

Benjamin Hofmann '21

Wayland Academy, Wisconsin

My ASSIST story takes place in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, where I attended Wayland Academy in 2020/21. It's about my experiences in the US and at Wayland Academy.

Question: What are your expectations of your ASSIST year?

When I knew that I got accepted by ASSIST I had so many different thoughts and I was really excited to finally get to the US and experience the American way of living as well as experiencing a different type of school.

Question: What has been the biggest surprise of your ASSIST year so far?

The biggest surprise of my ASSIST year so far is definitely that the American way of living and the people in the US are not that different than I expected them to be.

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This can be seen in both ways.

Question: What is a new challenge for you and how are you approaching it?

To be totally honest I haven't really had that difficult of challenges when I first came to the US.

But one challenge I had to solve was how science is taught and how they describe certain things.

This was especially a problem in AP-Chemistry, as a lot of names were different, which caused, in addition to the "new" language, a little confusion.

Question: What does being selected for an ASSIST Scholarship mean to you?

It meant a lot to me as I realized for the first time that I could achieve something with the work and things I do.

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This is something that motivates me and probably a couple of other people out there as well.

Question: What do you think is special about ASSIST?

The thing that makes ASSIST unique and special to me is the connection that you keep with ASSIST even after you have finished your year in the US.

Question: Why should other people support ASSIST?

In my opinion other people should support ASSIST, as ASSIST gives people that work hard the opportunity to get to the US and experience the life on a different continent and the differences in the cultures.

It also helps them improve their English and live on their own, while they attend top class schools, where they will most likely learn things they will remember for a long time.

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Question: What else? Anything we forgot to ask?

All I can say is that my time here definitely had an impact on me and made me realize how many different cultures there are in this world, even though I have only seen a few of them thus far.

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