

blast to the PAST

History teacher Adam Yonkers travels the world with his family and creates memorable experiences for his children.

Story & design by Alessandra Chandler & Anika Valliani. Photos courtesy of Adam Yonkers

History teacher Adam Yonkers is an avid world traveler, often visiting historical sights with friends and family, incorporating these memorable experiences into his lesson plans for students.

Yonkers's journey around the world began when he was 16 months old. He and his family lived abroad for four years, growing up in West Africa and traveling through Europe. When Yonkers' family moved back to the United States, they maintained the connections made in other countries.

"When I came back to the United States...we lived in what was a very international city in Washington," Yonkers said. "You see a lot of people coming through who lived outside of the U.S. and my parents kept in touch with an international crowd."

Yonkers hopes to give his children the same experiences he had traveling in his childhood and pass on his passion for exploring the world.

"I've really tried to pay it forward for my family and make sure that my

kids have some experience of being exposed to life outside the U.S."

Yonkers and his family lived in Switzerland before quarantine. While they had to return to the U.S. due to COVID, pushing travel plans back a few years, they were able to take a trip to Prague this past summer.

"Some of our best friends in Switzerland are Czech," Yonkers said.

"I've really tried to pay it forward for my family and make sure my kids have some experience of life outside the US."

ADAM YONKERS

"They grew up right outside of Prague so they know the city really well."

Yonkers' friends were able to give them an inside tour of one of the few cities that was not heavily bombed during WWII.

While sightseeing and history lessons are fun parts of traveling, Yonkers believes that exposure to other views and opinions is an important part of experiencing other countries and cultures.

"It's been interesting to see the United States from outside of the country," Yonkers said. "To have friends who are not American, and who could give you perspective on what life is like here."



(left) **A FAMILY PHOTO** is taken before the historical Berlin Wall, which separated East and West Germany. "When I visited [the Berlin Wall], I was surprised that it was so thin," Yonkers said. "I was imagining these really thick, concrete walls. When you visit something or see something, it's much different than the pictures I actually had in mind."
(middle) **AT THE COLOSSEUM**, Yonkers takes a photo with his daughter in front of the famous amphitheater known for ancient gladiator fights in Rome, Italy. Yonkers and his family are traveling throughout Europe, exploring local treasures as well as historical sites. "There are all these super old buildings and narrow streets [that show] a really charming European life," Yonkers said.
(right) **BY NYHAVN RIVER**, the Yonkers family line up and smile for a picture in Copenhagen, Denmark. Yonkers makes sure to show his children the world and give them memories and adventures to last a lifetime. "I've really tried pay it forward and to make sure that my kids have some experience of being exposed to life outside of the United States," Yonkers said.



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