



Transition Information

Grade 6 to Grade 7

Elementary School to High School



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

- Reshuffling of all students into six sections (a-f)
- Goal – Balance of:
 - instruction in German and English
 - German or English “mother tongue”
 - Girls and Boys
 - Class size
 - second foreign language choices
 - Accommodations
- Stay in the same homeroom for two years

Not possible to request certain section (ex: more German teachers, more American teachers, with friends, etc.

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

- 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

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):
 - a) *must* happen at the beginning of grade 7 and continue *consecutively* through the end of grade 10 (in either French or Spanish) for all students in D1/D2
 - b) can happen at the beginning of grade 8 and continue *consecutively* through the end of grade 12 (in Latin, Spanish or French) for all students.

There is no possibility to start a new language after grade 8.

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

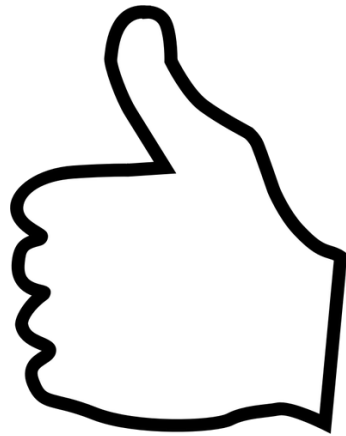
- Contact the Mittelstufenkoordination and/or School Counselor for individual concerns/questions

- Students with Accommodations

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

Transition Lessons Preparing for 7th

- Minute Meetings
 - Individual one-on-one meetings with middle school counselor
- Escape Room Activity
 - Lesson to learn about tips and tricks for middle school
- High School Student Panel
 - Student Q and A about how to be successful in middle and high school
- Brief tour of school
 - Small tour of the school to get acquainted with the layout of the building



Lockers 2025/2026

Carsten Casper



Three simple steps to get a locker



1. Become a Verein member
2. Request a locker
3. Receive a locker

1 Become a Verein member

- If you have not done so then please follow the instructions at <https://theverein.com/join-the-verein> to become a Verein member.
- Please ensure that you
 - a. **confirm your email address**,
 - b. follow the link to **set your password**,
 - c. and log-in to **confirm you have access** to your membership record.

2 Request a locker

- Log-in at <https://easyverein.com/public/jfkverein/profile> to access your membership record
- Select “My Details / My Profile”.
- **Please add the information for your child as shown on the next page**, highlighted in yellow, if it is not there already.
- The locker committee needs your child’s first name, last name and the class to clearly identify your child and assign a locker.
- **Please make sure you select the 6th grade class your child is currently in!**
- Take a moment with your child to read our [Special Bulletin on Locker Use](#), then check the box and press “save”.
- **Repeat this for all your children** who want a locker for the first time.
- An administrator will look at your membership record and then accept the application(s). If there is any problem then they will reach out to you via email.

Kind 1 / Child 1 - Vorname / Firstname

John

Kind 1 / Child 1 - Nachname / Lastname

Doe

Kind 1 / Child 1 - Geburtstag / Birthday

15.05.2013

Klasse / Class - **TO REQUEST A LOCKER, PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO SELECT A CLASS***

DE: JFKS Sechstklässler, bitte AKTUELLE Klasse auswählen. Nicht JFKS-Schüler, bitte KÜNFTIGE Klasse auswählen. EN: JFKS Sixth-graders, please select your CURRENT class. Non-JFKS students, please select your FUTURE class.

Current 6e

☒ **Schrank / Locker 2025/2026***

DE: Durch Anklicken des Kästchens beantrage ich einen Schrank und bestätige, dass mein Kind und ich das Sonderbulletin zu Schließfächern unter <https://theverein.com/locker-agreement> gelesen haben und dass wir uns mit der Einhaltung aller Geschäftsbedingungen einverstanden erklären. EN: By clicking the box, I request a locker and confirm that my child and I have read the Special Bulletin on Lockers at <https://theverein.com/locker-agreement> and we agree to abide by all terms and conditions.

*Eine Änderung dieser Daten muss von einem Admin genehmigt werden.

Speichern

3 Receive a locker

- **EUR 10 Lock Deposit** in cash will be collected on Orientation Day or the first days of school. Exact change is appreciated.
- EUR 5 will be returned when students permanently leave the school (i.e. graduate). Deposits should **ONLY** be paid to Locker Committee representatives and not to your homeroom teacher.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR LOCKER ASSIGNMENTS 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

- **MAY 15, 2025** – Until this date, you can request a locker for your children. Basically, you then need to log-in to our membership system and check a box that your child needs a locker for next school year. That's all.
- **AUGUST 15, 2025** – Orientation Day, lockers distributed to 7th graders and new students
- **AUGUST 18-20, 2025** – 8th-12th grade (not new) students receive their locker assignment and combination from their homeroom teacher/Locker Committee. The Locker Committee will be present in the high school and available to take questions and resolve any issues.

Online Registration

By **March 13th**:

Digital registration for **2025-2026** 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 2025/26 aus.

*Please complete the **registration form** for the 2025-2026 school year.*

E-Mail-Adresse *

Gültige E-Mail-Adresse