

25 septembre 2021:

Nous voilà prenons l'avion, nous envolons pour une terre de liberté !



Terre de liberté qui comprend la liberté de laisser des gazinières dans la rue...

Nous sommes arrivées lessivées à l'internat. Après de trop nombreuses heures d'avion à deux mètres de DEUX bébés. Besoin de dresser un tableau ? C'est un trauma...

Ensuite 3h de l'aéroport à Gould, mais en bonne compagnie cette fois !

Mr Leff, qui est venu nous chercher à l'aéroport (merci mille fois !!) nous a emmené manger un donut. Ensuite, on est passé chez mon ancienne correspondante Lucy ! (Un moment super émouvant et très chouette puisque je ne l' avais pas vu depuis un moment (Camille). C'était fantastique ! Ensuite, entre deux roupillons, on s' est arrêté pour acheter de quoi dîner. Avec du recul, je dirais que nous n'étions à ce moment là que deux loques humaines.

Mais au final, le saint graal, DES LITS ! Enfin avant il y a eu la rencontre de nos chefs de dortoirs (absolument adorables) et surtout: des DOUCHES !!!!!

Croyez-moi, l'eau fut pour nous de l'or liquide.

Première journée donc très chargée mais nous avons enfin nos pieds sur le sol américain !



26 septembre 2021:

The bird's song woke us up this morning, with a tiny light crossing our cheeks and told us : I like to be in America, okay by me in America !

Haha. No. Because of the jet lag, we were awake at 6am.

But ! After a walk in Bethel, we went to the farm (inside the school) where we saw our first friend ! A nice Beaver ! What do you think is its name ? Tell us !

Well... Welcome to Gould !



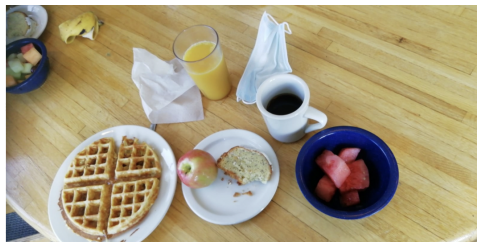
When it is time to do our homework, we can enjoy the beautiful view that Maine gives us. And between us, it is better to work in front of the sunset, than in a room !

So this is the view we have, next to the Dining Hall (the place where we eat) : speaking of the dining Hall, here is a picture of the inside:



On the ceiling are hung flags, that represent where students who studied at Gould came from.

And our very first breakfast:



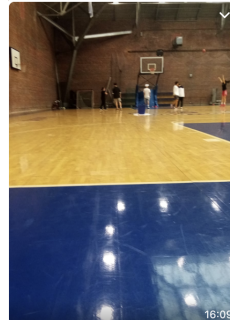
Then, we walked a little bit around the campus.
Here are some photos !



The view from the upper field



Our dormitory



The field house



Another friend! We found him when walking next to Sunday river.



ski because there is no snow yet...)

(the ski station, we can't



And then, before class and orientation trip (you'll see what it is later), shopping in New Hampshire ! (there's no taxes, so it is better for everyone !) In Walmart (a big Carrefour lol but with Brico Depot and Cultura and a lot of others). Here, it's a federal regime so, you don't have the same rules from one state to one other. For example, in Maine, people can drive their motors without hamlet !



In France, we have Action where we can find everything, and in the US, it is Walmart where you can find everything. Think about something, and they'll have it.



(Tout est toujours très bien proportionné)



(On a voulu essayer des aliments de là- bas... On a souffert vous savez. On a vraiment souffert.)

Jusqu'à présent, nous n'avions pas rencontré de nombreuses personnes, le campus était assez calme et nous avons pu récupérer.

Les choses sérieuses allaient pouvoir commencer!



Voici la vue de la chambre de Camille, des matins tout brumeux de montagne ! Une ambiance que nous savourons !

Ensuite, entre initiations à certaines activités et rencontres au sein du groupe des étudiants internationaux, nous nous sommes fait des amis !



Notre petit ami canard s'appelle Pablo, et nos amies (humaines) s'appellent Jelena (à gauche) et Natsuki (à droite). Venant respectivement du Monténégro et du Japon ! (Nous tenons à préciser qu'elles sont douées au Uno !)



De plus, nous trouvons toutes les deux que ce mélange ethnique est vraiment très enrichissant. Rien que dans notre groupe d'étudiants internationaux nous avons quelqu'un de... Paris ! Mais plus sérieusement également de Chine, de Corée du Sud, du Japon, du Mexique et d'Ukraine ! Nous avons pu échanger sur nos différents pays, en exprimant parfois dans un anglais approximatif mais qui a apporté beaucoup de rires !

Ensuite, une petite observation culturelle :
Voici une station essence en France :



Et voici une station essence aux États-Unis:



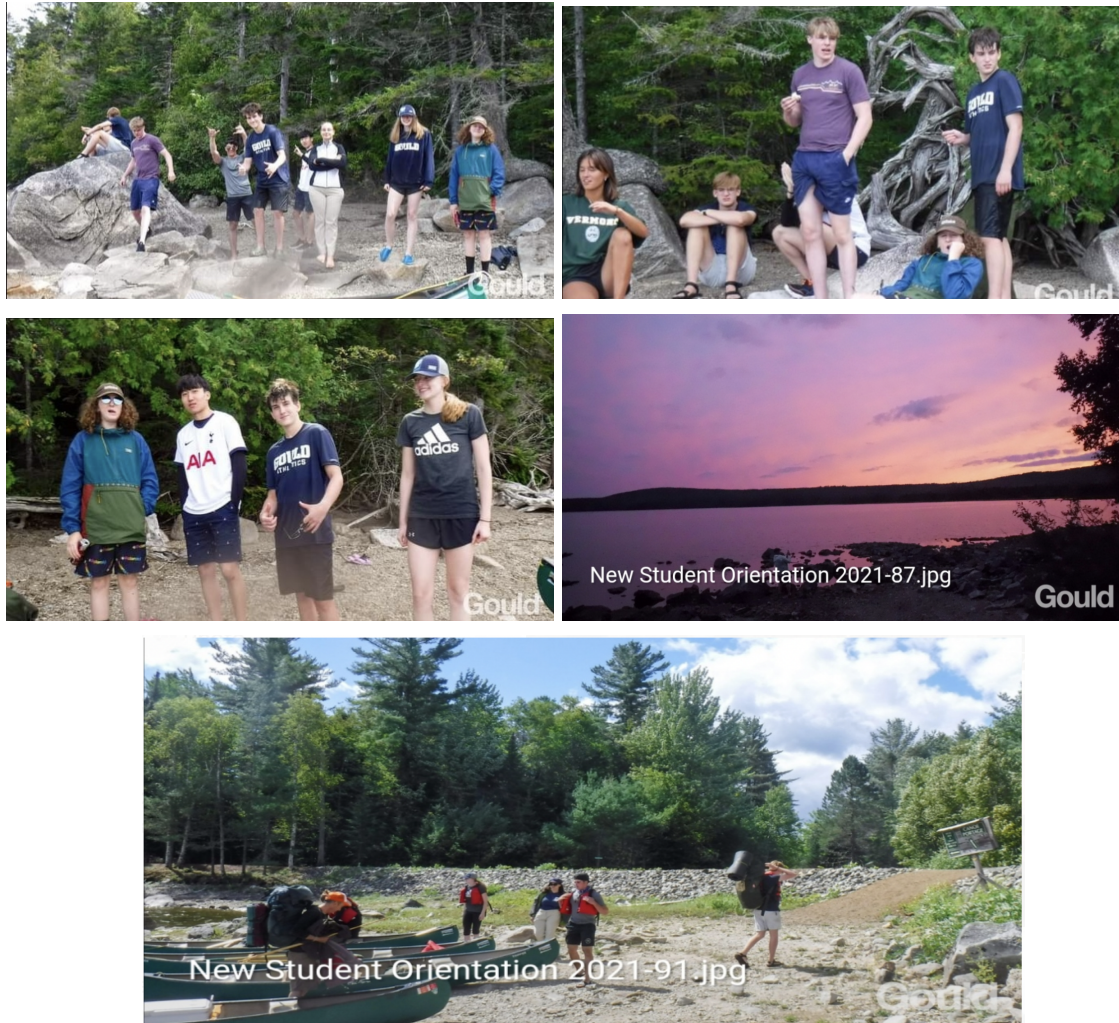
Ensuite, vient la pré-rentrée, ce qui comprend l' "orientation trip".

Que l'on vous explique:

L' "orientation trip" est pour l'ensemble des nouveaux étudiants. Cela consiste à partir pendant 3 jours camper avec un groupe. Pour nous déplacer lors de notre petit voyage, nous avons comme moyen de locomotion... des canoës ! Nous devons nous mettre deux par canoë, et ramer. Donc après avoir failli s'échouer de trop nombreuses fois, nous sommes enfin parvenus à bon port ! Sur une petite île entourée de plages rocheuses : parfaites pour faire des concours de ricochets !

Ah oui, ajoutons une précision : portables et déodorants interdits ! Bien-sûr, pas de douche non plus... Et bien on aura beau dire mais ca rapproche !

Que pensez-vous des photos ? Elles proviennent du Facebook de Gould, puisqu'on ne pouvait pas prendre de photos avec nos téléphones !



To sleep, we had hammocks and tarps (for the rain). So, instead of being good kids and getting one hammock, one tarp, we did TARPS CITY! It was very fun. And you know what? We didn't expect that doing this kind of trip with people we actually don't know could be that fun!

We think it's a very good way to meet people and for those who come from far away, to not feel alone.

Thus, we had a very good time! Mac'n'Cheese, S'mores, fire camp, and (surprisingly) warm water! Well... "not that cold" water.

We came back to school dirty, tired, we were really sore, but we were very happy!

The Sunday after that, we had registration for all students. So we had our computers, our ID card (to open doors) and we signed up to play sports.

Sport here: 2 hours each day, five or six days per week!

But there's any kind of sport! You wanna play soccer ? Golf ? Basketball ? You like to go hiking in the mountains ? Welcome to the Outing Club ! (If you've wondered, yes, both of us fell in the mud...). For us, if you wanna know, Helene is doing Outing club and Camille is doing outing club and cross country (which I recommend, running in the woods or in a pool is very fun !!). If you are more interested in skateboarding, you can !

6 septembre: Début des cours !

The beginning has been a little bit hard because, obviously, everybody speaks English. But, we did as much as we could to adapt ourselves in our classes. Which are sometimes very hard !

We will detail each of us. First H  l  ne :

I have the same classes as Camille. So we are basically in the same classes except for Ap Gov. I really love Women in Literature class because the book we are reading is really good even though it's hard because of the subject. The name of the book is The Color Purple. We have to read around twenty pages each day, sometimes more, and take notes for our reading and our thoughts or if we have questions about the reading. Then in class we discuss our notes and take notes of things we didn't notice during our reading. It doesn't feel like a class in France where the teacher speaks and we take notes. Here the students make the class by the discussion and I find this more interesting.

Then in French class it's so interesting: we learn French through history and now it's through colonization and Africa's history. It's not the same method to teach a foreign language. We listen to music, analyze them, create some sketches about a subject, watch a movie, it's always fun to go to French class. The class I find the hardest is probably AP Gov class, kind of like HGGSP but I feel like it's harder because it's in English and the reading every day are hard to understand, so sometimes I'm having a hard time to understand what we are talking about in class, but I still try to take note or to participate. For the homeworks we read about 30 pages each day, and on the week-end we have group works about a country that was given to us and we have to analyze it with the terms we learn during the reading. I'm currently working on Iran and I'm learning lots of new things and I like that, even though it can be hard.

Then every day is a sport from 15h45 to 17h30, and we're doing an Outing Club, so hiking, rock climbing, canoeing... What I like is that we always have good landscapes around us, and sometimes it's really hard going up the mountain. But we always end up having a really good view up there ! The homeworks are set to be done during Study Hall in our rooms, or the library on a class room, from 19h30 to 21h30, but most of the time we have to keep doing them until bedtime at 23h and if it's not finish, we wake up earlier (sometimes at 6am) in the morning to finish them.

The week-end is often used for us to catch up on our French classes, and one Saturday per month there are classes, so we feel like it's not a real week-end because we only have Sunday

for ourselves and catch up on some sleep. Then Sunday Night is also Study Hall and then back to class on Monday ! They also organise some nights around the fire for us to destress a bit and have a snack with other students and still enjoy our week-end.

Secondly, Camille: I have six classes, AP gov (it's like political sciences), women in literature (we are reading a book kinda hard), drawing, French (we can help students here and we have a lot of research to do), creative writing (it's awesome but you need to do a lot of assignments, pretty much every day. You can read essays, have to write a piece of writing, answer to some question...) and US History (we work on the pre-contact). Everything about that is very new for me! First, in some classes, you don't have any tables. You only have your computer and your ears. Everybody has to speak and to participate, so you have to listen as much as you can! Teachers can make their class outside if they want to, you can also eat and drink. Plus, you don't have to raise your hand to talk, people here are very respectful, they will let you talk and they will know when they can talk are not. However, you have in return to be serious with your homework.

We have maybe four or more hours per day of personnel work. And you are always graded for that. As I said, it can be things to read (in total maybe 60 pages sometimes), take notes, write your opinion, your thoughts... However, it's very interesting!

I also have cross country and outing club. The first one consists of running in the woods, in a pool, on the road, to run up, to run down, during something like 10 miles. I couldn't do more than 3.5-4 for now. We run in beautiful places but it's really exhausting! I still enjoy it though! AND outing club is awesome. Like a student told me, there's probably nothing better you can do here. You have the autumn colors, you learn about nature, you swim in cold water, you do canoeing, you learn how to clean space, you see beautiful landscapes and you walk a lot. It's also sometimes exhausting because we hike in mountains but it's wonderful! And never forget their key sentence: Leave it better than you found it!

At the end of the week, we are just worn out. And, sometimes, sadly for both students and teachers, we can have class Saturday morning.

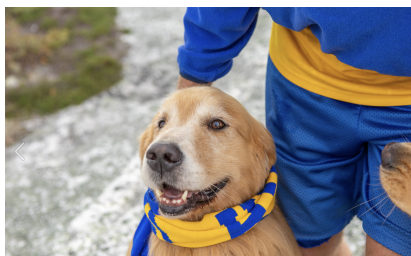
12 septembre2021

We went to see a baseball game in Portland today! The Sea dogs won!

27 septembre : Mountain day !!!!!

Qu'est ce que le mountain day? Eh bien c'est un jour choisi pendant le premier trimestre, durant lequel les professeurs annulent les cours, et toute l'école part en randonnée sympathique dans la montagne. Chaque année, la destination change.

Et ce jour pour nous, était le 27 Septembre. Après un essaie d'alarme incendie, tout le monde se rejoint à l'assemblée, et le chien de Mr Meaning, Mocky, arrive avec une echarpe jaune et bleue sur laquelle est écrit Gould. Tous les élèves savent bien évidemment ce que ça veut dire, et tout le monde est excité à l'idée de partir en randonnée et bien sûr aussi que les cours soient annulés!



Ensuite, tout le monde part se préparer, avec une tenue adéquate, et chacun prépare son pic nique. Sandwich au jambon, ou alors au beurre de cacahuète et confiture. Chacun choisit ! Pour le dessert, cookies ou fruit, et bien sûr on oublie pas la bouteille d'eau pour la journée!

11h: départ de toute l'école dans les bus. Ça doit quand même être impressionnant pour les personnes sur la route qui voient débarquer 6 bus de Gould !

Arrivés en bas de la montagne, l'excitation est à son comble, tout le monde veut vite partir. On reçoit le top départ des profs et certains élèves partent directement en courant ! On a quand même préféré partir doucement, mais n'allez pas penser que c'est par manque de courage.

Non! C'est plus pour garder nos forces et rester avec nos amis!

Après une grosse heure et demie de montée, nous voilà enfin au sommet de la montagne. Et la vue est splendide. Ça vaut bien le coup d'avoir eu mal aux jambes parce que le panorama est vraiment magique. On peut voir les autres montagnes autour de nous, même si le beau temps n'est pas de la partie, c'est vraiment super !



Bien sûr, comme on est aux Etats-Unis et que tout est normal, les élèves ont ramené un barbecue avec eux pour se faire griller un morceau de viande ! Pourquoi pas !

Vient ensuite le moment de prendre les photos, que ce soit entre amis, avec les chiens, les professeurs ou alors toute l'école, c'est vraiment un moment génial et pleins de rires !



Class of 2021: **SENIORS!!!!**

Toute l'école en photo !

Mais comme le beau temps a décidé de partir en vacances, nous sommes descendus parce que la pluie est venu nous faire un petit coucou. En une heure, nous voilà en bas de la montagne, le barbecue encore chaud en main et le charbon lui aussi encore chaud dans le sac avec le reste du charbon. Oui, nous aussi on a trouvé ça étrange et dangereux, mais apparemment ici c'est normal... :')



Puis c'est le retour à l'école et pour certain aux activités sportives. Nous on a préféré faire une sieste, parce que ça nous a bien fatiguées ! C'est vraiment une journée mémorable et on s'en souviendra pendant longtemps.

Of course, if you wanna see more pictures of mountain day, you can still go and check either on Gould's Facebook or Instagram!

October 9th, 2021

After more than a month here we can say to you that the expectations are very high! You have to think about great questions and to be serious in your work to not be late! For example, in AP Gov, we talk about political comparatives, we compare the indicators (economic, Brain Drain, social...), we also talk about why governments are the way they are, how culture and nationalism can bring a desire for independence and a lot of other things. In women and literature, we also study a lot of different issues like racism and sexism in American and African societies. In this class, for Monday, we have more than forty pages to read and to comment on because we'll have an essay to write, about one major theme of the book.

The problem is, sometimes, you don't have the time to finish your homework because even seniors have a bedtime, and it's at eleven. So you have to wake up the morning before class to finish what you have to do.

That's why we don't always have the time to give news, even if we would like to talk to you more about here. Even just to define you how much landscapes are beautiful!