

John-F.-Kennedy-Schule
Elementary and High School Language Change Policy
FINAL

June 2023 Working Group: Jones, Verteiler, Krauss, Freytag, Beckley
Final Edits by JFKS Administration September 2023

The entire JFKS education program strives for bilingualism. All students are expected to be fully bilingual by the end of 12th grade. All language goals are determined by the German Abitur and the American Diploma. All students are required to take part in English and German language instruction and are assigned to classes according to their ability.

Language levels are determined by entrance examinations and at the grade conference at the end of each school year. In some situations, teachers can recommend to their department chairperson a language instruction change. In the HS, the 7th grade teachers take the recommendation of the 6th grade teachers.

Exceptional students may enroll in Double Mother Tongue, and beginning in 5th grade a student may change from D2 to D1 or from E2 to E1 if the Partner Tongue teacher and (in the ES) the class conference / grade level conference suggest it.

If the Partner Tongue teacher recommends a change from D2 to D1 or from E2 to E1, the following steps are taken:

1. The student must have the mark of a 2 or better in the Partner Tongue.
2. The teacher/department may require that the student submit a written essay or take a reading exam to be evaluated by the department chairperson.
3. Parents must agree to the change in writing.
4. A *Language Level Change Form* must be completed and submitted to the administration for documentation in the student's file.

Once a switch to DMT has been made, the student will remain there. If a student does not maintain a passing grade of a 4 or better in the changed Mother Tongue class, or there are additional family concerns, the student and/or language teachers may request to switch the student back to the original Partner Tongue language, English or German, **within one year** after the change to Double Mother Tongue. After an evaluation of student performance, the change will become effective either with the beginning of the third quarter or the following school year. To ease the bridge between the Elementary and High School, students promoted to double Mother Tongue in 6th grade have **until the end of 7th grade** school year to determine if they can remain in DMT for the rest of high school.

Students promoted from grade ten to grade eleven will remain at the English or German level class, E1 or E2, D1 or D2, shown on the tenth grade report card for the two years of the gymnasiale Oberstufe.