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SCHOOL OVERVIEW

The John F. Kennedy School (JFKS), founded in 1960, is a bicultural, bi-lingual, K-12 institution, located in the Steglitz-Zehlendorf area of Berlin, Germany. The school is a tuition-free German public school governed under a special act of the Berlin Senate (parliament) for the purpose of creating bi-national understanding. The student body of approximately 1625 students, K-12, comes from varied social and economic backgrounds. Though students are largely bi-national (German and American) there are also other nationalities represented.

ADMISSION

The Kennedy School is a college-preparatory school. 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.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Students in grades 9-12 may elect to seek either the German *Abitur* or the American High School Diploma. The language of instruction may be in English or German in 7-10th grade. Differentiation between the two programs predominantly begins after completion of 10th grade. At this point the language of instruction will become primarily that which is native to the program of choice. The exception to this is German and English language classes. All courses in the high school diploma program are college preparatory, leading to an American High School Diploma, and qualify one for admission to U.S., UK, and other world universities. Diploma students who successfully pass a specific combination of Advanced Placement exams may also be admitted to German university studies. Like the diploma program, successful completion of the *Abitur* program qualifies students for entry into German post-secondary schools as well as universities around the world.

ENROLLMENT

Total Number of Students: ±1625

High School (7-12): ±810	Elementary (K-6): ±815
Seniors: 124	
Juniors: 138	
Sophomore: 131	
Freshman: 143	

HIGH SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE

Period	Time
1	8:00 – 8:45am
2	8:52 – 9:37am
3	9:45 – 10:30am
4	10:37 – 11:22am
5	11:30am – 12:15pm
6	12:20 – 13:05pm
	20 min. break
7	13:25 – 14:10pm
8	14:15 – 15:00pm
9	15:05 – 15:50pm
10	15:55 – 16:40pm

MINIMUM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits are defined as Carnegie Units, awarded based on how many periods the class meets per week. In order to earn the **American High School Diploma**, a students must earn a minimum of 26 credits in the following courses:

SUBJECT	# of Credits
English	4.0
Social Studies (1 US His.)	4.0
Mathematics	3.0
Science	4.0
German (yrs. at JFKS)	1.0-4.0
Physical Education	2.0
Electives (Lang.,Mu.,Art., etc.)	5.0-9.0

DUAL CREDENTIAL OPTION

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

GPA and Grading Scale

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, Jugend und Familie* which is based on a rubric unlike the U.S. grading system and is generally based on an interval scale and extremely rigorous.

CLASS RANK

Ninth and tenth 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 they complete one full school year.

GRADING SCALE

German Marks Grades 7-10	German Marks Grades 11-12	American Letter Grade	American Percentile	Quality Points (QP)	Weighted Q P
1+	15	A+	90-100	4	5
1	14	A		4	5
1-	13	A		4	5
2+	12	A-		4	5
2	11	B+	80-90	3	4
2-	10	B		3	4
3+	9	B-		3	4
3	8	C+	70-80	2	3
3-	7	C		2	3
4+	6	C-		2	3
4	5	D+	60-70	1	2
4-	4	D		1	2
5+	3	F	0-60	0	0
5	2	F		0	0
5-	1	F		0	0
6	0	F		0	0

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 40% of the German student population enters the Abitur track. Most German students at JFKS 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) at the end of grade 10. To earn the MSA a student must pass grade 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 two *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 89 Abitur students who completed grade 12 in 2022. (1.0 highest – 4.0 lowest). The JFKS average is 2.06 while the Berlin average is 2.20.

Abitur Grades	Points
1.0 - 1.5 = A+, A	733-900
1.6 – 1.9 = A-, B+	661-732
2.0 – 2.7 = B, B-, C+	517-660
2.8 – 3.1 = C, C-	445-516
3.2 – 3.8 = D+, D	319-444

CLASS of 2022

- Median Abitur Score **2,06**
- Median Weighted GPA **3.391**

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Students who graduate from the John F. Kennedy School have unique access to schools around the world.

An American Diploma graduate can seek entrance into German and other European Universities using their high school diploma. If a student meets specific coursework, GPA and AP test combinations they can be directly admitted to post-secondary study. In Germany, requirements are evaluated by an outside authority called *anabin* through the online application system of *Uniassist*. Other countries will have different credentialing authorities.

More information on this topic can be sought on our website (jfk.s.de) in our College Planning document, or by working with the High School Counselor.

JFKS is also an SAT testing center. Students from all of Berlin, and its surrounds areas are able to test at our school. We offer 4 SAT exam administrations per academic year which happen in October, December, March, and May.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

AP Testing 2022

24

Subjects tested

86

Students who
took AP tests

254

Total number
of tests taken

78%

Received scores
of 3 and above

MATRICULATING STUDENTS ACCEPTED AT THE FOLLOWING UNIVERSITIES IN 2009-21

Russell Group Universities in bold* *Ivy League* Universities in *bold italics*

<u>United States of America</u>	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	University of Derby
American University	Univ. of California at Los Angeles	University of Dundee
Berklee College of Music	Uni. of California at Berkeley	University of East Anglia
Boston College	Uni. of California at Santa Cruz	University of Edinburgh
Brandeis University	University of Colorado at Boulder	University of Glasgow
Brigham Young University-Hawaii	University of Florida	University of Greenwich
Brooklyn College of the CUNY	University of Maryland	University of Hertfordshire
<i>Brown University</i>	University of Massachusetts, Amherst	University of Hull
Carnegie Mellon University	University of Michigan	University of Kent at Canterbury
Cedarville University	University of Miami	University of Leeds
City College of New York	University of Missouri Columbia	University of Leicester
College of William and Mary	University of Richmond	University of Manchester
Colorado School of Mines	University of South Florida	University of Nottingham
Colorado State University	University of Tampa	University of Oxford
<i>Columbia University</i>	University of Virginia	University of Plymouth
Connecticut College	University of Washington	University of Reading
Emerson College	University of Wisconsin	University of Sheffield
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Virginia Tech	University of Southampton
Florida International University	Washington and Lee University	University of St. Andrews, Scotland
Florida State University	Wellesley College	University of Stirling, Scotland
Fordham University	Wesleyan University	University of Strathclyde, Scotland
George Mason University	Worcester Polytechnic Institute	University of Sussex
George Washington University	Xavier University	University of the Arts London
Georgia Institute of Technology	Wheaton College	University of Warwick
Hampshire College		University of Westminster
<i>Harvard University</i>	<u>United Kingdom</u>	University of West Scotland
Hobart and William Smith	Aberystwyth University	University of York
Hofstra University	Aston University	
Hunter College of the CUNY	Bath Spa University	<u>International Universities</u>
James Madison University	Bournemouth University	BIMM Berlin, Germany
Loyola Marymount	Edinburgh Napier University	Bishop's University, Quebec, Canada
Miami Univ. Art & Design	Goldsmiths College, Univ. London	Charite - Berlin, Germany
Montana State University	Heriot-Watt University	Concordia University - Montreal, Canada
Moody Bible College	Imperial College London	Erasmus University, Netherlands
New York University	King's College London	Free University, Berlin, Germany
Northeastern University	Kingston University	Hamburg University of Applied Sciences
Oberlin Conservatory of Music	London College	Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany
Pace University	London Metropolitan University	Inholland University, Netherlands
Palm Beach Atlantic University	London School of Economics and Politics	Korea University, South Korea
Pennsylvania State University	Loughborough University	Ludwig-Maximilian University - Munich
Pepperdine University	Oxford Brookes University	Maastricht University, Netherlands
Pfeiffer University	Queen Mary University of London	Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poland
<i>Princeton University</i>	Roehampton University	Semmelweis University Budapest, Hungary
Regent University	Royal Holloway	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
Rutgers	School of Oriental and African Studies	Technical University, Berlin, Germany
Saint Leo University	Thames Valley University	Tel Aviv University, Israel
San Diego State University	The Robert Gordon University	Tilburg University, Netherlands
Skidmore College	University College London	Touro College, Berlin, Germany
St. Mary's College of Maryland	University of Aberdeen	University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
Suffolk University	University of Bath	University of Groningen, Netherlands
Texas A&M University	University of Birmingham	University of Regensburg, Germany
Texas Christian University	University of Bradford	University of Szeged, Hungary
The Juilliard School	University of Brighton	University of Vienna, Austria
The University of Texas	University of Bristol	Viadrina University, Frankfurt Oder
Trinity College - Connecticut	University of Cambridge-Medicine, Philosophy	Yonsei University, South Korea
	University of Chester	

*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.

**Ivy League* universities are a group of eight schools originally known for being in the same competitive sports conference. They carry academic and social prestige in the US with connotations of being highly selective in their admissions and academically elite.