



# Transition Information

Grade 8 to Grade 9



## Welcome Parents and Students!

We are glad you found your way to our presentation on everything you ever wanted to know about 9th 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.



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# Organization of Classes in Grade 9

The current 8th grade will be reshuffled and students will be reassigned to any of six sections of the 9th grade.





## Courses offered in Grade 9

### Hours per week

English:	Mother Tongue (E1), Partner Tongue (E2)	5
German:	Mother Tongue (D1), Partner Tongue (D2/D3A/D3B/D4)	5
French or Spanish	(for D1 and D2 students only)	3
-or-		-or-
AP Prep or Computer Science (CP) (only without 3rd language as core subject)		3
Mathematics		4
Biology		2
Chemistry		2
Physics		2
Physical Education		3
Ethics		1
History / Political Science		2
Geography		1
Music and Art		2
Elective (depending on choice)		2/3
<b>Total number of hours per week:</b>		<b>34/35</b>

\*Some subjects may be taught for only one semester.



# 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 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) must happen:
  - a) at the beginning of grade 7 and continue *consecutively* through the end of grade 10 (in either French or Spanish), or
  - b) at the beginning of grade 8 and continue *consecutively* through the end of grade 12 (in Latin, Spanish or French).

**There is no possibility to start a second language after grade 8 and receive the *Abitur*.**



# 9th and 10th Grade Math

- Parents choose whether quarterly tests taken in 9th grade and 10th grade math classes will count toward 40% or 30% of the overall math grade. The remaining 60%-70% of the overall math grade is based on classroom quizzes, homework, and participation.
- **If a student has selected the “Reduced Test Weight” option whereby tests count as only 30% of the overall grade for either 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade, the student will not have the option to pursue the German Abitur in 11<sup>th</sup> /12<sup>th</sup> grade.**
- **Students who opt for the reduced test weight would have “Reduced Test Weight” included on their report card with their math grade.**
- Rationale: In order to earn the American Diploma, students must pass three full years of math between grades 9 and 12. This requirement is not the same for the German Abitur. The “Reduced Test Weight” option is meant to create a “safety net” for students who struggle in math but must pass three years of math between 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade.



# 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”.
- 
- Two Options:
    - Language Electives – **CONTINUED** from 8<sup>th</sup> grade
    - Non-Language Electives



# Elective Options - Language

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 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

# Elective Options - Non Language

Art; Music; Drama\*

Social Studies; Philosophy

Biology/Chemistry

Science Lab

Math/Physics

Astronomy

Informatik\*\*

\* In order to take Darstellendes Spiel as a Prüfungsfach in the Abitur (4. PF), this elective has to be chosen in grade 10.

\*\* In order to take Informatik as an exam subject in the Abitur (3./4. Pf.), this elective has to be chosen in grade **9 and 10**.

## Music Ensemble (*optional*)

Starting in 9th grade, ensembles are **graded** classes

- 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, Berliner Dom

♪ Possibilities for participation at AMIS festivals

♪ Abitur students may register for these classes as a Grundkurs.



# 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)

# Praktikum / Internship

- will take place in spring, 2027
- two weeks (Berlin or Brandenburg close to Berlin)
- required for all 9th grade
- specific dates will be announced later this spring (in bulletin)
- Start looking for internship places early.
- part of the German grade in the 2nd semester
- informational parent-evening September, 2026
- Contact person: Herr Tajo Vetterick

## 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 entrance to German universities  
Recognized worldwide  
Standardized program with required exams

**Requirements: D2, 3rd language  
includes grades 11 & 12 only**

### **Grade 12: Diploma**

Accredited by NEASC and recognized worldwide  
Can be used for entrance to European universities  
with specific passing AP exams  
AP = Advanced Placement (college-level courses)  
No additional language or math requirement

**Requires E1 German by Grade 11  
Requires 26 credits from 9-12 grades**



## Program Choices (primary qualification)

### **Abitur or American High School Diploma**

Students formally decide which program they will pursue toward the end of Grade 10.

Basic courses for the Diploma and the Abitur are included in the regular program for 9th and 10th grade students at JFKS.

Most JFKS students keep both options open through Grade 10.

Students may choose the Diploma as their primary qualification going into Grade 9, but cannot switch to Abitur at a later time.

## Diploma Requirements

- GPA calculation – ALL grades 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>

<b>English</b>	<b>4 Credits</b>
<b>German</b>	<b>1 Credit for each year of attendance at JFKS</b> (U.S. Colleges require 1-3 years of one language)
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>4 Credits</b> (with 1 credit required in U.S. History)
<b>Science</b>	<b>4 Credits</b>
<b>Math</b>	<b>3 Credits</b> (U.S. Colleges prefer 4 credits)
<b>P.E./Sport</b>	<b>2 Credits</b> (Must take every semester)
<b>+Electives</b>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b><u>26 Credits</u></b> (minimum)

Note: A 5+ is failing.



# High School Diploma

- Credits and grades for HSD start accumulating in the 9th grade and count toward Grade Point Average (GPA).
- **ALL** grades count starting now!
- **Primarily** taught in English (must be E1 by the start of 11th Grade)
- **NOTE:** **Abi students also have a 9-12 transcript** which will be required if a student applied to colleges in the United States.



# John F. Kennedy School

German-American Community School

Teltower Damm 87-93

14167 Berlin, Germany

Tel: +49 30 90299 5021 - Fax: +49 30 90299 6868

www.jfks.de



Accredited by the New England Association for Schools and Colleges (NEASC)

Accredited by the Berlin Senate Department of Education, Germany

## Transcript

### Student: .

Date of Birth:  
Citizen of:  
Date Entered: September 08, 1999  
Date Withdrawn: June 28, 2012  
Current Grade: 12  
Cumulative GPA: 3.272

Date printed: December 19, 2024

not ranked(\*\*)  
MSA (10th Grade Exam): July 02, 2010  
High School Diploma: June 28, 2012  
Abitur: ----

Enrolled in the High School Diploma Program

School Year: 2008/09		Grade: 9		JFKS	
Subject	Title	Level	Grade	Credit	Q.P.
German	Partner Tongue Advanced	S	B+	1.000	3.000
English	English 9 - Mother Tongue	S	B	1.000	3.000
History	Age of Revolution and Nationalism	S	B	1.000	3.000
Mathematics	Integrated Mathematics II	S	C-	1.000	2.000
Biology	Biology	S	B-	1.500	4.500
Fine Arts	Arts & Crafts	S	C	0.250	0.500
Music	Music	S	A-	0.250	1.000
Computer Science	Computer Literacy	S	B	0.750	2.250
Elective	Art Elective	S	B-	0.750	2.250
PE	Physical Education	S	B	0.750	2.250
<b>Credits Attempted: 8.250</b>				<b>Credits Completed: 8.250</b>	<b>Quality Points: 23.750</b>
					<b>GPA: 2.879</b>

School Year: 2009/10		Grade: 10		JFKS	
Subject	Title	Level	Grade	Credit	Q.P.
German	Partner Tongue Advanced	S	B-	1.000	3.000
English	English 10 - Mother Tongue	S	C+	1.000	2.000
U.S. History	U.S. History	S	B	1.000	3.000
Geography	Urban Geography: Berlin / Sustainability & Globalization	S	B-	0.250	0.750
Mathematics	Integrated Mathematics III	S	C+	1.000	2.000
Science	Lab Elective 10	S	B	0.500	1.500
Science	General Chemistry	S	B	1.500	4.500
Fine Arts	Arts & Crafts	S	B	0.250	0.750
Computer Science	Web Development	S	B+	0.750	2.250
PE	Physical Education	S	B+	0.750	2.250
<b>Credits Attempted: 8.000</b>				<b>Credits Completed: 8.000</b>	<b>Quality Points: 22.000</b>
					<b>GPA: 2.750</b>

School Year: 2010-2011 Grade: 11 JFKS						
Subject	Title	Level	Sem I	Sem II	Credit	Q.P.
English	AP English Literature & Composition - American Lit.	H	B+	B+	1.000	4.000
History	AP European History	H	B	B+	1.000	4.000
Political Science	AP Comparative Government	H	B	A-	1.000	4.500
German	Partner Tongue - German Literature I		C+	B	1.000	2.500
Mathematics	Pre-Calculus	S	A	C+	1.000	3.000
Physics	High School Physics	S	B+	B+	1.000	3.000
Fine Arts	Introduction to Photography	S	A-	B-	0.750	2.625
PE	Soccer	S	B		0.250	0.750
PE	Track and Field	S		B	0.250	0.750
<b>Credits Attempted: 7.250</b>					<b>Credits Completed: 7.250</b>	
<b>Quality Points: 25.125</b>					<b>GPA: 3.466</b>	

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John F. Kennedy School, Berlin, Germany

School Year: 2011-2012 Grade: 12 JFKS						
Subject	Title	Level	Sem I	Sem II	Credit	Q.P.
English	AP English Literature & Composition - British/World Lit.	H	A-	B	1.000	4.500
Psychology	AP Psychology	H	A-	A-	1.000	5.000
Mathematics	AP Calculus AB	H	A-	A-	1.000	5.000
Physics	AP Physics (B)	H	A-	A-	1.000	5.000
German	AP German Language & Culture	S	B	B	1.000	3.000
PE	Badminton	S	B+	B+	0.500	1.500
<b>Credits Attempted: 5.500</b>					<b>Credits Completed: 5.500</b>	
<b>Quality Points: 24.000</b>					<b>GPA: 4.364</b>	

**Cumulative Credits Attempted: 29.000 Cumulative Credits Completed: 29.000 Cumulative Quality Points: 94.975**  
 (Final unweighted GPA: 3.030)

**Graduation Credits: 29.000**

Remark: S = Standard; H = Honors

Cumulative GPA (top left of transcript) is the "weighted" GPA. Credits for GPA do not include credits for courses with a grade P.



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## Transcript

### Student:

Date of Birth: Germany  
Citizen of: Germany  
Date Entered: August 22, 2022  
Date Withdrawn: June 29, 2024  
Current Grade: 12  
Cumulative GPA: 3.856

Class of 2024

Date printed: July 09, 2024

Rank: Top 30%  
MSA (10th Grade Exam):  
High School Diploma: June 29, 2024  
Abitur: June 29, 2024

Enrolled in the German Abitur and High School Diploma Program

School Year: 2019-2020 Grade: 9 Leininger-Gymnasium, Gruenstadt						
Subject	Title	Level	Grade	Credit	Q.P.	
German	German Mother Tongue	S	B+	1.000	3.000	
English	English	S	A	0.750	3.000	
Foreign Language	French	S	B+	0.750	2.250	
Social Studies	Civics	S	B+	0.250	0.750	
Social Studies	Geography	S	A	0.250	1.000	
Social Studies	History	S	B+	0.250	0.750	
Mathematics	Mathematics	S	B+	1.000	3.000	
Science	Chemistry	S	A	0.750	3.000	
Science	Physics	S	B+	0.750	2.250	
Arts	Art	S	B+	0.500	1.500	
Arts	Music	S	A	0.500	2.000	
Electives	Natural Science Elective	S	A	0.250	1.000	
Electives	Evangelical Religion	S	B+	0.250	0.750	
PE	PE	S	B+	0.750	2.250	
Credits Attempted: 8.000				Credits Completed: 8.000	Quality Points: 26.500	GPA: 3.312

School Year: 2020-2021 Grade: 10 Leininger-Gymnasium, Gruenstadt						
Subject	Title	Level	Grade	Credit	Q.P.	
German	German Mother Tongue	S	B+	1.000	3.000	
English	English	S	A	0.750	3.000	
Foreign Language	French	S	B+	0.750	2.250	
Social Studies	Civics	S	B+	0.250	0.750	
Social Studies	Geography	S	B+	0.250	0.750	
Social Studies	History	S	B+	0.250	0.750	
Mathematics	Mathematics	S	B+	1.000	3.000	
Science	Biology	S	A	0.500	2.000	
Science	Chemistry	S	A	0.500	2.000	
Science	Physics	S	B+	0.500	1.500	
Arts	Art	S	B+	0.250	0.750	
Arts	Music	S	C+	0.250	0.500	
Electives	Natural Science Elective	S	A	0.250	1.000	
Electives	Evangelical Religion	S	B+	0.250	0.750	
PE	PE	S	B+	0.750	2.250	
Credits Attempted: 7.500				Credits Completed: 7.500	Quality Points: 24.250	GPA: 3.233

School Year: 2021-2022 Grade: 11 Westover School, Middlebury, CT, USA						
Subject	Title	Level	Grade	Credit	Q.P.	
Mathematics	Pre-Calculus	H	A+	1.000	5.000	
Science	AP Chemistry	H	A	1.000	5.000	
English	English: Mirth and Passing	S	A-	1.000	4.000	
English	English: Family, Legacy & Identity	S	A-	0.500	2.000	
Social Studies	History: Native American History	S	A	0.500	2.000	
Social Studies	History: Topical Events 1960-Present	S	A+	0.500	2.000	
Science	Biology	S	A+	1.000	4.000	
PE	Swimming	S	P	0.000	n/a	
PE	Thirds Volleyball	S	P	0.000	n/a	
Credits Attempted: 5.500				Credits Completed: 5.500	Quality Points: 24.000	GPA: 4.364

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John F. Kennedy School, Berlin, Germany

School Year: 2022-2023 Grade: 11 JFKS						
Subject	Title	Level	Sem I	Sem II	Credit	Q.P.
Biology	Physiology/Ecology	H	A	A	1.000	5.000
Chemistry	Thermodynamics/Electrochemistry	H	A	A	0.500	2.500
Chemistry	Chemical Equilibrium/Acids & Bases	H	A	A+	0.500	2.500
German	Language & Literature in Society and History	S	A	A+	0.750	3.000
English	English 11 - American Literature & Composition	S	A	A	1.000	4.000
U.S. History	U.S. History	S	A	A	1.000	4.000
Geography	Regional Planning/Urban & Human Geography in Berlin and Europe	S	A	A	0.750	3.000
Mathematics	Calculus/Probability	S	A	A	0.750	3.000
Drama	Exploration & Performance	S	A	A+	0.750	3.000
PE	Tennis	S	A	A	0.500	2.000
Credits Attempted: 7.500				Credits Completed: 7.500	Quality Points: 32.000	GPA: 4.267

School Year: 2023-2024 Grade: 12 JFKS						
Subject	Title	Level	Sem I	Sem II	Credit	Q.P.
Biology	Genetics/Evolution	H	A+	A+	1.000	5.000
Chemistry	Organic Chemistry: Carbohydrates & Proteins	H	A	A	0.500	2.500
Chemistry	Organic Chemistry: Colors & Plastics	H	A	A	0.500	2.500
German	Types and Structure of Text; Language Use	S	A+	A+	0.750	3.000
English	English 12 - British/World Literature & Composition	S	A	A	1.000	4.000
History	History of the 20th Century	S	A	A	0.750	3.000
Geography	Developing Countries	S	A	A	0.750	3.000
Mathematics	Analytic Geometry/Calculus/Probability & Statistics	S	A	A+	0.750	3.000
Music	Choir	S	A+	A+	0.750	3.000
Drama	Exploration & Performance	S	A	A+	0.750	3.000
PE	Swimming	S	A	A+	0.250	1.000
PE	Volleyball	S	A	A	0.250	1.000
Credits Attempted: 8.000				Credits Completed: 8.000	Quality Points: 34.000	GPA: 4.250

Cumulative Credits Attempted: 36.500 Cumulative Credits Completed: 36.500 Cumulative Quality Points: 140.750 Cumulative GPA: 3.856  
(Final unweighted GPA: 3.692)

Abitur Grade: 1 \*)

Graduation Credits: 36.500

Remark: S = Standard; H = Honors

Cumulative GPA (top left of transcript) is the "weighted" GPA. Credits for GPA do not include credits for courses with a grade P.

\*) The Abitur is the required German university entrance exam and diploma. Abitur Grades between 1,0 (highest) and 4,0 (lowest passing grade).

# 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 by end of 10th grade, ideally at the end of 9th grade
  - 2nd Foreign Language
  - Standard Math
- **AND**
- MSA (Mittlerer Schulabschluss) is passed in 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
- An 8th grade student in D4 cannot 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 and english **all 4 years**
  - 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 Mr. Getschow and/or School Counselor for further information regarding accommodations.

# Online Registration

Digital registration for 2026-2027 school year due **February 25th!**

<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