

The John F. Kennedy School

German-American Community School

Teltower Damm 87-93

14167 Berlin, Germany

www.jfks.de



High School Profile 2009-10

Accreditation: United States: New England Association of Schools and Colleges
Germany: The Board of Ministers of Cultural Affairs

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Information

SCHOOL

The John F. Kennedy School (JFKS), founded in 1960, is a bilingual, bicultural, K – 13 institution, located in the Steglitz-Zehlendorf district of Berlin, Germany. The school is a tuition-free **German public school** governed under a special act of the Berlin parliament for the purpose of creating bi-national understanding. The student body of approximately 1750 students, K – 13, comes from varied social and economic backgrounds and is 60% German, 30% American, and 10% from other nationalities.

ADMISSION

The Kennedy School is a college-preparatory facility. Admission is competitive and selective. All admissions are probationary for one semester. Students and parents seeking placement at the school should complete the application which appears on the website: www.jfks.de.

PROGRAM

Students in grades 9 – 13 may elect to seek either the **German *Abitur*** and/or the **American High School Diploma**. All courses in the high school diploma program are college preparatory, lead to an American diploma, and qualify one for admission to U.S. universities. **Diploma students** who successfully pass Advanced Placement exams, the SAT, or ACT, may also be admitted to German, British, or other world universities. The successful completion of the ***Abitur*** program qualifies students for entry into German post-secondary schools as well as universities around the world. The language of instruction may be in English or German.

UNIVERSITY QUALIFYING SCORES

The ACT and SAT I scores are used for scholarship and admission purposes by the universities. The **average scores for the 2009 school year** at the John F. Kennedy School compare favorably with U.S. averages as follows:

TEST	JFKS Average	U.S. Average
ACT Composite	28	21
SAT I Critical Reading	591	501
SAT I Math	552	515
SAT I Writing	588	493

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

The **Advanced Placement** (AP) program enables students with grades of 3, 4, or 5 to obtain college credits at participating universities in the U.S. In other parts of the world the AP exam scores are used for admission. **The May 2009 results** indicated that 244 exams were given to 108 students. The percentile results are as follows: Global represents percentile of all students who took the exam compared with the John F. Kennedy School results and (-) indicates that no John F. Kennedy student received this score.

AP Exam	Global % Score of 5	JFK % Score of 5	Global % Score of 4	JFKS % Score of 4	Global % Score of 3	JFKS % Score of 3
German Language	24%	89%	-	-	-	-
French Language	-	-	43%	50%	21.5%	25%
Spanish	52.6%	100%	-	-	-	-
Calculus AB	46.8%	53.3%	19.8%	33.3%	-	-
Calculus BC	63.3%	100%	-	-	-	-
Statistics	-	-	26%	40%	20.5%	40%
U.S. History	16.9%	31.3%	26.2%	25%	19.4%	18.8%
European History	24.3%	40%	-	-	32%	40%
Government & Politics Comp.	19.4%	41.2%	21.3%	17.6%	20.7%	23.5%
Psychology	22.8%	52.6%	27%	26.3%	19%	10.5%
World History	-	-	15.9%	100%	-	-
Art History	-	-	22.8%	50%	-	-
Biology	38.7%	16.7%	16.3%	20.8%	15.1%	20.8%
Chemistry	-	-	-	-	17.2%	43%
Physics B	-	-	21.4%	16.7%	19.4%	50%
English Literature	12%	3%	23%	6%	31%	36.4%
Studio Art	-	-	18%	25.4%	37.5	50%

GRADE POINT AVERAGE, GRADING SCALE, CLASS RANK

Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated on the American 4.0 scale using all grades for eligible courses taken in years 9–13, including courses repeated. Honor courses are marked on the transcript and are weighted by giving grades (A through D) an additional Quality Point (QP). JFKS does not have Honors courses for grades 9-10. Honors designations for coursework taken outside of JFKS in grades 9 – 10 are noted but are not given weighted Quality Points. Honors courses in grades 11 – 13 are given one extra Quality Point for all A, B C & D grades (see Grading Scale table). Students enrolled in the High School Diploma program are not limited to the number of AP courses they are permitted to take. Students in the German Abitur program are limited to two Honors (Leistungs) courses per year.

Grade Point Average (GPA) is determined by the following equation: $(QP) \times (\text{Credit}) \div \text{Total credits} = \text{GPA}$
The median grade point average of the 2009 graduating class was 3.20

GRADING SCALE

German Marks Grades 7-10	German Marks Grades 11-13	American Letter Grade	American Percent	Quality Points (QP)	Weighted QP
1+	15	A+	98-100	4	5
1	14	A	95-97	4	5
1-	13	A	92-94	4	5
2+	12	A-	90-91	4	5
2	11	B+	87-89	3	4
2-	10	B+	84-86	3	4
3+	9	B-	80-83	3	4
3	8	C+	77-79	2	3
3-	7	C	74-76	2	3
4+	6	C-	70-73	2	3
4	5	D+	66-69	1	2
4-	4	D	60-65	1	2
5+	3	F	Below 60	0	0
5	2	F		0	0
5-	1	F		0	0
6	0	F		0	0

CLASS RANK: The policy to discontinue individual student ranking on the transcript was instituted at the beginning of the 2008-09 school year. 9 – 10th grade students are not ranked at all. Students in the 11 – 13th grades are ranked by decile up to the top 50% of the class. New students are excluded from the ranking until the beginning of their 3rd semester at JFKS.

CREDIT POLICIES & GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits are defined as Carnegie Units, awarded based on how many periods the class meets per week. Each 45 minute period of instruction is valued at .25 credit hours. In order to earn the U.S. High School Diploma, a student must earn at least 26 credits in the following courses:

4 Credits	English
4 Credits	Social Studies – one credit MUST be U.S. History (students not at JFKS for all 4 years must earn at least 3 credits)
3 Credits	Mathematics
4 Credits	Science
1-4 Credits	German (students must take German every grading period at JFKS)
2 Credits	Physical Education
5–9 Credits	Electives

Students who are working toward the Abitur may also receive an American High School Diploma if they meet the minimum diploma course requirements.

JFKS accepts students' transfer coursework from other United States, German and International high schools. Coursework completed outside of these three school systems is given transfer credit toward graduation, but individual courses are not recorded on the transcript or calculated into the GPA. For students visiting JFKS for one year or less, transcripts show only the work the student completed at JFKS. For students entering JFKS in the 10th & 11th grade, transfer credit is assessed at the beginning of the student's 3rd semester at JFKS. For new 12th grade students, JFKS accepts eligible transfer coursework at the beginning of the students' entrance year in order to evaluate credit for the US High School Diploma earned at the end of the 12th grade. Credits at JFKS are earned by year in grades 9 and 10 by semester in grades 11 and 12. Students in grade 13 have transcripts with all courses in grades 9 – 13 and their final Abitur average.

U.S. HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA & ENTRANCE TO GERMAN UNIVERSITIES

One may also apply for entrance to German universities with the high school diploma in lieu of the *Abitur* if the student has also completed the following additional qualifications:

- High School Diploma + 3.0 GPA + 1300 minimum verbal & math combined score on the SAT OR minimum composite score of 28 on the ACT
- High School Diploma + 4-5 AP test results with a score of 3 or better (specific exams required depends on the student's course of study at university)

GERMAN PROGRAM OF STUDY -- ABITUR

Entrance to universities in Germany is dependent upon the German secondary school leaving certificate, called the ***Abitur***. Students can obtain the Abitur upon successful completion of 13 years of primary and secondary school and by passing the Abitur examinations. Nationally, only the top 30% of the German student population enters the Abitur track. Most German students at the Kennedy School as well as 15 to 20 % of Americans and other internationals follow a program leading to the Abitur.

To enter the upper Abitur grades (11-13), a student must first earn the Middle School Leaving Certificate (MSA) or *Realschulabschluss* at the end of grade 10. To earn the MSA a student must pass qualifying courses in grades 9 and 10 and pass the MSA exam in German, English, Math and make an acceptable group oral presentation in a major subject.

The Abitur examinations are offered in the spring of each year to grade 13 students. Students are admitted to candidacy for the Abitur upon successful completion of all requirements. Abitur exams are given in a student's *Leistungskurse* (honor courses) and three additional *Grundkurse* (fundamental courses) selected by the student. One of the fundamental courses is an oral exam, one is an oral presentation or research paper and the other three are written exams. The final Abitur grade for each candidate is the average of grades in two blocks:

1. The marks earned in 24 fundamental courses in grades 12 and 13 and the earned credit in the student's four semesters of work in his or her two honor courses.
2. Written and/or oral exams in the five examination subjects. The average in this block has twice the value as block one.

Abitur Grade Distribution. The following is the distribution of final grade averages for the 78 Abitur students who completed grade 13 in 2009. (1.0 highest – 4.0 lowest). The JFKS average is 2.3; which is 0.3 points higher than the German national average of 2.6.

Abitur Grades	Number of Students
1.0 - 1.5	12%
1.6 – 1.9	20%
2.0 – 2.7	49%
2.8 – 3.1	14%
3.2 – 3.8	5%

POST-GRAD STATISTICS

Plans for Matriculating High School Diploma and Abitur Students In 2009

Student Stated Plans	Grade 12 and 13 Graduates
University Study in Germany	25%
University Study in the U.S.	27%
University Study in the U.K.	23%
Universities in other countries	9%
Gap year, Military Service, Vocational Training	16%

MATRICULATING STUDENTS ENTERED THE FOLLOWING UNIVERSITIES IN 2008 AND 2009

(German public universities are not included)

United States of America

American University, DC
Bard College, NY
Barnard College, NY
Brigham Young University, ID
University of California, Channel Islands
University of California, Davis
Catawba Valley Community College, NC
City University of New York
University of Connecticut
Connecticut College
Elon University, NC
Emerson College, MA
DePaul University, IL
Florida Atlantic University
Hamilton College, NY
University of Hawaii, Hilo
Hobart and William Smith Colleges, NY
The Master's College, CA
Mount Holyoke College, MA
New York University
Northeastern University, MA
Northwestern College, MN
Norwich University, VT
University of Pennsylvania
Portland State University, OR
St. Norbert College, WI
Santa Fe Community College, FL
Stanford University, CA
Stella Adler School of Acting, NY
Texas A&M University
Tufts University, MA
United States Coast Guard Academy, CT
Vanderbilt University, TN
University of Virginia
University of West Virginia
Winston-Salem State University, NC
Wooster Polytechnic Institute, MA

United Kingdom

University of Aberdeen
University of the Arts, London
University of Birmingham
University of Brighton
Bristol University
University of Cambridge
University of Dundee
University of Durham
University of Edinburgh Suffolk
University of Essex
University of Glasgow
University of Kent, Canterbury
Kingston University
Lancaster University
London Metropolitan University
University of London
University College London
Goldsmiths College
Imperial College
Kings College London
Royal Holloway
SOAS
University of Manchester
University of Oxford
University of St. Andrews
Sheffield Hallam University
University of Southampton
University of Strathfordshire
University of Sussex
University of Swansea
University of Teesside
University of Warwick

European Universities

University of Innsbruck, Austria
Bucerius Universität, Germany
Touro College, Germany
University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
Arnhem Art Academy, Netherlands
Erasmus University, Netherlands
University of Maastricht, Netherlands
San Pablo CEU, Spain
Suffolk University, Spain
Les Roches Swiss Hotel Mgt. School
University of Zurich, Switzerland

Other Universities

Instituto de Vitella, Argentina
Dalhousie University, Canada
University of ACC, Chile
Hong Kong Univ. of Science/Technology
Emirates Academy of Hospitality, Dubai