



# 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.



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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 programs, the American High School Diploma and the German Abitur.

# Courses offered in Grade 10

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	Required for Abitur
-or-		-or-	
AP Seminar or Computer Science	(only without 3rd language as core subject)	3	Capstone Diploma option
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* Students

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).

**It is not possible to start a second foreign language after grade 8 and still obtain the *Abitur*.**



## 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 grade 8 / 9
  - 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 grade 12.

# Elective Options - Non Language

Art

Drama \*

Biology / Chemistry

Science Lab

Math / Physics

Informatik\*\*

Macroeconomics

Journalism and Media Studies

\* 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 a Prüfungsfach in the Abitur (3./4. PF), this elective has to be chosen in grade 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 for a maximum of one school year.



# Religion Class in High School

- ★ Religion Classes continue in High School, grades 7-10
- ★ Classes are once a week during 6th hour  
(eat during class - get a pass to get in the front of the lunch line)
- ★ Once 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 provide the religion teacher with a signed written note from a parent or 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)

# MSA (Mittlerer Schulabschluss)



•Presentation



•German



•Math



•English written



•English oral

The MSA consists of

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

## 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 entry to German universities.

An internationally recognized school certificate.

Standardized program with required exams.

**Requirements: D2, 3rd language, Math (tests counting as 40% of the overall math grade) includes grades from class 11 and 12 only**

### Grade 12: Diploma

Accredited by NEASC and recognized worldwide.

Can be used for university entrance in Europe with passing specific AP exams.

AP = Advanced Placement (college-level courses)

No additional language or math requirement.

**Requires E1 by start of 11th Grade  
Requires 26 credits from grades 9-12 grades**

# High School Diploma

- All students in 10<sup>th</sup> grade are earning **credits** toward the HSD.
- **ALL** grades count!
- **Primarily** taught in English in last two years.
- Credits and grades for transcripts start accumulating in the 9th grade and are officially listed and counted in the final GPA.
- **Abitur** students have a U.S. transcript (with a GPA and all grades 9-12), and universities in the U.S. will require this for admission.



# 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 a second 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> (taken each semester of high school)
<b>+Electives</b>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b><u>26 Credits</u></b> (minimum)

Note: A 5+ is failing in the Diploma.

# Additional Diploma Program

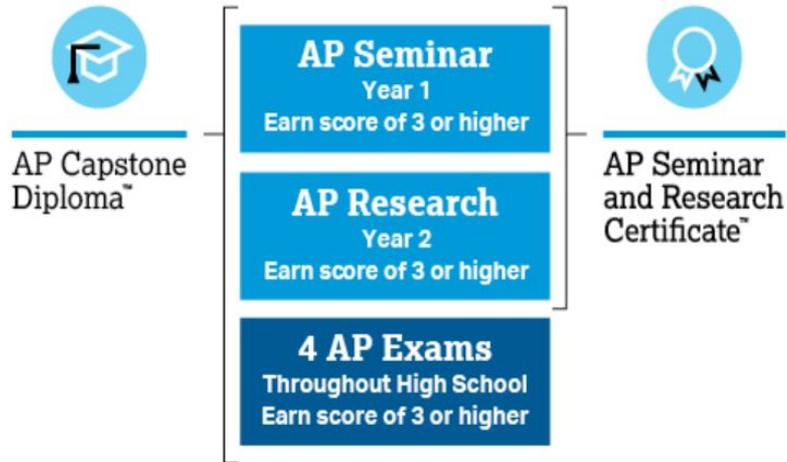
## AP Capstone - 2 year program

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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 at the D2 level by grade 11 at least.
- 2) 2nd foreign language starting in 7th or 8th grade.
- 3) Completion of two years (grades 9 and 10) of a regularly weighted mathematics course.

At JFKS, the basic courses required for the American High School Diploma are included in the regular program for Abitur candidates. Students in the *Gymnasiale Oberstufe* therefore also have the opportunity to earn the High School Diploma.

Please note: failing grades (“5+” or below) in a required subject (such as Mathematics or U.S. History) may prevent a student from receiving the High School Diploma, even if the student is promoted to the next grade level and earns credit toward the Abitur.

The Abitur is considered the general university entrance qualification in Germany. Alternatively, students may choose to follow a rigorous High School Diploma program that includes specific AP exams in order to gain admission to German universities.



## Other Changes

Open Campus-Regulation:

10th grade students **may** leave campus.

- Signaturer of the legal guardian and of the homeroom teacher are required.
- This is a privilege, not a right. It can be revoked at any time.

## 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

- Support from Mr. Getschow or School Counselor

# Online Registration

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