

# Meet the Exchange Students

Vernonia High School has established a tradition each year of hosting a large contingent of exchange students from around the world. This year is no different with 18 students joining families throughout the community. These students will participate in school activities, school athletics, and community activities. Many of them will return to visit after their year in Vernonia is over. They will become a part of our community and we welcome them!

Over the next several issues, *Vernonia's Voice* will visit with these students and introduce them to the community.

**Lola Berger** is from Auxerre France and will spend this year with the Cheney family. She is a senior and is on the cheerleading squad. She will play basketball in the winter. Lola says the landscape in Vernonia is very different from her home region, but says she loves the big trees and the woods. She says the people here are nice. Lola has finished her schooling in France and says she would like to pursue a career in either law or journalism.

**Francesco Mian** is a senior from Venice, Italy. He is spending the year with Cathy and Reggie Ward. He is

running cross country this fall, will play basketball in the winter and will either do track and field or may try baseball in the spring. Francesco says the town of Vernonia is pretty small after coming from a big city in Italy. He says the people here are kind to the exchange students. He says he likes all the activities and he likes the school. Francesco still has one year of school to finish in Italy. He says his dream is to return to the United States for college if he can get a scholarship but most likely he will attend university in Italy and study medicine.

**Justine Larue** is from a small town in France called Ussel, which she describes as much like Vernonia, just a little bit bigger. She is a senior and is staying with Jeana, Justin, Sadie and Savannah Gump. Justine is running cross country and is also on the cheerleading squad. She may try track and field in the spring. Justine says Vernonia is much like her home town in France – the landscape is exactly the same with

lots of trees. She says the people are nice here and she really likes the school. She has one more year of school to finish in France and says she would like to study to work in film set decorating or maybe study medicine.

**Marc Henke** is also living with Cathy and Reggie Ward. He is from Ulm in southern Germany. Marc is running cross country this fall, will play basketball in the winter and may try track in the spring. Marc says the people and the school in Vernonia are nice and he likes it here so far. He will have two years of school



Left - Right: Lola Berger, Francesco Mian, Justine Larue, Marc Henke, Andrea Casumaro, and Arne Schiemann.

left in Germany when he returns and says he hopes to attend college or university in the US or Germany for something sports related.

**Andrea Casumaro** is from Padua, Italy near Venice. He is a senior and will live with the Rethwill family this year. He is practicing with the cross country team and will wrestle in the winter. Andrea says Vernonia is smaller than he expected. He has one year of school to finish in Italy and says he is not sure yet what he wants to study at university.

**Arne Schiemann** is from Wismar Germany, on the Baltic coast near Hamburg. He is living with Justin and Ashley Ward. Arne is running cross country this fall and, at 6' 8", will be a welcome addition to the VHS basketball program. He says he will do track and field as a high jumper in the spring. Arne says Vernonia is kind of small compared to what he is used to in Germany. He says the school and the people are nice. Arne will have one year of school to complete when he returns to Germany and would like to study to become an air traffic controller.

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