

## At Home in the USA

From 2011 to 2016, we lived in Maryland for five wonderful years. Hardy taught math and physics at GISW (then DSW).



*Hardy & Berit Hinrichs, 2021*

We were warmly welcomed into our new environment and soon made ourselves at home, and we gradually felt that we needed to break away from our original homeland. At the very end of our stay, our son Tom (born 2010) attended Wyngate Elementary School and answered us only in English, even when spoken to in German. Noah was born in 2013 at Sibley Memorial Hospital in DC and was totally at home in the USA.

Many friendships with people from the DSW community and beyond helped us time and again to cope in everyday life with two young children and to replace a part of our distant family. In this way, a foreign place quickly became a home. We fondly remember Dagmar Tawil, who spontaneously brought us soup when Noah was born and our neighbors who helped us out with a cable when the electricity failed. We recall the many Monday nights with the teachers' soccer group, which consisted largely of fathers, acquaintances, or alumni who lived and worked in the area. It was a place where people from a wide variety of professions and nationalities were united and ran as one after a soccer ball. We remember all

the potlucks, BBQs, double-header nights, and playdates. We remember the 5k-Run, the DSW-Oktoberfest and, of course: "Felice Navidad" performed by the DSW facilities engineer, Adolfo Sarmiento, at the annual Christmas party!

And so it was hard for us to say goodbye! It was not only a stay abroad for us, but a complete reorientation, a new view from the abroad of our German home and a close encounter with the USA. And for us, the GISW/DSW was always the center of all of that.



*Tom, Noah and Ella Hinrichs, 2021*

We have now been at home in the beautiful Hanseatic city of Lübeck for 5 years. In September 2016 our daughter Ella was born here. But every Friday, we have "Movie Night" with pizza and popcorn and, of course, we watch the movies in English!

Thank you for a great time, dear GISW/DSW community! We hope to see you again soon and wish the school another successful 60 years!

Hardy, Berit, Tom, Noah and Ella Hinrichs

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