



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.

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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 entrance to German universities

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 for entrance to European universities with specific passing AP exams

AP = Advanced Placement (college-level courses)

No 3rd language or weighted math requirement in 9 and 10

Requires E1 German by Grade 11

Requires 26 credits from 9-12 grades

Program Choices (primary qualification)

Abitur or American High School Diploma

Students formally decide which program they will pursue toward the end of Grade 10

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

Most JFKS students keep both options open through Grade 10

Students may choose the Diploma as their primary qualification going into Grade 9, but cannot switch to Abitur at a later time

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 (Must take every semester)
+Electives	
Total:	<u>26 Credits</u> (minimum)

Note: A 5+ is failing.

High School Diploma

- Credits and grades for HSD start accumulating in the 9th grade and count toward Grade Point Average (GPA).
- **ALL** grades count starting now!
- **Primarily** taught in English (Must be E1 by the start of 11th Grade)
- **NOTE:** **Abi students also have a 9-12 transcript** which will be required if a student applied to colleges in the United States



John F. Kennedy School

German-American Community School

Teltower Damm 87-93

14167 Berlin, Germany

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www.jfks.de

Accredited by the New England Association for Schools and Colleges (NEASC)

Accredited by the Berlin Senate Department of Education, Germany



Transcript

Student:

Date of Birth:
Citizen of:
Date Entered: September 08, 1999
Date Withdrawn: June 28, 2012
Current Grade: 12
Cumulative GPA: 3.272

Date printed: December 19, 2024

not ranked(**)
MSA (10th Grade Exam): July 02, 2010
High School Diploma: June 28, 2012
Abitur: ----

Enrolled in the High School Diploma Program

School Year: 2008/09		Grade: 9		JFKS		
Subject	Title	Level	Grade	Credit	Q.P.	
German	Partner Tongue Advanced	S	B+	1.000	3.000	
English	English 9 - Mother Tongue	S	B	1.000	3.000	
History	Age of Revolution and Nationalism	S	B	1.000	3.000	
Mathematics	Integrated Mathematics II	S	C-	1.000	2.000	
Biology	Biology	S	B-	1.500	4.500	
Fine Arts	Arts & Crafts	S	C	0.250	0.500	
Music	Music	S	A-	0.250	1.000	
Computer Science	Computer Literacy	S	B	0.750	2.250	
Elective	Art Elective	S	B-	0.750	2.250	
PE	Physical Education	S	B	0.750	2.250	
Credits Attempted: 8.250		Credits Completed: 8.250		Quality Points: 23.750		GPA: 2.879

School Year: 2009/10		Grade: 10		JFKS		
Subject	Title	Level	Grade	Credit	Q.P.	
German	Partner Tongue Advanced	S	B-	1.000	3.000	
English	English 10 - Mother Tongue	S	C+	1.000	2.000	
U.S. History	U.S. History	S	B	1.000	3.000	
Geography	Urban Geography: Berlin / Sustainability & Globalization	S	B-	0.250	0.750	
Mathematics	Integrated Mathematics III	S	C+	1.000	2.000	
Science	Lab Elective 10	S	B	0.500	1.500	
Science	General Chemistry	S	B	1.500	4.500	
Fine Arts	Arts & Crafts	S	B	0.250	0.750	
Computer Science	Web Development	S	B+	0.750	2.250	
PE	Physical Education	S	B+	0.750	2.250	
Credits Attempted: 8.000		Credits Completed: 8.000		Quality Points: 22.000		GPA: 2.750

School Year: 2010-2011 Grade: 11 JFKS						
Subject	Title	Level	Sem I	Sem II	Credit	Q.P.
English	AP English Literature & Composition - American Lit.	H	B+	B+	1.000	4.000
History	AP European History	H	B+	B+	1.000	4.000
Political Science	AP Comparative Government	H	B	A-	1.000	4.500
German	Partner Tongue - German Literature I		C+	B	1.000	2.500
Mathematics	Pre-Calculus	S	A	C+	1.000	3.000
Physics	High School Physics	S	B+	B+	1.000	3.000
Fine Arts	Introduction to Photography	S	A-	B-	0.750	2.625
PE	Soccer	S	B		0.250	0.750
PE	Track and Field	S		B	0.250	0.750
Credits Attempted: 7.250		Credits Completed: 7.250		Quality Points: 25.125		GPA: 3.466

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John F. Kennedy School, Berlin, Germany

School Year: 2011-2012 Grade: 12 JFKS						
Subject	Title	Level	Sem I	Sem II	Credit	Q.P.
English	AP English Literature & Composition - British/World Lit.	H	A-	B	1.000	4.500
Psychology	AP Psychology	H	A-	A-	1.000	5.000
Mathematics	AP Calculus AB	H	A-	A-	1.000	5.000
Physics	AP Physics (B)	H	A-	A-	1.000	5.000
German	AP German Language & Culture	S	B	B	1.000	3.000
PE	Badminton	S	B+	B+	0.500	1.500
Credits Attempted: 5.500			Credits Completed: 5.500		Quality Points: 24.000	
						GPA: 4.364

Cumulative Credits Attempted: 29.000 Cumulative Credits Completed: 29.000 Cumulative Quality Points: 94.975 Cumulative GPA: 3.277
(Final unweighted GPA: 3.030)

Graduation Credits: 29.000

Remark: S = Standard; H = Honors

Cumulative GPA (top left of transcript) is the "weighted" GPA. Credits for GPA do not include credits for courses with a grade P.



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Transcript

Student:

Date of Birth:

Citizen of: Germany

Date Entered: August 22, 2022

Date Withdrawn: June 29, 2024

Current Grade: 12

Cumulative GPA: 3.856

Class of 2024

Date printed: July 09, 2024

Rank:

MSA (10th Grade Exam):

High School Diploma: June 29, 2024

Abitur: June 29, 2024

Top 30%

Enrolled in the German Abitur and High School Diploma Program

School Year: 2019-2020 Grade: 9 Leininger-Gymnasium, Gruenstadt					
Subject	Title	Level	Grade	Credit	Q.P.
German	German Mother Tongue	S	B+	1.000	3.000
English	English	S	A	0.750	3.000
Foreign Language	French	S	B+	0.750	2.250
Social Studies	Civics	S	B+	0.250	0.750
Social Studies	Geography	S	A	0.250	1.000
Social Studies	History	S	B+	0.250	0.750
Mathematics	Mathematics	S	B+	1.000	3.000
Science	Chemistry	S	A	0.750	3.000
Science	Physics	S	B+	0.750	2.250
Arts	Art	S	B+	0.500	1.500
Arts	Music	S	A	0.500	2.000
Electives	Natural Science Elective	S	A	0.250	1.000
Electives	Evangelical Religion	S	B+	0.250	0.750
PE	PE	S	B+	0.750	2.250
Credits Attempted: 8.000 Credits Completed: 8.000				Quality Points: 26.500	GPA: 3.312

School Year: 2020-2021 Grade: 10 Leininger-Gymnasium, Gruenstadt					
Subject	Title	Level	Grade	Credit	Q.P.
German	German Mother Tongue	S	B+	1.000	3.000
English	English	S	A	0.750	3.000
Foreign Language	French	S	B+	0.750	2.250
Social Studies	Civics	S	B+	0.250	0.750
Social Studies	Geography	S	B+	0.250	0.750
Social Studies	History	S	B+	0.250	0.750
Mathematics	Mathematics	S	B+	1.000	3.000
Science	Biology	S	A	0.500	2.000
Science	Chemistry	S	A	0.500	2.000
Science	Physics	S	B+	0.500	1.500
Arts	Art	S	B+	0.250	0.750
Arts	Music	S	C+	0.250	0.500
Electives	Natural Science Elective	S	A	0.250	1.000
Electives	Evangelical Religion	S	B+	0.250	0.750
PE	PE	S	B+	0.750	2.250
Credits Attempted: 7.500 Credits Completed: 7.500				Quality Points: 24.250	GPA: 3.233

School Year: 2021-2022 Grade: 11 Westover School, Middlebury, CT, USA						
Subject	Title	Level	Grade	Credit	Q.P.	
Mathematics	Pre-Calculus	H	A+	1.000	5.000	
Science	AP Chemistry	H	A	1.000	5.000	
English	English: Mirth and Passing	S	A-	1.000	4.000	
English	English: Family, Legacy & Identity	S	A-	0.500	2.000	
Social Studies	History: Native American History	S	A	0.500	2.000	
Social Studies	History: Topical Events 1960-Present	S	A+	0.500	2.000	
Science	Biology	S	A+	1.000	4.000	
PE	Swimming	S	P	0.000	n/a	
PE	Thirds Volleyball	S	P	0.000		
Credits Attempted: 5.500		Credits Completed: 5.500		Quality Points: 24.000		GPA: 4.364

John F. Kennedy School, Berlin, Germany

School Year: 2022-2023 Grade: 11 JFKS						
Subject	Title	Level	Sem I	Sem II	Credit	Q.P.
Biology	Physiology/Ecology	H	A	A	1.000	5.000
Chemistry	Thermodynamics/Electrochemistry	H	A		0.500	2.500
Chemistry	Chemical Equilibrium/Acids & Bases	H		A+	0.500	2.500
German	Language & Literature in Society and History	S	A	A+	0.750	3.000
English	English 11 - American Literature & Composition	S	A	A	1.000	4.000
U.S. History	U.S. History	S	A	A	1.000	4.000
Geography	Regional Planning/Urban & Human Geography in Berlin and Europe	S	A	A	0.750	3.000
Mathematics	Calculus/Probability	S	A	A	0.750	3.000
Drama	Exploration & Performance	S	A	A+	0.750	3.000
PE	Tennis	S		A	0.500	2.000
Credits Attempted: 7.500		Credits Completed: 7.500		Quality Points: 32.000		GPA: 4.267

School Year: 2023-2024 Grade: 12 JFKS						
Subject	Title	Level	Sem I	Sem II	Credit	Q.P.
Biology	Genetics/Evolution	H	A+	A+	1.000	5.000
Chemistry	Organic Chemistry: Carbohydrates & Proteins	H	A		0.500	2.500
Chemistry	Organic Chemistry: Colors & Plastics	H		A	0.500	2.500
German	Types and Structure of Text, Language Use	S	A+	A+	0.750	3.000
English	English 12 - British/World Literature & Composition	S	A	A	1.000	4.000
History	History of the 20th Century	S	A	A	0.750	3.000
Geography	Developing Countries	S	A	A	0.750	3.000
Mathematics	Analytic Geometry/Calculus/Probability & Statistics	S	A	A+	0.750	3.000
Music	Choir	S	A+	A+	0.750	3.000
Drama	Exploration & Performance	S	A	A+	0.750	3.000
PE	Swimming	S		A+	0.250	1.000
PE	Volleyball	S		A	0.250	1.000
Credits Attempted: 8.000		Credits Completed: 8.000		Quality Points: 34.000		GPA: 4.250

Cumulative Credits Attempted: 36.500 Cumulative Credits Completed: 36.500 Cumulative Quality Points: 140.750 Cumulative GPA: 3.856
(Final unweighted GPA: 3.692)

Abitur Grade: 1 *)

Graduation Credits: 36.500

Remark: S = Standard; H = Honors

Cumulative GPA (top left of transcript) is the "weighted" GPA. Credits for GPA do not include credits for courses with a grade P.

*) The Abitur is the required German university entrance exam and diploma. Abitur Grades between 1,0 (highest) and 4,0 (lowest passing grade).

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 Mr. Getschow and/or School Counselor for further information regarding accommodations.

Online Registration

Digital registration for 2025-2026 school year due **March 11!**

<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.*