

ST. NORBERT COLLEGE ESL PRESS

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SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER OR IS IT?

WRITTEN BY: ANDREW SCHRANK

Unlike many students across the United States, our ESL students spent their summer in the classroom and beyond, gaining new language and cultural experiences. And while most of our ESL students are returning back to their home countries soon, lifelong memories and friendships made along the way are staying with us all.



Caption: Miki Nakai questions what is real and what is virtual during the VR Experience



Caption: Mr. Rob Hankwitz and the ESL Class indicate that "the kick is good" during the presentation about the GB Packers.

GREEN BAY PACKERS PRESENTATION

WRITTEN BY: ANDREW SCHRANK &
HIROTO ITO

Another unique experience the students had was from Mr. Rob Hankwitz, who works in Guest Services at Lambeau Field (home of the Green Bay Packers, professional American football team). Mr. Hankwitz presented on the history and impact of the GB Packers, and explained why the Packers are the greatest NFL team in history.

Hiroto Ito thought the presentation was great and the speaker was excellent as he "made the topic interesting for everyone." Hiroto only wished there had been enough time to ask more questions.

VR EXPERIENCES

WRITTEN BY: ANDREW SCHRANK &
MAYU SAWAGUCHI

One of the recent developments is the availability of Virtual Reality experiences. Luckily, SNC has access to multiple different forms of VR equipment.

Ranging from a simple handheld mount for cell phones to a full VR room, our students got to try different mediums while learning about ways VR can support academic content.

Mayu Sawaguchi thought that "the VR was really fun." She had never tried it before and found it is hard to tell what is real and fake when inside the VR experience.

ESL MISSION

We are here to enable students to acquire the language and cultural skills necessary to read, write, speak, and understand American English for academic and professional purposes.

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CLASS EXCURSIONS OVERVIEW

In addition to classes, ESL students participated in regular co-curricular and extra-curricular activities this summer that complemented students' cultural immersion and experience. This was a great way for students to practice their English and better grasp and appreciate what they have been learning about U.S. culture. Even simple things like culture references or jokes can be more easily understood after one gains first-hand experience and learns about people, places, and things in the local area, and this experience is exactly what our students have been implementing all summer.



As part of this programming, students visited and thoroughly enjoyed a Door Shakespeare theater performance, local Police and Fire Stations, and Lambeau Field. They also conducted campus interviews, received a lecture on "The Tempest" from a Shakespeare scholar, participated in a Job Search/Résumé Building workshop, toured the De Pere Locks as well as the GB Botanical Garden, explored a local Farmers' Market, and many more.

Caption: Summer 2022 ESL students pose during a tour of Lambeau Field with teachers Corri Gossen and Maria Webb, as well as student assistants Peter Breitwisch and Andrew Schrank

Each of these excursions and activities provided unique perspectives and knowledge that the students can draw on in their future academic and professional paths. We wish all of our students the best of luck as they continue their journeys, and hope to stay in touch as we cherish the great memories we all share!

STUDENTS ON CULTURAL IMMERSION

Rin Nagashima - Rikkyo University, Japan

Rin had a lot of fun in the Cultural Immersion class this summer, but especially enjoyed our trip to Door Shakespeare. It was "difficult to understand all of the play with its old-style English", but she really enjoyed the atmosphere. The actors were helpful to understand the mood of the scenes, but the language differences were very hard to overcome. She also loved the area around the theater location. Door County is "a beautiful place filled with nature." Seeing the play in the woods helped her enjoy her time as well because she likes nature in general.



Akari Ota - Saint Agnes' University, Japan

Akari really enjoyed touring the local Fire and Police Station. It was nice that it was within walking distance, but it was a really hot day, so it was a challenge for everyone to walk outside for so long. She thought that the Police and Firemen were cool and similar to what she saw in movies before coming to America. She was surprised to see that the police carry such large firepower since "in Japan police only have pistols, and some police don't even carry those." She thought it was interesting to see that there was even a practice shooting range under the Police station. Still, she was impressed with both places!



Tomoki Imai - Tsuru University, Japan

Tomoki's favorite event was the tour of Lambeau Field. He loved that there was such a massive sports stadium in such a small town. He loves that "you can see Lambeau from nearly anywhere in the area." The tour took them to the highest point of the stadium, which Tomoki also liked, since you can see so much of the local area from the top of Lambeau. He also had the unique experience of going to Lambeau outside of class to watch Manchester City and Bayern München play a historic soccer match!

