



Transition Information

Grade 8 to Grade 9



Welcome Parents and Students!

We are glad you found your way to our presentation on everything you ever wanted to know about 9th 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.



Table of Contents

- o Organization of classes
- o Language Considerations
- o Math
- o Elective Options
- o Music Ensemble Courses
- o Religion
- o Praktikum
- o Exit certificates and Program Choices
- o Student Support Services
- o Verein
- o Online Registration Form

Organization of Classes in Grade 9

The current 8th grade will be reshuffled and students will be reassigned to any of six sections of the 9th grade.





Courses offered in Grade 9

Hours per week

English:	Mother Tongue (E1), Partner Tongue (E2)	5
German:	Mother Tongue (D1), Partner Tongue (D2/D3A/D3B/D4)	5
French or Spanish	(for D1 and D2 students only)	3
-or-		-or-
AP Prep or Computer Science (CP) (only without 3rd language as core subject)		3
Mathematics		4
Biology		2
Chemistry		2
Physics		2
Physical Education		3
Ethics		1
History / Political Science		2
Geography		1
Music and 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 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*.



9th and 10th Grade Math

- Parents choose whether quarterly tests taken in 9th grade and 10th grade math classes will count toward 40% or 30% of the overall math grade. The remaining 60%-70% of the overall math grade is based on classroom quizzes, homework, and participation.
- **If a student has selected the “Reduced Test Weight” option whereby tests count as only 30% of the overall grade for either 9th or 10th grade, the student will not have the option to pursue the German Abitur in 11th /12th grade.**
- **Students who opt for the reduced test weight would have “Reduced Test Weight” included on their report card with their math grade.**
- Rationale: In order to earn the American Diploma, students must pass three full years of math between grades 9 and 12. This requirement is not the same for the German Abitur. The “Reduced Test Weight” option is meant to create a “safety net” for students who struggle in math but must pass three years of math between 9th and 12th grade.



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”.
-
- Two Options:
 - Language Electives – **CONTINUED** from 8th grade
 - 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

Music Elective

Drama

Social Studies

Philosophy

Biology/Chemistry

Science Lab

Math/Physics

Astronomy

Music Ensemble (*optional*)

Starting in 9th grade, ensembles are **graded** classes

- 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, Berliner Dom

♪ Possibilities for participation at AMIS festivals

♪ Abitur students may register for these classes as a Grundkurs.

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)



Praktikum / Internship

- Will take place in Spring, 2025
- Two weeks (Berlin and Brandenburg)
- Required for all 9th grade
- Specific dates will be announced later this Spring (in Bulletin)
- Start looking for internship places early
- Part of the German grade in the 2nd semester
- Informational parent-evening September, 2024
- Contact person: Herr Tajo Vetterick

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

Students may decide which “path” or program they will pursue:

- American High School Diploma
- German Abitur

Basic courses for the Diploma and the Abitur are included in the regular program for 9th and 10th grade students at JFKS.



High School Diploma

- The diploma is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).
- 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.**
- **ALL** grades count starting now!
- **Primarily** taught in English.
- **NOTE:** **Abi students also have a 9-12 transcript**; colleges outside of Germany may request it.



Diploma Requirements

- GPA calculation – ALL grades 9th through 12th

English	4 Credits
German	1 Credit for each year of attendance at JFKS (U.S. Colleges require 1-3 years of one language)
Social Studies	4 Credits (with 1 credit required in U.S. History)
Science	4 Credits
Math	3 Credits (U.S. Colleges prefer 4 credits)
P.E./Sport	2 Credits
+Electives	
Total:	<u>26 Credits</u> (minimum)

Note: A 5+ is failing.

There is no credit recovery possibility at JFKS.



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 by end of 9th grade
 - 2nd Foreign Language
 - Standard Math
- **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 and english **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 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.*