

High School Profile 2013-14
The John F. Kennedy School
The German-American Community School
Teltower Damm 87-93
14167 Berlin, Germany
www.jfks.de

CEEB CODE: 734142



Accreditation: United States: New England Association of Schools and Colleges
Germany: The Board of Ministers of Cultural Affairs

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Information

SCHOOL

The John F. Kennedy School (JFKS), founded in 1960, is a bilingual, bicultural, K–12 institution, located in the Steglitz-Zehlendorf district of Berlin, Germany. The school is a tuition-free **German public school** governed under a special act of the Berlin parliament for the purpose of creating bi-national understanding. The student body of approximately 1655 students, K–12, comes from varied social and economic backgrounds and is 55% German, 40% American, and 5% other nationalities.

ADMISSION

The Kennedy School is a college-preparatory facility. Admission is competitive and selective. All admissions are probationary for one semester. Students and parents seeking placement at the school should complete an application which appears on the website: www.jfks.de.

PROGRAM

Students in grades 9 – 12 may elect to seek either the **German *Abitur*** and/or the **American High School Diploma**. All courses in the high school diploma program are college preparatory, lead to an American diploma, and qualify one for admission to U.S. universities. Diploma students who successfully pass Advanced Placement exams, the SAT, or ACT, may also be admitted to German, British, or other world universities. The successful completion of the *Abitur* program qualifies students for entry into German post-secondary schools as well as universities around the world. The language of instruction may be in English or German.

UNIVERSITY QUALIFYING SCORES

The ACT and SAT I scores are used for scholarship and admission purposes by the universities. The **average scores for the past four years** at the John F. Kennedy School compare favorably with U.S. averages as follows:

TEST JFKS	JFKS Average	U.S. Average
ACT Composite	27	21
SAT I Critical Reading	587	505
SAT I Math	576	517
SAT I Writing	574*	494*

*the writing section began only in 2006

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

The **Advanced Placement (AP)** program enables students with grades of 3, 4, or 5 to obtain college credits at participating universities in the U.S. In other parts of the world the AP exam scores are used for admission. The May 2013 results indicated that 257 exams were given to 107 students. The results are as follows: (5 highest---1 lowest)

Five Year Trend	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total Students	108	102	83	57	107
Number of Exams	245	248	228	145	257
AP Students with a Score of 3+	100	95	79	54	98
% of AP students with a Score of 3+	92.6	93.1	95.2	94.7	91.6

TOTAL AP Students at JFKS 2013 – 107	5	4	3	2	1	Exam Total
Number of Exams	98	67	52	33	7	257
Percentage of Total Exams	38	26	20	13	3	100
Number of AP Students	68	46	39	29	6	
Subject Totals 2013						
Art History		4	2	2		8
Music Theory	1		1			2
Studio Art - 2-D Design Portfolio			1			1
Studio Art - Drawing Portfolio		4			1	5

English Language and Composition	1	2	1			4
English Literature and Composition	10	21	18	13	1	63
Comparative Government and Politics	3	2	4	1		10
European History	2	3	1		1	7
Psychology	9	5				14
United States History	9	3	1			13
World History *			1			1
Calculus AB	7	3	4	1		15
Statistics	3		2	2	1	8
Biology		6	5	3		14
Chemistry	1	3	7	4	1	16
Environmental Science	2	3			1	6
Physics B	4			3	1	8
Physics C - Electricity and Magnetism **				1		1
Physics C - Mechanics **				1		1
French Language and Culture	3	3	1			7
German Language and Culture	41	5	3			49
Latin *				2		2
Spanish Language *	1					1
* - Students Self Studied - did not take an AP course						
** - JFKS graduate - self studied						

GRADE POINT AVERAGE, GRADING SCALE, CLASS RANK

Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated on the American 4.0 scale using all grades for eligible courses taken in years 9–12, including courses repeated. Honor courses are marked on the transcript and are weighted by giving grades (A through D) an additional Quality Point (QP). JFKS does not have Honors courses for grades 9-10. Honors designations for coursework taken outside of JFKS in grades 9–10 are noted but are not given weighted Quality Points. Honors courses in grades 11–12 are given one extra Quality Point for all A, B C & D grades (see Grading Scale table). Students enrolled in the High School Diploma program are not limited to the number of AP courses they are permitted to take. Students in the German Abitur program take two Honors (Leistungs) courses per year. The grading system for the Abitur program is established by the Berlin *Senatsverwaltung für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung* which is based on a rubric unlike the U.S. grading system and is generally based on an interval scale and extremely rigorous.

Grade Point Average (GPA) is determined by the following equation:

$$((QP)*Credit) \div Total\ credits = GPA$$

The median grade point average of the 2013 graduating class was 3.245.

GRADING SCALE

German Marks Grades 7-10	German Marks Grades 11-12	American Letter Grade	Quality Points (QP)	Weighted QP
1+	15	A+	4	5
1	14	A	4	5
1-	13	A	4	5
2+	12	A-	4	5
2	11	B+	3	4
2-	10	B+	3	4
3+	9	B-	3	4
3	8	C+	2	3
3-	7	C	2	3
4+	6	C-	2	3
4	5	D+	1	2
4-	4	D	1	2
5+	3	F	0	0
5	2	F	0	0
5-	1	F	0	0
6	0	F	0	0

CLASS RANK: The policy to discontinue individual student ranking on the transcript was instituted at the beginning of the 2008-09 school year. 9–10th grade students are not ranked at all. Students in the top 50% of the class in grades 11 – 12 are ranked by decile. New students are excluded from the ranking until the beginning of their 3rd semester at JFKS.

CREDIT POLICIES & GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits are defined as Carnegie Units, awarded based on how many periods the class meets per week. In order to earn the **U.S. High School Diploma**, a student must earn at least **26 credits** in the following courses:

4 Credits	English
4 Credits	Social Studies – one credit MUST be U.S. History (students not at JFKS for all 4 years must earn at least 3 credits)
3 Credits	Mathematics
4 Credits	Science
1 - 4 Credits	German (students must take German every grading period at JFKS)
2 Credits	Physical Education
5 – 9 Credits	Electives

Students who are working toward the Abitur may also receive an American High School Diploma if they meet the minimum diploma course requirements.

JFKS accepts students' transfer coursework from other United States, German and international high schools. Coursework completed outside of these three school systems is given transfer credit toward graduation, but individual courses are not recorded on the transcript or calculated into the GPA. For students visiting JFKS for one year or less, transcripts show only the work the student completed at JFKS. For students entering JFKS in the 10th & 11th grade, transfer credit is assessed at the beginning of the student's 3rd semester at JFKS. For new 12th grade students, JFKS accepts eligible transfer coursework at the beginning of the students' entrance year in order to evaluate credit for the US High School Diploma earned at the end of the 12th grade. Credits at JFKS are earned by year in grades 9 and 10 and by semester in grades 11 and 12. Students in the Abitur program also receive transcripts for grades 9 – 12 with their final Abitur average listed on the transcript.

U.S. HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA & ENTRANCE TO GERMAN UNIVERSITIES

A student may also apply for entrance to German universities with the high school diploma in lieu of the Abitur if he or she has also completed the following additional qualifications:

- High School Diploma + 3.0 GPA + 1300 minimum verbal & math combined score on the SAT OR minimum composite score of 28 on the ACT
- High School Diploma + 4-5 AP test results with a score of 3 or better (specific exams required depends on the student's course of study at university)

GERMAN PROGRAM OF STUDY – *ABITUR*

Entrance to universities in Germany is dependent upon the German secondary school leaving certificate, called the Abitur. Students can obtain the Abitur upon successful completion of 12 years of primary and secondary school and by passing the Abitur examinations. Nationally, only the top 30% of the German student population enters the Abitur track. Most German students at the Kennedy School as well as 15 to 20 % of Americans and other international students follow a program leading to the Abitur.

To enter the upper Abitur grades (11-12), a student must first earn the Middle School Leaving Certificate (MSA) or Realschulabschluss at the end of grade 10. To earn the MSA a student must pass qualifying courses in grades 9 and 10 and pass the written MSA exams in German, English, and Mathematics. Additionally students must provide an acceptable, oral group-presentation in a major subject of their choice.

The Abitur examinations are offered in the spring of each year to 12th-grade students. Students are admitted to candidacy for the Abitur upon successful completion of all requirements. Abitur exams are given in a student's Leistungskurse (honor courses) and three additional Grundkurse (fundamental courses) selected by the student. The exam in the two honors courses as well as in one fundamental course consists of a written test. One of the remaining fundamental courses is tested orally; the other in the form of a presentation exam. The final Abitur grade for each candidate is the average of grades in two blocks:

1. The marks earned in 24 fundamental courses in grades 11 and 12. The marks earned in the student's four semester honors courses, which weigh double in the calculation. (Approx. 67% of final grade).
2. The five exam results are given quadruple weight in the final calculation of the Abitur certification. (Approx. 33% of final grade).

Abitur Grade Distribution. The following is the distribution of final grade averages for the 149 Abitur students who completed grade 12 in 2012. (1.0 highest – 4.0 lowest). The JFKS average is 2.03 while the German national average is 2.40.

<i>Abitur</i> Grades	Number of Students
1.0 - 1.5 = A+, A	27=18%
1.6 – 1.9 = A-, B+	42 = 28%
2.0 – 2.7 = B, B-, C+	62 = 42%
2.8 – 3.1 = C, C-	9 = 6%
3.2 – 3.8 = D+, D	9 = 6%

POST-GRAD STATISTICS

Plans for Matriculating High School Diploma and *Abitur* Students In 2013

Student Stated Plans	Grade 12 Diploma Graduates (N=37)	Grade 12 <i>Abitur</i> Graduates (N=97)
University Study in Germany	7	26
University Study in the U.S.	18	10
University Study in the U.K.	4	14
Universities in other countries	2	8
Country of university still undecided		12
Vocational Training		2
Military or Civilian Service*	1	
Unknown	5	
GAP year prior to university studies*		28

*students in the GAP year and Military/Civilian Service categories are also counted in one of the other plan areas.

MATRICULATING STUDENTS ACCEPTED AT THE FOLLOWING UNIVERSITIES IN 2009-13
Russell Group Universities in bold*

United States of America

American University
 Boston College
 Brandeis University
 Brigham Young University-Hawaii
 Brooklyn College of the CUNY
 Brown University
 City College of New York
 College of William and Mary
 Colorado State University
 Connecticut College
 Emerson College
 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
 Florida International University
 Florida State University
 Fordham University
 George Mason University
 George Washington University
 Hampshire College
 Hobart and William Smith
 Hofstra University
 Hunter College of the CUNY
 Loyola Marymount
 Miami Univ. Art & Design
 Montana State University
 Moody Bible College
 New York University
 Northeastern University
 Oberlin Conservatory of Music
 Pace University
 Palm Beach Atlantic University
 Pennsylvania State University
 Pepperdine University
 Pfeiffer University
 Princeton University
 Regent University
 Rutgers
 Saint Leo University
 San Diego State University
 St. Mary's College of Maryland
 Suffolk University
 Texas A&M University
 Texas Christian University
 The Juilliard School
 The University of Texas
 Trinity College - Connecticut
 Univ. North Carolina Chapel Hill
 Univ. of California at Los Angeles
 Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst
 University of California at Santa Cruz
 University of Colorado at Boulder
 University of Florida
 University of Maryland
 University of Massachusetts
 University of Miami
 University of Missouri Columbia
 University of Richmond
 University of South Florida
 University of Virginia
 University of Washington
 University of Wisconsin
 Washington and Lee University
 Wheaton College

United States of America (Continued)

Wesleyan University
 Worcester Polytechnic Institute
 Xavier University

United Kingdom

Aberystwyth University
 Aston University
 Bournemouth University
 Edinburgh Napier University
 Goldsmiths College, Univ. London
Imperial College London
King's College London
 Kingston University
 London College
 London Metropolitan University
 Loughborough University
 Oxford Brookes University
 Queen Mary
 Roehampton University
 Royal Holloway
 School of Oriental and African Studies
 Thames Valley University
 The Robert Gordon University
University College London
 University of Aberdeen
 University of Bath
University of Birmingham
 University of Bradford
 University of Brighton
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge-Medicine, Philosophy
 University of Derby
 University of Dundee
 University of East Anglia
University of Edinburgh
University of Glasgow
 University of Greenwich
 University of Hertfordshire
 University of Hull
 University of Kent at Canterbury
 University of Hull
 University of Kent at Canterbury
University of Leeds
 University of Leicester
University of Manchester
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford-Physiology
 University of Plymouth
 University of Reading
University of Sheffield
University of Southampton
University of St. Andrews (Scotland)
 University of Stirling
 University of Strathclyde
 University of Sussex
 University of the Arts London
University of Warwick
 University of Westminster
 University of West Scotland
 University of York

International Universities

Charite', Berlin
 Concordia University, Montreal, Canada
 Erasmus University, Netherlands
 Freie University, Berlin
 Humboldt University, Berlin
 Inholland University, Netherlands
 Korea University, South Korea
 Ludwig-Maximilians University -Munich
 Maastricht University, Netherlands
 Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
 Technical University, Berlin
 Touro College, Berlin
 University of Regensburg, Germany
 Yonsei University, South Korea
 Viadrina University, Frankfurt Oder
 Hamburg University of Applied Sciences
 University of Vienna

*The Russell Group represents the 20 leading UK universities which are committed to maintaining the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience and unrivalled links with business and the public sector.