

Answers to your questions in regards to the Diploma

Please read the document carefully before joining our Zoom Meeting tomorrow. We will not repeat the answers to the questions below.

- **How many students have been in the track Abi and Diploma over the last three years?**

With the current two grades, there are about 1/4 diploma students and 3/4 Abiturienten.

- **What's the latest time you can change your mind and switch between Abitur and HS Diploma?**

Generally, the decision on the degree (Abitur/Diploma) should be made upon submission of the Registration Form. Only in this way we can start with reliable planning for the coming school year. There may be exceptional cases after 11th grade and the counselor needs to be involved.

- **How many students out of 10th grade typically take an exchange year?**

This varies from year to year. In the last three years, it was around 5%.

- **We will visit the US and some colleges this summer but are planning to do the Abitur. If my child decides to change over the summer to a diploma, we should still be able to do this, especially since we could not visit universities last summer. Can you please confirm this?**

Generally, the decision on the degree (Abitur/Diploma) should be made upon submission of the Registration Form. This is the only way we can start with reliable numbers for master schedule planning for the coming school year. There may be exceptional cases after 11th grade and the counselor needs to be involved.

- **What does the daily schedule look like for 11th and 12th graders in the Diploma program? Are there many classes held during 9th and 10th period each day?**

This varies individually and depends on the subject choice. Generally, courses are scheduled in the 9th and occasionally also in the 10th period.

- **Do the Abitur and HS Diploma programs require the same amount of work?**

The answer cannot be generalized, as too many parameters play a role.

- **What kind of certificate can the school issue to certify language level in English and/or German? How does this depend on E1/E2 (or D1/D2) and on Abi/Diploma?**

The language level (B1/B2/C2) will be shown on the Abitur report card. We issue English proficiency certificates for E1 students when their language levels are questioned for college applications. If you wish to have official certificates please reach out to the respective organizations to get further information about specific tests such as the DSD, Cambridge/TOEFL, or DELF.

- **Will there be resources in the Diploma program for struggling students or those with special needs?**

Students with diagnosed dyslexia or dyscalculia are recognized for formal accommodations within school (e.g., extra time on exams). These plans are usually carried over from middle school. The School Counselors, Administration, and Support Staff work with students and parents from both programs to address special needs and provide support.

- **GPA calculator - could you please provide a GPA calculator so that we can calculate what the current GPA is? If you provide the criteria, we can also build one ourselves. This is very important for whether we select the German or English route (Abi or HS Diploma). Thank you!**

Students can ask the school Registrar, Alaina Mack, for their current GPA. There are also tutorials online to calculate it at home.

- **I know it's not possible to switch from Diploma to Abi, once you're in 11th grade. What about vice versa? How long can kids switch from Abi to Diploma (with the relevant number of APs to gain access to German universities)?**

There is no set answer but rather done on a case-by-case basis.

- **Could you please provide some insight into the AP International Diploma? How interested are universities (only US unis?) in this additional diploma?**

As taken from [CollegeBoard Website](#):

The AP International Diploma (APID) is a globally recognized certificate awarded to students who display exceptional achievement across a variety of disciplines. The award certifies academic excellence to colleges and universities all over the world. (But it's not a substitute for a high school diploma.)

The APID is available to international students attending secondary schools outside the U.S. and to U.S. high school students applying to universities outside the country.

You don't need to apply for the APID; it's automatically awarded in the year all eligibility requirements are met. If you earn the award, the College Board will notify you by email.

This is not something the John F. Kennedy school gives but is something the CollegeBoard awards. Information about earning it can be found on the CollegeBoard website. It is not an "additional diploma" and it is generally acknowledged as excellence in academic performance but CollegeBoard has indicated discontinuing this program.

- **With transcripts in the diploma track, it looks like there is a class ranking indicated, is that ranked based on students in the diploma track only?**

The class rank consists of all students from the entire grade.

- **In the two year high school diploma plan, there are classes such as AP-Biology and AP-Chemistry, it looks like they are offered in both years but it is the same class that can be taken in either year but not two classes right?**

AP Biology and AP Chemistry are two separate classes. They can be taken in either year.

- **Can you take an AP class twice (11th and 12th grade) to get a better grade?**

No, any individual circumstances should be discussed on a one-on-one basis with the counselor..

- **Is AP Seminar & AP research considered 1 AP?**

No - these are two AP's that are both a requirement for the AP Capstone Diploma.

- **Will the AP options change in 12th grade? Will they add different one and still be accessible for me?**

AP classes follow a process guided by CollegeBoard to be instituted at JFKS. Our school has fairly consistently offered the currently available selection of APs.

- **If I receive all of my credits by 12th grade, can I drop classes?**

Students must have a minimum of 28 class periods per year, regardless of credits.

- **Where do we turn in our 11th grade registration form? 2. Where do we turn in our AP class registration form? 3. When are these both forms due?**

Information can be found on the 8th slide of the Diploma General Information Presentation and under the Deadlines/Termine tab of the website: jfks.de/students/transition-information

- **Is it possible for diploma students to take Spanish (AP or regular) in the same semesters as Latin?**

This is highly unlikely but would depend on where the courses fall on the schedule.

- **Is Spanish AP a one year course? Do students usually take this in the 11th grade? Or could a student take regular Spanish in 11th grade and then AP Spanish in the 12th?**

Students can take AP Spanish as an LK (5hrs/week) or a GK (3hrs/week). It is suggested that if a student wants to attempt the AP exam that they take consult with the Spanish teachers as to which.

- **It looks like many classes offered are AP classes, are the grades from AP classes weighted more in the overall GPA calculation? Do the universities in the UK and Netherlands care about weighted or unweighted GPA?**

AP courses do receive weighting in the over GPA. The GPA reported to all schools outside of Germany is the weighted GPA.

- **For admission to a German University with a HS diploma: Does AP Art History or AP World History meet the requirement "1 further subject equivalent to a 12th grade class"?**

This information is fluid, and can change based on German authorities, however at this point AP World History has been accepted, but AP Art History has not.

- **For admission to a German University with a HS diploma: Does it take into account overall GPA or only AP classes and test results?**

This question is answered in detail in the College Planning document available on our website. Over-all courses in the 4 years of high school AND the AP examinations are utilized to gain direct access to degrees within the German university system.

- **What does a HS Diploma student have to do additionally to be accepted into a German university? I have heard the requirements have recently changed and became harder.**

Please see the College Planning document on the JFKS website.

- **Is Art History offered every year? or only for the 12th grade? or only in even years?**

AP Art History is offered every other year.

- **Does AP-Art History conflict with AP-Physics 1 & 2?**

Yes, partially. AP Art History is offered every other year. Please see the updated two year plan for next year's circumstances.