

Bilingual Evening Summary

13.Feb.2020

Organizer: Gretchen Vogel, Parent Council, with Nancy Voke

Teacher/Admin attendees:

ES- Racso Cortinas, Viola Rigney, Sarah Mattern, Kirstin Freytag, Franja Schumann, Adrienne Barkhymer

HS- Uli Ilmer, Lee Beckley

Over 100 people attended the meeting. Feedback was very positive, although many parents still had many questions when leaving.

Presentation by ES (V. Rigney und F. Schumann)

- In the lower elementary school (EC, 1, 2nd grades), the focus is to create a strong Mother Tongue (MT) and to transition to a partner tongue. (die Muttersprache soll ein starke Basis bilden worauf man bauen kann)
- 60/40 D/Eng in Entrance Class
- Lehrer sprechen in beide Sprachen; It is a requirement for lower ES teachers to be able to speak in both languages, and most things are said twice, once in each language (especially in Entrance class). In Entrance Class they work with poems and rhymes (Gedichte, Rhymen) ... on Tuesdays and Thursdays they work on syntax.
- In 1st and 2nd grade the children have 10 hours per week of language instruction (MT)
- In 2nd grade a child who only speaks a single language at home and is struggling in the partner tongue can be recommended to participate in an activity to strengthen the 2nd language—if enough teachers are available.

3-6th grades K. Freytag, A Barkhymer, S. Mattern

- In 3rd grade, children have 7 hours per week MT, 5 hours partner tongue (PT)
- PT levels are: E2 (all English PT students are in one group) and D2, D3a, D3b, and D4
- D4 is beginning German, D3b is “intermediate 1,” D3a “intermediate 2” and D2 advanced
- In 4th grade, children have 6 hours MT and 5 PT
- In 5th and 6th, there are 6 hours of both MT and PT
- Students in D4 and D3 can jump to the next level during a school year and should progress to the next level by the end of the school year. After 4 (3?) years at the school, a student should be in D2. This is the goal, but it doesn’t always happen.
- There is an effort to make sure students have a mix of German and American homeroom teachers during this phase. That isn’t always possible, because classes also have to be balanced for lots of other factors (gender, special needs, quiet/outgoing, etc.)
- How many children are new to the school in 3-6th grades? Approximately 5-8 children.
- How many subjects are taught in each language? (Science and music are essentially always in English. Other subjects will depend on HR teacher.)
- How do you teach two levels of capability in one class? For example some kids are bored in D2 or E2. How do you challenge them? That is a teacher’s job to do this and to give different students different levels of reading, writing, ...
- Can we switch our child to another mother tongue? No, not generally. The teachers say they can tell best which language group best serves the needs of a child.
- DMT – why can’t a student with special needs be in double mother tongue? Teachers look at the whole picture of the child when deciding whether they are candidates for DMT. It is significant extra work, and so kids who are struggling in other classes don’t need the extra burden of more work in language class.
- See presentation for DMT program. Approximately 15-20 students are in DMT per year ??

- Is there an equivalent of “math diff” for languages in 3rd and 4th for children particularly good at their partner tongue? No, but teachers should be giving advanced kids more advanced work to do.

Presentation by HS (Lee Beckley and Uli Illmer)

- English department focuses on reading, writing, speaking, thinking and listening.
- There are only two levels of English: E1 and E2.
- The content and skills focused on in E1 and E2 are similar; the level of complexity differentiates E1 from E2.
- The key to success is read, read, and read more.
- Other resources are on the HS library site including Khan Academy.
- In addition there is a writing lab on Thursdays during lunch period in B119 where students can get help with essay writing.

English Skills and Complexity

Skills in 7-10 th Grades	E1	E2
Example: Pages read	50 pages	10 pages
To Kill a Mockingbird	Read fast and independently; analyze in more depth	Read at slower pace; teach idioms and expressions; lower level of complexity
Writing 9 th grade	Multi-paragraph essay, maybe 4-5 paragraphs	Multi-paragraph essay with 3-4 paragraphs
Grammar & Vocabulary	Vocabulary from text with contextual emphasis	Use vocabulary book, list of 10 words to memorize, learn parts of speech.
Grammar	Focus on more complex structures within own writing	Focus on parts of speech and how to utilize them
Speaking	Practice speeches, expressing complex ideas	Read out loud, pronunciation
11th – 12th GRADE	ABITUR	HS Diploma
Same course offered	Leistungkurs (LK = AP course)	Advance Placement (AP = LK Course)
Basic English Course	Grundkurs	---No basic course---

Herr Illmer German Partner Tongue (D2) Fachleiter

- Covered the structure and goals.
- Most D1 /D2 students go the Abi path. DMT is a luxury problem to have.
- D1 D2 E1 E2 represent the bilingual part of the school.
- D2 is for those students who are at a level good enough to follow instruction in German.
- The basic rule is that a student after four years at JFKS should be able to follow instruction at a D2 level at least in the 5th year.
- He reinforced that just having German taught in class is not sufficient to learn German. Students need social activities outside of school in German. English is the language of the school, but Germany lies just outside of the gates of the school with a multitude of opportunities to speak German.
- What are the numbers @ end of the 10th grade? Is Abi possible? Are students proficient enough? – There are normally less than 10 students who cannot do this.
- Why do we defend the current structure and label it as bilingual?
- In HS 7th grade has support structures with teacher help during the lunch period. Students don't usually want more hours in their day. There is also online instruction.
- Scheduling the many language options is a huge challenge. Students should think about what their goal is and to work toward it. Which way HS Diploma or Abi?
- D2 students are graded as D2 students, with less stringent grammar and wortliche Ausdruck.
- Abitur for D2 vs. D1: Kein schriftliches Abitur mit Deutsch als Pruefung ablegen, Deutsch kann nur als 4. Pruefungsfach, muendlich gepueft in die JFK Schule.
- 25% of the student body which is not proficient in German. In 11th grade there are currently 27 Diploma students.