

However, my German has improved a lot more and I can really understand Swiss German now, to the point that someone I spoke to couldn't believe that I was an exchange student. I've also had my first dream in German and the B1 level course has definitely been helping with grammar and learning new words.

Due to the Euro tour having been canceled, my host parents wanted to show me a bit of Europe and ended up taking me for two weeks to Italy and Austria. First, we went to Verona in Italy and then on to Venice. What an opportunity that was! One just needs to get used to mask wearing in shops and on public transport. Other than that, it was truly worth the visit, as there were practically no other tourists there. Then in Austria we stayed by the Wörthersee lake in the South and then Salzburg. What I loved most was Austria's trees and the amount of them. Absolutely breathtaking! August 1st is Switzerland's National Day, which we spent at the host family's house in the mountains.

I'm having an absolute blast over here and am very happy that things are really getting back to normal.