for sale which are produced in developing countries. These products are sold for "a fair price" to give producers a fair chance to make a living.</p>	Andrew Jessop Nico, Philip, Markus, Thomas, Frederic
4	Sports facilities Boarding School	<p>In our school you can do sports in 2 gyms. The bigger one is new and you have more possibilities. Furthermore, we have two playing fields for basketball, football and handball. In addition, we have a playing field for volleyball.</p> <p>The boarding home is for boys only. There are 60 students that attend different types of schools. During the week, they live in the boarding home and take part in various activities such as football, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, fitness training, karate but also handicrafts and many other things. From Friday to Sunday they go home to spend quality time with their families.</p>	Aaron Shortridge Pascal, Dominique, Matthias, Anja
5	school hall orchestras & choir graduation ceremony	<p>The school hall of Overbach is an important venue where lots of events are staged, for example informative meetings for parents or drama presentations. Musical education is very important in Overbach, so there are three orchestras and two choirs. Because of a special lighting system and good acoustics the school hall is the perfect venue for concerts of the music ensembles. Weekly rehearsals also take place here. One of the yearly highlights is the graduation ceremony, in which students get their certificates after 13 years. The school hall is a comparatively new building in contrast to older buildings in Overbach, for example the mansion house.</p>	Jonathan Pasch Julian, Mathias, Lukas, Timo, Max
6	farm buildings Science College	<p>Originally the Oblates used the land to the south of the school for farming. This included keeping cattle and poultry. The order diminishing, the farm building became disused and they were eventually turned in classrooms. So a former pigsty now is the venue for religious education classes. At a site that used to be a barn construction will soon begin of a science college that will be open to students from all over Germany. Construction is scheduled to be finished in summer 2008 and will cost approximately 6 m euros. Once completed, the new Science College will make Overbach one of the most modern high schools in Germany.</p>	Marcus Grubb Theresia, Valérie, Katharina, Christina
7	Science Labs Faculty room offices	<p>Science labs for chemistry, biology and physics are located in the northern wing (Trakt 3) of the school. They are equipped for state of the art experiments. Recently an astronomy lab has been added. The faculty room seating the 40+ teachers is next to chapel. Adjacently, visitors and students find the principal's, deputy's and secretaries' offices.</p>	Dan Williams Eva, Laura Photos: Thomas Pelzer

