



Transition Information

Grade 6 to Grade 7

Elementary School to High School



Transition Grade 6 to Grade 7



Welcome Parents and Students!

We are glad you found your way to our presentation on everything you ever wanted to know about 7th grade, and more information about the JFKS secondary school program (“High School”). Hopefully, you will find answers to your questions here, and by the end, be ready to fill out your child’s registration for the upcoming school year.



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Organization of classes in grades 7-10

- The current 6th grade will be reshuffled and students re-assigned to any of six sections of the 7th grade (7 a-f).
- It is not possible to apply for a certain section.
- Our goal is to have an even balance of instruction in German and English.
- Grades 8, 9 and 10 are similarly organized into six sections.
- Students stay in the same class sections for two years.

Courses offered in Grade 7

Hours per week

English:	Mother Tongue (E1), Partner Tongue (E2)	4
German:	Mother Tongue (D1), Partner Tongue (D2)	4
AND		
French or Spanish	(for D1 and D2 students only)	4
-or-		-or-
German:	Partner Tongue (D3A/D3B/D4)	6
AND		
Deutsch Aktiv		2
Mathematics		5
Biology		2
Chemistry/Physics	(one semester each)	2
Social Studies		6
Physical Education		3
Music		2
Art		2
Homeroom		1
Total number of hours per week:		35



Transition grade 6 to grade 7



- Students in German D3/D4 will receive two extra hours of interactive German speaking to support the learning of the partner tongue.
- ‘Social Studies’ is a mixture of history, politics, geography and ethics taught by a team of teachers.
- Students from “double mother tongue” in the ES are placed in E1 and D1 in 7th grade. An important difference - there is no longer a “double mother tongue” group; in the HS, all English classes and all German classes are scheduled at the same time respectively.



German Language Partner Tongue

The learning of the "partner tongue" receives strong emphasis at the John F. Kennedy School and is a core component of the school's bilingual, bicultural program.

German partner tongue instruction is offered on four different levels:

- D4 beginner (one year)
- D3B intermediate (one year)
- D3A advanced intermediate (two consecutive years D3AI and D3AII)
- D2 advanced

Students intending to complete the *Abitur* must achieve German Partner Tongue level D2 by the beginning of the 11th grade.



Foreign Language Requirements for *Abitur* Student

Courses in foreign languages are chosen so that students fulfill the requirements for the Abitur.

1. At JFKS, English is automatically the first foreign language (erste Fremdsprache).
2. Enrollment in the second foreign language (zweite Fremdsprache) must happen:
 - a) at the beginning of grade 7 and continue *consecutively* through the end of grade 10 (in either French or Spanish), or
 - b) at the beginning of grade 8 and continue *consecutively* through the end of grade 12 (in Latin, Spanish or French).

There is no possibility to start a second language after grade 8 and receive the Abitur.

Buddy system at JFKS

Goal:

- Linguistic and intercultural exchange between native and partner language learners in German
- Creating opportunities for more intensive language encounters in order to experience the country, people and culture from the perspective of peers
- Strengthening the bilingual and bicultural aspirations of the JFKS
- Long-term friendships that have a positive effect on the social climate and joint learning
- enjoyment of the German language



How does that work?

- Kick-off event = speed dating: partner speakers get to know the native speakers
- Formation of language tandems
- Bucket list with 10 tasks of a linguistic, cultural, culinary, sporting and social nature
- At least 5 tasks must be completed and evaluated together
- Documentation via Canva posters, which are presented to the school community at the end of the school year

Bonus:

- Final event & joint day trip within Berlin
- Positive note on the certificate
- Berlin / Germany - knowledge that also enriches family life
- Networking between the buddy families possible





Musical Ensemble (*optional*)

- Concert Band (Concert Band Instruments)
- Choir
- Orchestra (String Instruments)

♪ Anyone is welcome who has previously played an Ensemble at JFKS or outside of school.

♪ Full year commitment

♪ Performances: Fall, Winter & Spring concerts,

♪ Possibilities for participation at AMIS festivals

♪ Band/Orchestra meet Tuesdays and Fridays, 9th period; Choir meets one day per week, 6th period

Religion Class in High School

- ★ Religion Classes continue in High School, grades 7-10
- ★ Classes are 1x a week during 6th hour
(eat during class - get a pass to get in the front of the lunch line)
- ★ 1x a year, students go on a educational class trip

Religion Class in High School

Registration:

- ★ Students register for their religion class of choice in the transition from 6th to 7th grade
- ★ Registration rolls over from year to year, 7-10th grades, without the need for renewed registration each year
- ★ To change/unregister, students simply give the religion teacher a signed/ written note from a parent/legal guardian at the beginning or end of the school year

Religion Class in High School

Class Options & Teachers:

Evangelisch / Protestant Religion Class:

[Lindsey McClintock](#) (english)

[Annette Schnaubelt](#) (deutsch)

Catholic Religion Class:

[Dorothee Hornfeck](#) (english)

[Adam Makowski](#) (deutsch)

Exit Certificates

Grade 10: MSA (Mittlerer Schulabschluss)

Federally recognized and legal exit certificate that a student can use to enter an apprenticeship or training program.

Possible to change school type (ex, Oberstufenzentrum)

Grade 12: Abitur

Highest German school certificate.

Allows for free entrance into German university

Recognized worldwide

Standardized program with required exams

Requirements: D2, 3rd language, Includes grades 11 & 12 only

Grade 12: Diploma

Accredited by NEASC and recognized worldwide

Can be used in the US, Canada, Europe

and Germany (with selected passing AP exams)

Advanced Placement (college-level courses)

No language or math requirement

Requires 26 credits from 9-12 grades



Program Choices

High School Diploma Abitur

Basic courses for the Diploma and the Abitur are included in the regular program for 7th to 10th grade students at JFKS.

As of 9th grade, students should begin thinking about which “path” or program they will pursue: American High School Diploma or German Abitur.



High School Diploma

- The diploma is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.
- It is recognized by Universities in the US, Europe, and Germany. Some additional requirements apply (i.e., AP classes).
- **Credits and grades for HSD transcripts start accumulating in the 9th grade and are officially listed and counted in the final GPA** (Grade point average).
- **Primarily** taught in English.



Abitur / Gymnasiale Oberstufe

- The *Abitur* is considered the general university entrance exam in Germany.
- Officially begins in grade 11.
- **Primarily** taught in German.

Abitur Requirements

- Necessary prerequisites for the Abitur
 - At least D2 German Language level
 - 2nd Foreign Language

AND

 - MSA (Mittlerer Schulabschluss) is passed in 10th grade
- An 8th grade student in D4 can not reach D2 level by the end of 10th grade and is therefore not eligible for the Abitur
- Abitur students will also receive a High School Diploma assuming they have a:
 - Passing grade in math **all 4 years**
 - Passing grade in US American History

Student Support Services



•Academic Support

- Find support from subject teachers, homeroom teacher, tutors (Haus Reil keeps a list), School Counselor

•Social-emotional / Personal topics

- Reach out to Homeroom teacher, School Counselor, School Social Worker, or other Student Support Staff

•School Program decisions

- Contact the Mittelstufenkoordination and/or School Counselor for individual concerns/questions

•Students with Accommodations

- Please reach out to Student Services Coordinator and/or School Counselor for further information regarding accommodations.

Welcome from your locker committee!

- ORIENTATION DAY: Friday, AUGUST 16th, 2024 New 7th graders get their lockers!
- WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?
 1. Join the VEREIN by May 15, 2024
<https://www.tuurio.com/dashboard/#/welcome/the>
 2. Fill out an [verein](#) APPLICATION FOR LOCKER USE due May 15, 2024
 3. EUR 10 DEPOSIT paid by your student at Orientation in August
- FORMS AND INFO
<https://theverein.com/locker-committee>
Follow the link for “Incoming 7th Graders and New Students”
- QUESTIONS: lockers@theverein.com



Online Registration

By **March 11th**:

Digital registration for **2024-2025 school year** is **DUE!**

<https://forms.gle/6diMXLZper9NXMHfA>

Anmeldung für die Klassen 7-10

Registration for grades 7-10

Bitte füllen Sie die **Anmeldung** für das Schuljahr 2023/24 aus.

Please complete the **registration form** for the 2023-2024 school year.