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Welcome Day at Lora Tamayo!

We were honored to be welcomed by all of the students at Lora Tamayo school today, as we kick off our 4 week sports program there.



After walking a few minutes from the train station in Bellavista, Spain, the doors opened and we were greeted by hordes of smiling faces and loud cheers in a high-five tunnel! The kids were so

enthusiastic and energetic, and immediately everyone couldn't help but smile. It was so beautiful to see such a great welcome, and how instant the bond was between a small liberal arts college in Minnesota and a suburban elementary school in Spain. It was a testament to our shared humanity and the power of love.



We were then serenaded by a group of students, to the tune of “It’s a Beautiful World” (in perfect English!) and shortly after, the Macarena.



The Macarena then turned into a huge Kunga line with all of the Carleton students, kids, and teachers. It was so fun to all be living in the moment then, just revelling in the joy of meeting each other and feeling the excitement for what is to come!



Then, they gave us some Gazpacho and Tortilla de Patatas, traditional Spanish foods to try. We thoroughly enjoyed that! It was such a nice gesture from them, and immediately gave us a sense of being at home!

We had some free time to play sports and meet the students for the rest of our stay today. We spread out across the recreation area and started playing games with our new friends. Basketball, tag, and soccer seemed to be some of the favorite activities on this day! Additionally, many Carleton and Lora Tamayo students simply spent time talking and getting to know each other. This was incredibly special because everyone was just so happy to be there and connect

with new people. The age gap and language barrier was essentially gone, just a bunch of kids being kids.

The time went by far too quickly, and then we had to say goodbye and “hasta pronto” or see you soon for our first day of camp the following day!