



Transition Information

Grade 7 to Grade 8



Welcome Parents and Students!

We are glad you found your way to our presentation on everything you ever wanted to know about 8th grade.

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. We would much rather meet you in person, and hope that will be the case soon!



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Courses offered in Grade 8

Hours per week

English:	Mother Tongue (E1), Partner Tongue (E2)	4
German:	Mother Tongue (D1), Partner Tongue (D2)	4
AND		
French or Spanish	(for D1 and D2 students only)	4
-or-		-or-
German Partner Tongue (D3A/D3B/D4)		6
AND		
Science		2
Mathematics (Standard or Honors)		4
Chemistry		2
Physics		2
Physical Education		3
Ethics		1
History / Political Science (one semester each)		2
Geography		1
Music		2
Art		2
Elective (depending on choice)		2/3
Total number of hours per week:		34/35



German Language Partner Tongue

The learning of the "partner tongue" receives strong emphasis at the John F. Kennedy School and is a core component of the school's bilingual, bicultural program.

German partner tongue instruction is offered on four different levels:

- D4 beginner (one year)
- D3B intermediate (one year)
- D3A advanced intermediate (two consecutive years D3AI and D3AII)
- D2 advanced

Students intending to complete the *Abitur* must achieve German Partner Tongue level D2 by the beginning of the 11th grade.

Foreign Language Requirements for *Abitur* Student

Courses in foreign languages should be chosen so that students fulfill the following conditions by the end of their high school career:

1. Enrollment in the first foreign language.
(At JFKS, this is German or English.)

2. Enrollment in the second foreign language:
 - a) no later than the beginning of grade 7 at least through the end of grade 10
(for French or Spanish), or
 - b) no later than the beginning of grade 8 through the end of grade 12
(for Latin, Spanish or French).



Elective Options

- Designed to expose students to subjects for later **AP courses** or **Leistungskurse** in grades 11 & 12
 - Two or three hours per week are available for an elective.
 - Course offerings are dependent on sufficient enrollment and the availability of a teacher.
 - See the presentations for the elective classes in the folder “Electives”.
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- Two Options:
 - Language Electives – **CONTINUED** from 8th grade
 - Non-Language Electives



Elective Options - Language

FRENCH
LATIN
SPANISH

Note:

- Language electives are a “**long term decision**”
- If the language is dropped for another elective, it cannot be picked up again
- The individual languages may be continued in grades 11 & 12 in both the High School Diploma and the Abitur programs
- “*Latinum-Vermerk*” will be awarded if latin is continued through 12th grade



Elective Options - Non Language

Art

Music

Drama

Science Lab

Musical Ensemble Courses

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

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

♪ Full year

♪ Performances: Fall, Winter & Spring concerts

♪ Possibilities for participation at AMIS festivals



Religion Instruction

- Offered in grades 7-10, 1 hour/week during Lunch
- A class trip is scheduled for each grade during the year and topic-related day trips are planned throughout each grade level

- Catholic Religious Ed.: English

Dorothee (Knab) Hornfeck : dorothee.hornfeck@jfksberlin.org

- Katholische Religionsunterricht: Deutsch

Mechthild (Mecky) Prost: mechthild.prost@jfksberlin.org

- Protestant Religious Ed.: English/German

Lindsey McClintock: lindsey.mcclintock@jfksberlin.org

- Evangelische Religionsunterricht : Deutsch

Annette Schnaubelt: annette.schnaubelt@jfksberlin.org

Exit Certificates and program choices(Abschlüsse)

Grade 10: MSA (Mittlerer Schulabschluss)

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

- (What can I do with my MSA if I leave after 10th grade)
- (Why might this be a good choice for me?)

Grade 12: Abitur

Highest German school certificate.

Allows for free entrance into German university

Recognized worldwide

Standardized program with required exams

Requirements: D2, 3rd language, Honors Math

Includes grades 11 & 12 only

Grade 12: Diploma

Accredited by NEASC and recognized worldwide

Can be used in the US, Canada, and Europe

Also in Germany (with selected passing AP exams)

Advanced Placement (college-level courses)

No language or math requirement

Requires 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 may decide which “path” or program they will pursue: an American High School Diploma or a 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.**



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 D2 German Language level
 - 2nd Foreign Language
 - Honors Math
- **AND**
- MSA (Mittlerer Schulabschluss) is passed in 10th grade
- An 8th grade student in D4 can not reach D2 level by the end of 10th grade and is therefore not eligible for the Abitur
- Abitur students will also receive a High School Diploma assuming they have a:
 - Passing grade in math **all 4 years**
 - Passing grade in US American History



Student Support Services

- **Academic – Seek help**
 - Subject teachers, homeroom teacher, tutors (Haus Reil keeps a list)
- **Social-emotional / Personal topics**
 - Homeroom teacher, School Counselor, Pädagogische Mitarbeiterinnen, Vertrauenslehrer*innen, Kontaktlehrer
- **School Program decisions**
 - Contact the Mittelstufenkoordinatorin and/or School Counselor for individual concerns/questions
- **Students with Special Needs**
 - Please make an appointment with the School Counselor regarding accommodations



Important Date

By March 9th:

Original, hard copy registration forms are **DUE** to the homeroom teacher!