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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**



**Garden City Students March in 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Steuben Day Parade in NYC**

By Andrea Galvez, German teacher

On Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, Garden City Middle School German language students participated in the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual German-American Steuben Day Parade in New York City. The students marched up Fifth Avenue from 67<sup>th</sup> to 86<sup>th</sup> Street along with their teacher, Frau Galvez, as well teacher chaperone Señora Porter and parent chaperones Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Kerimian, Mrs. McHugh, Mrs. Wilgosz and Mr. Voelker.

The parade was named after Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, a Prussian-born General who served under General George Washington in the American Revolutionary War. It is held every year on the third Saturday in September and was founded in 1957 by German-American immigrants who wanted to keep the traditions of their homeland alive. The parade is an annual celebration of the great achievements of German, Austrian, and Swiss immigrants in the United States and has grown into the largest event of its kind in the U.S.

The Steuben Parade brings together the entire German-American community, and many groups come from overseas to attend this event every year. These include marching bands, musical groups, costume weavers, and representatives of various clubs and organizations from Germany, Switzerland, and Austria, as well as the USA and Canada, wearing their traditional German costumes or *Trachten*. The Parade honors one or more Grand Marshals who are either American citizens with a German background or German citizens with a distinct relationship to America. This year, the Grand Marshals included two time Olympic Ladies Figure Skating Gold medalist Katarina Witt and German Ambassador to the United States, Peter Wittig. After the parade, the Garden City students and their chaperones enjoyed ice cream treats outside the Guggenheim Museum and visited the Ancient Playground in Central Park. A fun time was had by all.