



Transition Information

Grade 9 to Grade 10



Welcome Parents and Students!

We are glad you found your way to our presentation on everything you ever wanted to know about 10th 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. We would much rather meet you in person, and hope that will be the case soon!

We are very grateful to the Parent Council Board for support and guidance in presenting this information and providing a forum for collecting any questions you may have at the end.

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Organization of Classes in Grade 10

The 10th grade is organized into six sections (10 a,b,c,d,e,f)

No section changes are made from grade 9.

In all six sections, students may work toward both the American High School Diploma and the German Abitur.

Courses offered in Grade 10

		<u>Hours per week</u>	
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	Required for Abitur
-or-		-or-	
AP Seminar or Computer Science	(only without 3rd language as core subject)	3	Capstone Diploma option
Mathematics (Standard or Honors)		4	Honors is required for Abitur
Biology		2	
Chemistry		2	
Physics		2	
Physical Education		3	
Ethics		1	
History / Political Science	(one semester each)	2	
Geography		1	
Music and Art	(one semester each)	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 through at least 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, French, or Spanish)

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/9th 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

Drama

Social Studies

Biology/Chemistry

Science Lab

Math/Physics

Informatik*

* in order to take Informatik as a Prüfungsfach in the Abitur, this elective has to be chosen in grade 10

Musical Ensemble Courses

- Concert Band
- Choir
- Orchestra

Anyone is welcome who has previously played an ensemble at JFKS or outside of school. (Contact the directors for information on auditions.)

Full year, graded class

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

Performances: Fall, Winter & Spring concerts, Berliner Dom

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
- Katholischer Religionsunterricht: Deutsch
Mechthild (Mecky) Prost: mechthild.prost@jfksberlin.org
- Protestant Religious Ed.: English/German
Lindsey McClintock: lindsey.mcclintock@jfksberlin.org
- Evangelischer 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

MSA (Mittlerer Schulabschluss)

 •Presentation

 •German

 •Math

 •English written

 • English oral

The MSA consists of

- a) Class grades of grade 10
- b) Exam grades

High School Diploma

- For all students in 10th grade, the necessary prerequisites for the HSD are provided.
- All students in 10th grade are earning **credits** for the HSD.
- **ALL** grades count !
- **Credits and grades for transcripts start accumulating in the 9th grade and are officially listed and counted in the final GPA.**
- **Abitur** students should be aware that they also have a transcript (same as HSD, with a GPA and all grades 9-12), and universities outside of Germany might ask for it even though you have the Abitur!

Diploma Requirements

- GPA calculation – ALL grades 9th through 12th

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

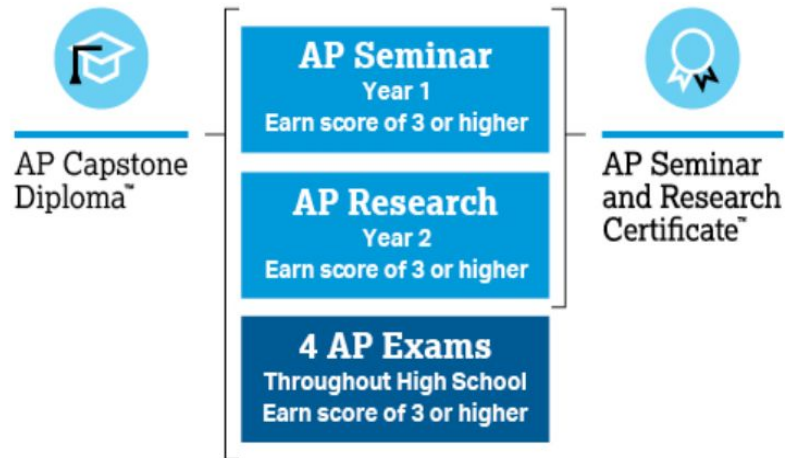
Additional Diploma Programs

- AP Capstone

Students can earn the AP Capstone Diploma™ or the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing receive the AP Capstone Diploma™.

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research but not on four additional AP Exams receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.



Abitur / Gymnasiale Oberstufe

After successfully completing the middle school (grades 7-10) and the MSA exam (Mittlerer Schulabschluss), students may be promoted to the *Gymnasiale Oberstufe*, providing the following prerequisites are fulfilled:

- 1) German by grade 11 at least at the D2 level.
- 2) 2nd foreign language starting in 7th or 8th grade.
- 3) Have completed 2 years (9th and 10th gr.) of *Honors* designated Math course work

At JFKS, basic courses for the American High School Diploma are included in the regular program for the *Abitur* candidates. Students in the *Gymnasiale Oberstufe* also have the potential of earning the high school diploma. Please note: Failing grades (“5+” or below) in a required subject (such as math or US History) may prevent a student from receiving the high school diploma even though that student may be promoted into a higher grade and may receive credit for the *Abitur*. The *Abitur* is considered the general university entrance exam in Germany. A student can also opt to follow a rigorous High School Diploma program with specific AP exams to gain entrance to German universities.

Other Changes

Open Campus-Regulation:

10th grade students **may** leave campus

- Signature of the legal guardian and of the homeroom teacher required
- This is a privilege, not a right. It can be revoked at any time.
- Special circumstances might occur due to COVID-19 and the Hygiene Plan.

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!