



Transition Information

Grade 9 to Grade 10

Welcome Parents and Students!

We are glad you found your way to our presentation on everything you ever wanted to know about 10th 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 10

The 10th grade is organized into six sections
(10 a,b,c,d,e,f)

No section changes are made from grade 9.

In all six sections, students may work toward both the American High School Diploma and the German Abitur.

Courses offered in Grade 10

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	Required for Abitur
-or-		-or-	
AP Seminar or Computer Science	(only without 3rd language as core subject)	3	Capstone Diploma option
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.

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/9th 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

Drama

Social Studies

Biology/Chemistry

Science Lab

Math/Physics

Informatik*

Macroeconomics

* in order to take Informatik as a Prüfungsfach in the Abitur, this elective has to be chosen in grade 10

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)

MSA (Mittlerer Schulabschluss)



- Presentation



- German



- Math



- English written



- English oral

The MSA consists of

- a) Class grades of grade 10
- b) Exam grades

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 entrance into 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 university entrance in Europe

with passing specific AP exams

AP = Advanced Placement (college-level courses)

No 3rd language requirement

Requires E1 by start of 11th Grade

Requires 26 credits from grades 9-12 grades

High School Diploma

- All students in 10th grade are earning **credits** toward the HSD.
- **ALL** grades count!
- **Primarily** taught in English in last two years
- **Credits and grades for transcripts start accumulating in the 9th grade and are officially listed and counted in the final GPA.**
- **Abitur** students have a U.S. transcript (with a GPA and all grades 9-12), and universities in the U.S. will require this for admission.

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 a second 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 (taken each semester of high school)
+Electives	
Total:	<u>26 Credits</u> (minimum)

Note: A 5+ is failing in the Diploma

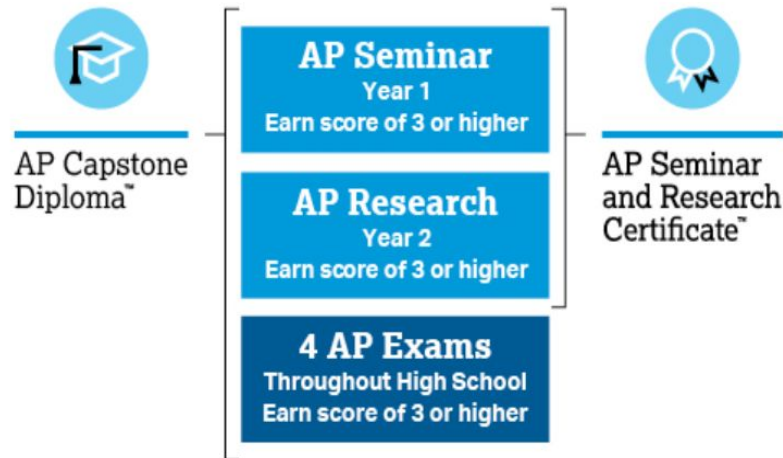
Additional Diploma Program

AP Capstone - 2 year program

Students can earn the AP Capstone Diploma™ or the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing receive the AP Capstone Diploma™.

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research but not on four additional AP Exams receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.



Abitur / Gymnasiale Oberstufe

After successfully completing the middle school (grades 7-10) and the MSA exam (Mittlerer Schulabschluss), students may be promoted to the *Gymnasiale Oberstufe*, providing the following prerequisites are fulfilled:

- 1) German by grade 11 at least at the D2 level.
- 2) 2nd foreign language starting in 7th or 8th grade.
- 3) Have completed 2 years (9th and 10th gr.) of *regularly weighted math course*

At JFKS, basic courses for the American High School Diploma are included in the regular program for the *Abitur* candidates. Students in the *Gymnasiale Oberstufe* also have the potential of earning the high school diploma. Please note: Failing grades ("5+" or below) in a required subject (such as math or US History) may prevent a student from receiving the high school diploma even though that student may be promoted into a higher grade and may receive credit for the *Abitur*. The *Abitur* is considered the general university entrance exam in Germany. A student can also opt to follow a rigorous High School Diploma program with specific AP exams to gain entrance to German universities.

Other Changes

Open Campus-Regulation:

10th grade students **may** leave campus

- Signature of the legal guardian and of the homeroom teacher required
- This is a privilege, not a right. It can be revoked at any time.

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

- Support from Mr. Getschow or School Counselor

Online Registration

Digital registration for 2025-2026 school year is **DUE February 28th!**

<https://forms.gle/Bepg3iLGhmwpdij98>

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.*

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