

Lasting Ties

I attended the German School Washington D.C. from November 1968 through April 1970, during my seventh and eighth grade. In those days, the school was housed in barracks and was attended by what could have been no more than 100 children.



Main buildings of the German School on Logan Drive, Potomac, Maryland (1966).

When I came to Washington, the school had been founded not too long ago. The highest grade a student could attend was tenth grade and throughout the makeshift buildings the spirit of the trailblazing effort of founding a new school was still clearly noticeable. Most of the students came from Germany, but I also remember some with American and Swedish backgrounds. The school certainly didn't have an international character nor such aspirations at the time. Many of the students and their parents



Playing dodgeball on the German School parking lot (1968).

were only in the country for a short period of time.

And yet, I have attended many schools abroad in my lifetime; what sets this school apart is that I have made friends here that have remained in my life one way or another to this day. They all have and maintain ties to the United States, some lived here for a quite a while, others still do. Many of them have stayed in touch with each other. This may be due to the strong community and pioneering spirit that comes with the awareness of being part of something so new.

And of all the teachers who have taught me in my life, one stands out in particular: Mr. Padaroff, the American English teacher, who opened the eyes of generations of students to both literature and language and to the connection between the word and the truth.

In that spirit, happy anniversary, and best wishes for the next 60 years!

Dr. Emily Haber
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United States, Washington, DC
DSW/GISW: 1968-1970



In Mr. Padaroff's English class (1968).