

Our exchange experience at RV2G



We were 3 exchange students at Riga State Gymnasium No 2 (RV2G), form 11sb for the school year 2016/2017.

My name is **PAOLA GARCIA** and I'm an exchange student from **Mexico**, I spent most of my time at this school. This school was really different from my school back at home.

The other 2 exchange students are my best friends now. I also had really good relationship with some of my classmates from 11sb. Even when they had so much work to do, they had the patience to talk to us from time to time. People here may seem a little bit reserved, but when you get to know them more you can see how helpful they can be.

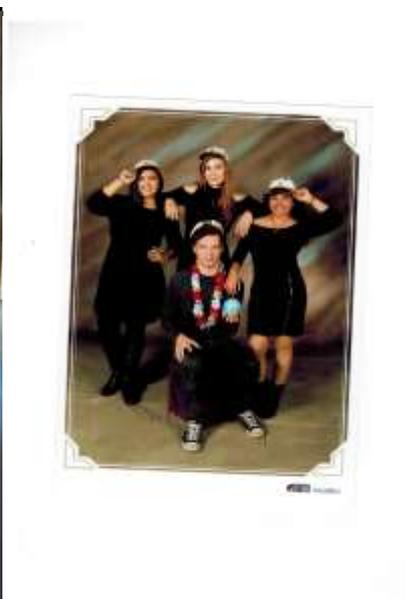
The Latvian language was a very hard part of the exchange. We had our own Latvian lessons with Mrs. Inga Kulmane. They were extremely interesting. We were not just sitting in a class but also talking with other grades about our cultures, going to museums, learning to cook traditional food at the school kitchen and some dances, we had to experience the culture to learn and understand faster. The teachers of RV2G were really supportive, they had a lot of patience and listened to every issue or concern we had.

RV2G is a big school, it gives you a lot of opportunities even for the exchange students. It is a good place to be, because everyone speaks English so they can help. I'm thankful to the school, can't ask for more.



Sveiki! I'm **GUADALUPE MARTINEZ ESTRADA** from Morelia, Mich. **Mexico**. I'm an exchange student at RV2G. Most of the people I met during these 10 months asked me the same question: "Why did you choose Latvia?" and I always said, "Because I wanted something different from my country" and I got it. The people, the food....the weather! Everything completely different. The school is so beautiful, my classmates and teachers, the homeroom adviser Ineta Vīksna, all were really nice with us, always happy to help us with anything we needed, with a smile and a kind 'labrīt!'

I loved to immerse myself in the beautiful Latvian culture with the help of the school every day, the Latvian teacher explaining the meaning of thousand words, taking us to museums of natural history, cars, art, cooking pankukas, talking to students of other classes and even sharing a little of our Mexican culture and traditions. In November when we attended the school event celebrating Latvia's independence day, the day was filled with wonderful dances and the impressive choir concert. I want to thank all of you, in one way or another you have been part of my exchange year and made it something incredible and unforgettable. Liels paldies RV2G and Liels paldies Latviju!!! Forever in my heart. Guadalupe.





Hello, I am **HANNAH HOBBS** from the **U.S.A.**,

Cešiņš. Sports. Karameļu piens. IB. Derivatives. Latviešu valoda. When I think of Rigas Valsts Otrās Ģimnazija, these are just a few of the images that come to mind. Throughout the year, I grew to know the school better and better, which overall allowed me to dive deeper into Latvia's culture. I was placed in 11SB, and it was there I made some of my closest friendships. In America, no one has one class-- everyone has a different schedule throughout the day. It's awesome to see how close the class is; they seem to be almost like a family. They sit together at lunch, they participate in activities together after school, and they always help each other out with school work. If I had to choose a favorite lesson, it would be a tie between sports and Latvian language. Our sports teacher is so nice, and even though she doesn't speak English, she always makes sure I'm engaged and am having fun with whatever sport we're playing. As for Latvian, I have to make a huge shoutout out to our teacher for her patience and tolerance for our constant crazy antics. She made learning the language fun, showed us the culture through different excursions, and even let us show a bit of our own culture through cooking and (hours long) storytelling. Overall, I can easily say I had a great year. I'd like to say thank you to the two women who work behind the small cafeteria counter for always attempting to understand our bad pronunciation skills. Thank you to all of my classmates who put up with our chit chatting all year. Thank you to our class teacher for allowing us to be a part of your class. And finally, thanks you to the director for allowing us to take part in your school for the year. This truly is an experience I'll never forget, and RV2G definitely played a huge role in that. -Hannah Hobbs

