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**SCHOOL OVERVIEW**

The John F. Kennedy School (JFKS), founded in 1960, is a bicultural, bilingual, K-12 institution, located in the Steglitz-Zehlendorf area of Berlin, Germany. The school is a tuition-free German public school governed under a special act of the Berlin Senat (parliament) for the purpose of creating bi-national understanding. The student body of approximately 1625 students, K-12, comes from varied social and economic backgrounds. Though students are largely bi-national (German and American), other nationalities are represented.

**ADMISSION**

JFKS is a college-preparatory school and admission is selective. Students must have at least one parent who is a German or American citizen. All admissions are probationary for one semester. Students and parents seeking placement at the school should complete an application which appears on the website: www.jfks.de.

**HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM**

In grades 7-10 students follow the Berlin public school curriculum and the language of instruction may be English or German. Students in grades 11-12 elect to seek either the German *Abitur* or the American High School Diploma as their primary qualification. At this point the language of instruction will become primarily that which is native to the program. The exception to this is German and English language classes. All courses in the high school diploma program are college preparatory, leading to an accredited American High School Diploma, and qualify one for admission to U.S. universities. Diploma students who successfully pass a specific combination of Advanced Placement exams may also be admitted to universities in Germany and throughout the world. Successful completion of the *Abitur* program qualifies students for entry into German post-secondary schools as well as universities around the world.

**ENROLLMENT**

Total Number of Students: ±1570

High School (7-12): ±785	Elementary (K-6): ±785
Seniors: 124	
Juniors: 137	
Sophomore: 124	
Freshman: 137	

**HIGH SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE**

Period	Time
1	8:00 – 8:45am
2	8:52 – 9:37am
3	9:45 – 10:30am
4	10:37 – 11:22am
5	11:30am – 12:15pm
6	12:20 – 13:05pm
	20 min. break
7	13:25 – 14:10pm
8	14:15 – 15:00pm
9	15:05 – 15:50pm
10	15:55 – 16:40pm

## MINIMUM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits are defined as Carnegie Units, awarded based on how many periods the class meets per week. In order to earn the **American High School Diploma**, a students must earn a minimum of 26 credits in the following courses:

SUBJECT	# of Credits
English	4.0
Social Studies (1 US History)	4.0
Mathematics	3.0
Lab Science	4.0
German (all years at JFKS)	1.0-4.0
Physical Education	2.0
Electives	5.0-9.0

## DUAL CREDENTIAL OPTION

Students who are working toward the Abitur may also earn an American High School Diploma if they meet the minimum diploma course requirements.

## GPA and Grading Scale

Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated on the American 4.0 scale using all grades for eligible courses taken in years 9–12, including repeated courses. Advanced Placement courses are marked on the transcript and are weighted by giving grades (A through D) an additional Quality Point (QP).

JFKS does not have Honors courses for grades 9-10. Advanced courses taken outside of JFKS in grades 9–10 are noted but are not given weighted Quality Points.

Students enrolled in the High School Diploma program are not limited in the number of AP courses they are permitted to take, but are advised to maintain a healthy balance. Students in the German Abitur program take two Honors (Leistungs) courses per year, which are weighted in the students GPA.

The grading system for the Abitur program is established by the Berlin *Senatsverwaltung für Bildung, Jugend und Familie* which is based on a rubric unlike the U.S. grading system and is generally based on an interval scale and extremely rigorous. For transcript purposes, grades are converted to the U.S. system using the table below.

## CLASS RANK

Ninth and tenth grade students are not ranked. Students in the top 50% of the class in grades 11 – 12 are ranked by decile. New students are excluded from the ranking until they complete one full school year.

## GRADING SCALE

German Marks Grades 7-10	German Marks Grades 11-12	American Letter Grade	American Percentile	Quality Points (QP)	Weighted Q P
1+	15	A+	90-100	4	5
1	14	A		4	5
1-	13	A		4	5
2+	12	A-		4	5
2	11	B+	80-90	3	4
2-	10	B		3	4
3+	9	B-		3	4
3	8	C+	70-80	2	3
3-	7	C		2	3
4+	6	C-		2	3
4	5	D+	60-70	1	2
4-	4	D		1	2
5+	3	F	0-60	0	0
5	2	F		0	0
5-	1	F		0	0
6	0	F		0	0

## GERMAN PROGRAM OF STUDY – ABITUR

Entrance to universities in Germany is dependent upon the German secondary school leaving certificate, called the Abitur. Students can obtain the Abitur upon successful completion of 12 years of primary and secondary school and by passing the Abitur examinations. Nationally, only the top 40% of the German student population enters the Abitur track. Most German students at JFKS as well as 15 to 20% of Americans and other international students follow a program leading to the Abitur.

To enter the upper Abitur grades (11-12), a student must first earn the Middle School Leaving Certificate (MSA) at the end of grade 10. To earn the MSA a student must pass grade 10 and pass the written MSA exams in German, English, and Mathematics. Additionally students must provide an acceptable, oral group-presentation in a major subject of their choice.

The Abitur examinations are offered in the spring of each year to 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students. Students are admitted to candidacy for the Abitur upon successful completion of all requirements. Abitur exams are given in two *Leistungskurse* (honor courses) and three additional *Grundkurse* (fundamental courses) selected by the student. The exam in the two honors courses as well as in one fundamental course

### CLASS of 2023

- Median Abitur Score **2,00**
- Median Weighted GPA **3.37**
- Highest GPA **4.30**

## PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Students who graduate from the John F. Kennedy School have unique access to schools around the world.

An American Diploma graduate can seek entrance into German and other European Universities using their high school diploma with specific coursework, GPA and AP test combinations. In Germany, requirements are evaluated by an outside authority called *anabin* through the online application system of *Uni-assist*. Other countries will have different credentialing authorities.

More information on this topic can be sought on our website ([jfks.de](http://jfks.de)) in our College Planning document, or by working with the High School Counselor.

JFKS is an SAT testing center. Students from Berlin, and its surrounding area are able to test at our school.

consists of a written test. One of the remaining fundamental courses is tested orally; the other in the form of a presentation exam.

The final Abitur grade for each candidate is the average of grades in two blocks:

1. The marks earned in 24 fundamental courses in grades 11 and 12. The marks earned in the student's four semester honors courses, which weigh double in the calculation. (Approx. 67% of final grade).

2. The five exam results are given quadruple weight in the final calculation of the Abitur certification. (Approx. 33% of final grade).

### Abitur Grade Distribution

The following is the distribution of final grade averages for the 83 Abitur students who completed grade 12 in 2023. (1.0 highest – 4.0 lowest). The JFKS average is 2.00 while the Berlin average is 2.20.

Abitur Grades	Points
1.0 - 1.5 = A+, A	733-900
1.6 – 1.9 = A-, B+	661-732
2.0 – 2.7 = B, B-, C+	517-660
2.8 – 3.1 = C, C-	445-516
3.2 – 3.8 = D+, D	319-444

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

### AP Testing 2023

**24**

*Subjects tested*

**102**

*Students took AP tests*

**312**

*Total number of tests taken*

**85%**

*Of exams earned a score of 3 or above*

**94%**

*Of test takers scored a 3 on at least one exam*

## SAT Mean Score for the Class of 2023

Reading & Writing	648
Mathematics	612
Total	1260

## UNIVERSITY MATRICULATION CLASSES OF 2019-23

### United States of America

Allegheny College  
American Musical and Dramatic Academy  
American University  
Baylor University  
Bennington College\*  
Berklee College of Music  
Cedarville University  
Columbia University  
El Paso Community College  
George Mason University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Harvard University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Michigan State University  
Northern Virginia Community College\*  
New York University\*  
North Carolina State University\*  
Northeastern University\*  
Northwestern University  
Ohio University\*  
Pennsylvania State University  
Pratt Institute  
Queens College—CUNY  
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology  
St. John Fisher University  
State University of New York—Buffalo  
The Art Institute of Chicago  
Towson University  
University of California - Berkeley  
University of Chicago  
University of Maryland  
University of Michigan  
University of San Francisco  
University of Tampa  
University of Texas—San Antonio  
Virginia Tech  
Washington University in St. Louis\*  
Wheaton College

### Germany

Bard College Berlin  
Berlin School of Economics and Law  
Berlin Technical University  
Braunschweig University of Art  
BSP Business and Law School\*  
CBS International Business School  
Friedrich-Alexander University  
Free University Berlin  
Hamburg University of Applied Sciences  
Hochschule 21  
Hochschule for Music Hanns Eisler  
Humboldt University Berlin  
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology  
Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich  
Munich Technical University\*  
Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule  
SAE Institute Berlin  
University of Bonn  
University of Freiburg  
University of Göttingen\*  
University of Hamburg  
University of Heidelberg  
University of Mannheim  
University of Potsdam

### United Kingdom

London School of Economics  
University of Aberdeen  
University of Edinburgh  
University of Glasgow  
University of Hertfordshire  
University of Leeds\*  
University of Oxford  
University of Southampton  
University of Stirling  
University of Strathclyde

### The Netherlands

Amsterdam University College\*  
Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences  
Eindhoven University of Technology\*  
Erasmus University Rotterdam\*  
Delft University of Technology\*  
Leiden University\*  
Leiden University College, The Hague  
Maastricht University\*  
NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences  
Rotterdam School of Management\*  
Tilburg University  
University College Groningen\*  
University College Maastricht  
University College Roosevelt  
University College Utrecht  
Utrecht University  
Vrije University Amsterdam

### Other International Universities

Medical University of Austria  
University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria\*  
University of Vienna—Austria  
University of British Columbia—Canada  
University of Toronto—Canada  
University of Toronto Mississauga—Canada  
American University of Paris—France\*  
Institut Français de la Mode—France  
Sciences Po—France  
University of Szeged—Hungary  
University College Cork—Ireland\*  
University College Dublin—Ireland\*  
University of Galway—Ireland\*  
ETH Zurich—Switzerland\*

\*Indicates 2023 graduate. Note that, on average, 40% of JFKS students take a Gap Year before enrolling in higher education.

