

## English department meeting 27.11.23

--Ms. Hale, Fr. Aust and Fr. Krueger attended the beginning of the meeting to discuss scheduling issues with the department. In recent years the upper level (11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> grade) classes have become much bigger, with as many as 26 students in a class. This is a huge load on teachers. The scheduling team asked the department to let them know the preferred criteria for which classes (Leistungskurs vs. Grundkurs, mother tongue vs. partner tongue) should receive priority for splitting into smaller sections.

--The scheduling team also presented different options for scheduling the 12<sup>th</sup> grade "Abi prep" English class. Students who will take the Abitur written English exam take this class to help them prepare, since the test is written for students who study English as a foreign language. Currently Abi prep is two hours a week in a separate, ungraded class. The options included reducing the class to one hour a week and combining it with the students' main English class. Teachers will consider the options and let the schedulers know their preference.

--Teachers briefly discussed the grading procedures for the Abitur exams. This year teachers from Wilma Ruldolf Oberschule will serve as second readers for most written exams at JFKS. (Each Abitur exam is graded by the class teacher as well as a second teacher. If the grades are different, the teachers meet to discuss the final grade.) In past years, the second readers for English exams have been JFKS teachers, since the English standards are different from those at other schools. Teachers would prefer to have this continue. They will make this request to the administration.

--The department surveyed students about possible English electives that could be offered in 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade. Based on the responses, teachers have submitted proposals for electives in journalism, media studies and mythology.

--Teachers discussed the nominating process for the department's Harvard Award, which recognizes an outstanding 11<sup>th</sup> grade student.

Notes submitted by Gretchen Vogel