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## CLASSROOM LESSONS

Observing in German classrooms deepened my understanding of the importance of multi-modality in education and intentional teacher presence in the classroom. As teachers, we need to include multiple pathways of communication in our classes AND students need to actively participate in those multimodal forms of communication to learn the content and to develop effective communication skills.

Teachers need to think about how students themselves communicate, not just how we communicate as educators.



## GROWTH

**“You don’t know what you don’t know.”**

I thought this saying was mostly a joke, but it really took on a new life for me in my travels. The IPDP Germany experience opened my eyes to just how different day to day life can be, and how it is felt as entirely normal. In Germany, cars aren’t dominant -- bikes line up outside bus stations and stores in the dozens and people cram into metro trains morning to night. There’s a sense of consideration on an institutional level -- in primary school kids learn how to properly ride bikes around cars, people are trusted to check out their own groceries without guards standing by, students are trusted to play soccer in the school yard during their break and return to class.

With my only context for society the United States, I couldn’t imagine another way other than what I experienced. I studied other countries, but they were far off things - ideas more than realities. After my time abroad, I have a newfound sense of hope for the world, in all its imperfections. **It is possible to live another way, go about your day another way, learn another way.** I’ve seen it. What we know the world to be isn’t all that it is or can be. I can’t change our systems, big or small, but I can strive for and embody a better way of being. I can confidently say that I’ve become a more hopeful person since participating in this trip.



Check Out Jarrett’s IPDP Blog:  
<https://buffalostateipdsgermany.weebly.com/jarrett>



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