



Transition Information

Grade 7 to Grade 8



Welcome Parents and Students!

We are glad you found your way to our presentation on everything you ever wanted to know about 8th grade.

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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Courses offered in Grade 8

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 (Standard or Honors)		5
Chemistry		2
Physics		2
Physical Education		3
Ethics		1
History / Political Science (one semester each)		2
Geography		1
Music		2
Art		2
Elective (depending on choice)		2/3
Total number of hours per week:		34/35

*Some subjects may be taught for only one semester



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.



Elective Options

- Designed to expose students to subjects for later **AP courses** or **Leistungskurse** in grades 11 & 12
 - Two or three hours per week are available for an elective.
 - Course offerings are dependent on sufficient enrollment and the availability of a teacher.
 - See the presentations for the elective classes in the folder “Electives”.
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- Two Options:
 - Language Electives
 - Non-Language Electives



Elective Options - Language

FRENCH
LATIN
SPANISH

Note:

- Language electives are a “**long term decision**”
- If the language is dropped for another elective, it cannot be picked up again
- The individual languages may be continued in grades 11 & 12 in both the High School Diploma and the Abitur programs
- “*Latinum-Vermerk*” will be awarded if latin is continued through 12th grade



Elective Options - Non Language

ART Elective

JAPANESE CULTURAL STUDIES

JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES

MUSIC Elective

DRAMA

SCIENCE LAB



Music 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 may decide which “path” or program they will pursue: an American High School Diploma or a 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.**
- **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.

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