

The John F. Kennedy School

The German-American Community School
Teltower Damm 87-93 · 14167 Berlin · Germany
www.jfks.de

School Profile 2011-2012



2011 Honors Graduates with Ambassador Murphy at the U.S. Embassy, Berlin Germany

The U.S. Embassy Hosts our 2011 Honor Graduates

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

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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 an 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. Starting with the Class of 2012, all German public schools will condense the *Abitur* into 12 years, and the 13th year will be eliminated.

UNIVERSITY QUALIFYING SCORES

The ACT and SAT I scores are used for scholarship and admission purposes by the universities. The average scores for the 2010 school year at the John F. Kennedy School compare favorably with U.S. averages as follows:

TEST	JFKS Average	U.S. Average
ACT Composite	29	21
SAT I Critical Reading	600	501
SAT I Math	565	515
SAT I Writing	590	493
SAT Subject U.S. History	710	601
SAT Subject French	666	620
SAT Subject English	683	580

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 2010 results indicated that 245 exams were given to 102 students. The percentile results are as follows:

AP Exam	2010 U.S. Average	2010 JFK Average	Students Tested	JFK Score of 5	JFK Score of 4	JFK Score of 3
European History	2.78	4.308	13	8	1	4
Psychology	3.15	4.391	23	12	10	0
Comp. Government & Politics.	2.99	4.222	9	4	3	2
U.S. History	2.53	3.048	21	1	5	10
Art History	2.68	3.0	5	1	0	3
Physics B	2.78	4.286	7	4	2	0
Biology	2.66	3.938	16	7	6	0
Chemistry	2.72	3.571	14	5	3	3
Calculus AB	2.92	3.720	25	9	7	5
Calculus BC	3.66	5	2	2	-	-
Statistics	2.80	3.250	16	2	5	5
German Language	3.04	4.816	38	33	3	2
French Language	2.51	3.0	8	0	2	4
Spanish	3.29	4.5	4	3	0	1
English Literature	2.77	3.167	36	4	8	14
English Language	2.78	5.0	2	2	0	0
Studio Art	3.12	3.167	6	1	1	2

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. Honors 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:

$$(QP) * \text{Credit} \div \text{Total credits} = \text{GPA}$$

The average GPA of the 2010 graduating class was 2.992.

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 deciles 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 full year in grades 9 and 10 and 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*. Starting with the Class of 2012, all German public schools will condense the *Abitur* into 12 years, and the 13th year will be eliminated.

To enter the upper *Abitur* grades (11-13), a student must first earn the Middle School Leaving Certificate (*Mittlerer Schulabschluss MSA*) or the *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:

- 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
- .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 89 *Abitur* students who completed grade 13 in 2009. (1.0 highest – 4.0 lowest). The JFKS average was 2.05 while the Berlin average was 2.6. The 2010 *Abitur* average was the best JFKS has ever had.

<i>Abitur</i> Grades	Number of Students
1.0 - 1.5	24%
1.6 – 1.9	25%
2.0 – 2.7	31%
2.8 – 3.1	17%
3.2 – 3.8	3%

POST-GRAD STATISTICS

Plans for Matriculating High School Diploma & *Abitur* Students In 2010

Student Stated Plans	Grade 12 & 13 Graduates
University Study in Germany	10%
University Study in the U.S.	27%
University Study in the U.K.	40%
Universities in other countries	9%
Gap year, Military Service,	16%

MATRICULATING STUDENTS ACCEPTED AT THE FOLLOWING UNIVERSITIES IN 2010-11

Russell Group Universities in bold*

United States of America

American University
Boston College
Boston University

Brandeis University
Brown University (2)
Columbia University
City College of New York
College of William and Mary
Colorado State University
Connecticut College
Emerson College
Dartmouth University
Duke University
Fordham University
George Mason University
George Washington University
Hobart and William Smith
Harvard University
Hunter College of the CUNY
Miami Univ. Art & Design
New York University
Northeastern University
Oberlin Conservatory of Music
Princeton University
Pennsylvania State University
Pepperdine University
Regent University
Rutgers
Saint Leo University
San Diego State University
Suffolk University
Texas A&M University
Texas Christian University
The Juilliard School
The University of Texas
Univ. North Carolina Chapel Hill
Univ. of California at Los Angeles
Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of California at Berkeley
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Florida
University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts
University of Miami
University of Missouri Columbia
University of Seattle
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin
Wesleyan University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

United Kingdom

Aberystwyth University
Aston University
Bournemouth University

Edinburgh Napier University
Goldsmiths College, Univ. London
Imperial College London
King's College London
Kingston University
London College
London Metropolitan University
Loughborough University
Oxford Brookes University
Queen Mary
Roehampton University
Royal Holloway
School of Oriental and African Studies
Thames Valley University
The Robert Gordon University
University College London
University of Aberdeen
University of Bath
University of Birmingham
University of Bradford
University of Brighton
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge-Medicine, Philosophy
University of Derby
University of Dundee
University of East Anglia
University of Edinburgh
University of Glasgow
University of Greenwich
University of Hertfordshire
University of Hull
University of Kent at Canterbury
University of Leeds
University of Leicester
University of Manchester
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford-Physiology
University of Plymouth
University of Reading
University of Sheffield
University of Southampton
University of St. Andrews (Scotland)
University of Stirling
University of Strathclyde
University of Sussex
University of the Arts London
University of Warwick
University of Westminster
University of York

European Universities

Charité, Berlin
Humboldt University, Berlin
Freie University, Berlin
Maastricht University, Netherlands
Tilburg University, Netherlands

*The Russell Group represents the 20 leading UK universities which are committed to maintaining the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience and unrivalled links with business and the public sector.