

KATRINA

Neighbors

'It's a true exchange'

NCHS students host their German counterparts

By JENNIFER DONATELLI
Staff Writer

Maria Hess, 15, donned a vampire costume and went trick-or-treating last week for the first time.

It's not that she had been deprived of the chocolate highs and sugar rushes of the season.

She merely had been living in Freiberg, Germany, until coming to north county nearly three weeks ago as one of 15 students in the German American Partnership Program.

The program is an exchange between North County High School and Rotteck Gymnasium, the German students'

school, said Katrina Griffin, a German teacher who has supervised the program since coming to North County three years ago.

Since the Germans' arrival, their North County counterparts have taken them to see regional tourist stops in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Before they left yesterday, they visited Williamsburg, Va.

"There's a lot of stuff we have they don't that I wanted to take my German exchange student to," said junior Candice Knight, 16.

Among them are all-

American traditions like trick-or-treating.

"Everyone gave us candies," Miss Hess said, giggling.

The North County students said they were nervous about playing host to their German counterparts.

"We didn't know them well. Some of us talked to them on the Internet," said 16-year-old junior Shelby Buckman, president of the German National Honor Society.

The transition process has included the German students describing how different life is in their country.

"Food is healthier. Not so

many fast food places," said 16-year-old Jakob Balz, who's staying with Miss Buckman.

School is also different in that Germans go to school in the summer. While they get smoking breaks, if they break rules, punishment is stricter, the Germans said.

All that will come in handy this summer when the North County students stay with the students they hosted.

"So it's a true exchange," Ms. Griffin said.

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Courtesy photo
er, 15, Yannick Bassler, 15, Jana Baumgartner, 16, and
ius, 16, pause for a picture before the Capitol during a
shington, D.C. They are part of the German American
Program, an exchange between North County High
Rotteck Gymnasium in Freiberg, Germany.

Gambrills teen finds success at Kennedy Krieger High

PAUL WILSON
Staff Writer

some teenagers his
y Barry knows what
d like to pursue.

the chance, the
d Gambrills youth
help himself and
of others by finding a
diabetes.

ersonal choice for the
in with a penchant for
stangs and football.



Courtesy photo
High Point Elementary School Principal Walter Jackson performs as
Elvis as a reward to students for meeting reading goals. Dancers
Nellie Fastige and Tracey Ahern round out the show.