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## **Madeira Celebrates Students' Heritages**

Flags from over 30 countries around the world are permanently displayed in each of the three Madeira City Schools. The flags are a way to celebrate the many countries from around the world where the district's students were born, and to welcome the history and traditions that the students and their families bring to the school community.

Four years ago the Madeira Elementary School (MES) PTO helped fund the initial purchase of flags from countries where all current students had been born. Each year since, flags are added when students join the district who were born in a country not already represented. Flags representing new nations are added annually to all three Madeira schools so the students have a visual reminder of their heritage as they change grades and schools.

In addition to the United States, countries currently represented are Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Venezuela.

Madeira Middle School (MMS) sixth grader Daniel Konieczny was born in Geneva, Switzerland. When he and his family moved to Madeira at the beginning of last school year he said, "When I saw the Swiss flag I thought maybe it was for another student." Daniel then added, "It's pretty cool there are students here from so many other countries."

Both the Swiss flag and the Hungarian flag that hang at each Madeira school represent Daniel's family. His brother Adam was born in Budapest, Hungary and is a Freshman at Madeira High School.



*Pictured: Daniel under the flag of Switzerland, his birthplace.*