



Transition Information

Grade 6 to Grade 7

Elementary School to High School



Welcome Parents and Students!

We are glad you found your way to our presentation on everything you ever wanted to know about 7th grade and more information about the JFKS secondary school program (“High School”). Hopefully, you will find answers to your questions here, and by the end, be ready to fill out your child’s registration for the upcoming school year.



Table of Contents

- o Organization of classes
- o Language Considerations
- o Bilingual Buddy System
- o Music Ensemble Courses
- o Religion
- o Exit certificates and program choices
- o Student Support Services
- o Lockers
- o Online Registration Form

Organization of classes in grades 7-10

- Reshuffling of all students into six sections (a-f)
- Goal – Balance of:
 - instruction in German and English
 - German or English “mother tongue”
 - girls and boys
 - class size
 - second foreign language choices
 - accommodations
- Stay in the same homeroom for two years

Not possible to request certain section (ex: more German teachers, more American teachers, with friends, etc.



Transition grade 6 to grade 7



Courses offered in Grade 7

Hours per week

English:

4

German: Core/Kernprogramm Deutsch

4

AND

French or Spanish

4

-or-

-or-

German: Deutsch Intensiv

6

AND

Deutsch Aktiv

2

Mathematics

5

Biology

2

Chemistry/Physics (one semester each)

2

Social Studies

6

Physical Education

3

Music

2

Art

2

Homeroom

1

Total number of hours per week:

35



Transition grade 6 to grade 7



- Students in *Deutsch Intensiv* will receive two extra hours of interactive German speaking (*Deutsch Aktiv*).
- ‘Social Studies’ is a mixture of history, politics, geography and ethics taught by a team of teachers.



Language Program

Learning two languages equally is a core component of the school's bilingual, bicultural program. In 7th grade, all students will take the same core English class.

Students who are proficient in German will take core *German* class.

Beginning and emerging (A1-B1) German-speaking students will take *Deutsch Intensiv* and will advance to the core German class after reaching B1 in all competency levels: Hören, Wortschatz, Lesen, Schreiben.

Students intending to complete the *Abitur* must achieve B2 German at the beginning of the 11th grade.

Foreign Language Requirements

Courses in foreign languages are chosen so that students fulfill the requirements for the Abitur.

1. At JFKS, English is automatically the first foreign language (erste Fremdsprache).
2. Enrollment in the second foreign language (zweite Fremdsprache):
 - a) *must* happen at the beginning of grade 7 and continue *consecutively* through the end of grade 10 (in either French or Spanish) for all students in the *core German class*.
 - b) *can* happen at the beginning of grade 8 and continue *consecutively* through the end of grade 12 (in Latin, Spanish or French) for all students.

There is no possibility to start a new language after grade 8.

Buddy system at JFKS

Goal:

- Linguistic and intercultural exchange between native and partner language learners in German
- Creating opportunities for more intensive language encounters in order to experience the country, people and culture from the perspective of peers
- Strengthening the bilingual and bicultural aspirations of the JFKS
- Long-term friendships that have a positive effect on the social climate and joint learning
- enjoyment of the German language





Musical Ensemble (*optional*)

- Concert Band (Concert Band Instruments)
- Choir
- Orchestra (String Instruments)

♪ Anyone is welcome who has previously played an Ensemble at JFKS or outside of school.

♪ Full year commitment

♪ Performances: Fall, Winter & Spring concerts,

♪ Possibilities for participation at AMIS festivals

♪ Band/Orchestra meet Tuesdays and Fridays, 9th period; Choir meets one day per week, 6th period



Religion Class in High School

- ★ Religion Classes continue in High School, grades 7-10
- ★ Classes are 1x a week during 6th hour
(eat during class - get a pass to get in the front of the lunch line)
- ★ 1x a year, students go on a educational class trip

Religion Class in High School

Registration:

- ★ Students register for their religion class of choice in the transition from 6th to 7th grade.
- ★ Registration rolls over from year to year, 7-10th grades, without the need for renewed registration each year.
- ★ To change/unregister, students simply give the religion teacher a signed/ written note from a parent/legal guardian at the beginning or end of the school year.

Religion Class in High School

Class Options & Teachers:

Evangelisch / Protestant Religion Class:

[Lindsey McClintock](#) (english)

[Annette Schnaubelt](#) (deutsch)

Catholic Religion Class:

[Dorothee Hornfeck](#) (english)

[Adam Makowski](#) (deutsch)

Exit Certificates

Grade 10: MSA (Mittlerer Schulabschluss)

Federally recognized and legal exit certificate that a student can use to enter an apprenticeship or training program.

Possible to change school type (ex. Oberstufenzentrum)

Grade 12: Abitur

Highest German school certificate.

Allows for free entrance into German university

Recognized worldwide

Standardized program with required exams

Requirements: B2, 3rd language, includes grades 11 & 12 only

Grade 12: Diploma

Accredited by NEASC and recognized worldwide

Can be used in the US, Canada, Europe and Germany (with selected passing AP exams)

Advanced Placement (college-level courses)

No language or math requirement

Requires 26 credits from 9-12 grades



Program Choices

High School Diploma Abitur

Basic courses for the Diploma and the Abitur are included in the regular program for 7th to 10th grade students at JFKS.

As of 9th grade, students should begin thinking about which “path” or program they will pursue: American High School Diploma or German Abitur.



High School Diploma

- The diploma is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.
- It is recognized by Universities in the US, Europe, and Germany. Some additional requirements apply (i.e., AP classes).
- **Credits and grades for HSD transcripts start accumulating in the 9th grade and are officially listed and counted in the final GPA** (Grade point average).
- **Primarily** taught in English.



Abitur / gymnasiale Oberstufe

- The *Abitur* is considered the general university entrance exam in Germany.
- Officially begins in grade 11.
- **Primarily** taught in German.

Abitur Requirements

- Necessary prerequisites for the Abitur
 - at least B2 German Language level
 - 2nd Foreign Language

AND

 - MSA (Mittlerer Schulabschluss) is passed in 10th grade.
- Abitur students will also receive a High School Diploma assuming they have
 - a passing grade in math **all 4 years** and
 - a passing grade in US American History.



Student Support Services



•Academic Support

- Find support from subject teachers, homeroom teacher, tutors (Haus Reil keeps a list), School Counselor

•Social-emotional / Personal topics

- Reach out to Homeroom teacher, School Counselor, School Social Worker, or other Student Support Staff

•School Program decisions

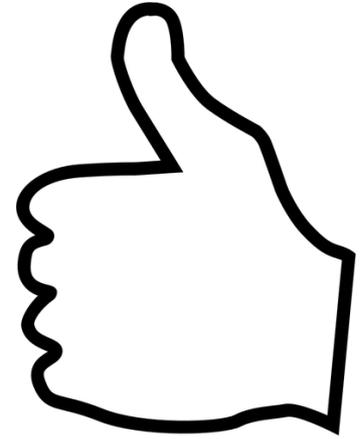
- Contact the Mittelstufenkoordination and/or School Counselor for individual concerns/questions

•Students with Accommodations

- Please reach out to Student Services Coordinator and/or School Counselor for further information regarding accommodations.

Transition Lessons Preparing for 7th

- Minute Meetings
 - Individual one-on-one meetings with middle school counselor
- Escape Room Activity
 - Lesson to learn about tips and tricks for middle school
- High School Student Panel
 - Student Q and A about how to be successful in middle and high school
- Brief tour of school
 - Small tour of the school to get acquainted with the layout of the building



Lockers 2026/2027

Karen Stout-Weider / Carsten Casper



Three simple steps to get a locker

1. Become a Verein member
2. Request a locker
3. Receive a locker



<https://theverein.com>



[The Verein](#) [Membership](#) [Events](#) [School Shop](#) [HS Lockers](#) [Request Funding](#) [Meeting Minutes](#) [Downloads](#) [Contact](#) [Imprint](#)



Welcome to The Verein

The Society of Parents and Friends of the John-F-Kennedy School of Berlin e.V. is a state-registered charitable organization committed to continuing the program of excellence at the JFKS. We are proud of our 50-year history as an independent but integral part of the JFKS community, working closely with the administration, teachers and students to maintain the exceptional educational and cultural environment of JFKS.



1 Become a Verein member

- To become a Verein member: under the heading “Membership” click on *Join the Verein* or *Dem Verein beitreten* or follow the instructions at <https://theverein.com/join-the-verein>
- Please ensure that you
 - a. **confirm your email address,**
 - b. **follow the link to set your password,**
 - c. log-in to EasyVerein to **confirm you have access** to your membership record.

2 Request a locker

- Log-in at <https://easyverein.com/public/jfkverein/profile> to access your membership record
- Select “My Details / My Profile”.
- **Please add the information for your child as shown on the next page**, highlighted in yellow, if it is not there already.
- The locker committee needs your child’s first name, last name and the class to clearly identify your child and assign a locker.
- **Please make sure you select the 6th grade class your child is currently in!**
- Take a moment with your child to read our [Special Bulletin on Locker Use](#), then check the box and **press “save”**.
- **Repeat this for all your children** who want a locker for the first time.
- An administrator will look at your membership record and then accept the application(s). Please allow up to two weeks time for new members. If there is any problem then they will reach out to you via email.

[Kontaktdaten](#)[Kontodaten](#)[Meine Ereignisse](#)[Partner](#)[Kind/Child 1](#)[Kind/Child 2](#)[Kind/Child 3](#)[Kind/Child 4](#)

Kind 1 / Child 1 - Vorname / Firstname

Jane

Kind 1 / Child 1 - Nachname / Lastname

Doe

Kind 1 / Child 1 - Geburtstag / Birthday

31.12.2014



K1 >>> Antrag auf Schrank durch Auswahl einer Klasse / Requesting a locker by selecting a class <<<*

DE: Ich bestätige, dass mein Kind und ich das Bulletin zu Schränken unter theverein.com/locker-agreement gelesen haben und wir uns mit allen Bedingungen einverstanden erklären. JFKS 6.-Klässler bitte AKTUELLE Klasse wählen. Nicht JFKS-Schüler, bitte KÜNFTIGE Klasse. EN: I confirm that my child and I have read the bulletin on lockers at theverein.com/locker-agreement and agree to abide by all terms and conditions. JFKS 6th graders select CURRENT class. Non-JFKS students select FUTURE class.

Current 6e



**Eine Änderung dieser Daten muss von einem Admin genehmigt werden.*

Speichern

3 Receive a locker

- **EUR 10 Lock Deposit** in cash will be collected on Orientation Day or the first days of school. Exact change is appreciated.
- EUR 5 will be returned when students permanently leave the school (i.e. graduate). Deposits should **ONLY** be paid to Locker Committee representatives and not to your homeroom teacher.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR LOCKER ASSIGNMENTS 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

- **MAY 15, 2026** – Until this date, you can request a locker for your children. Basically, you then need to log-in to our membership system and check a box that your child needs a locker for next school year. That's all.
- **AUGUST 14, 2026** – Orientation Day, lockers distributed to 7th graders and new students
- **AUGUST 17-19, 2026** – 8th-12th grade (not new) students receive their locker assignment and combination from their homeroom teacher/Locker Committee. The Locker Committee will be present in the high school and available to take questions and resolve any issues.

Online Registration

By **February 25th**:

Digital registration for **2026-2027** school year is **DUE!**

<https://forms.gle/gXZMmgJEfQekAvR98>

Abschnitt 1 von 17

Anmeldung für die Klassen 7-10

Registration for grades 7-10

Bitte füllen Sie die **Anmeldung** für das Schuljahr 2026/27 aus.
Please complete the **registration form** for the 2026-2027 school year.

E-Mail-Adresse *

Gültige E-Mail-Adresse