



Principals

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Assistant Principals

American High School Assistant Principal
 Position Currently Open

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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 1570 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 goal is to have 50% of instruction in German and 50% in English. Students in grades 11-12 elect to seek either the German *Abitur* or a NEASC-accredited American High School Diploma as their primary qualification. At this point the language of instruction becomes 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 and qualify students for admission to U.S. universities. Diploma students who successfully pass a specific combination of Advanced Placement exams are eligible for admission to universities in Germany and throughout the world. Successful completion of the *Abitur* qualifies students for entry into German post-secondary schools as well as universities around the world.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

All English language classes at JFKS are taught by American-certified teachers at the native level (not as a second language). Many students have at least one American parent and speak English as their home language. It is therefore appropriate to exempt students who graduate with the American Diploma (98%+ of JFKS students) from taking English assessments for university admissions (i.e. TOEFL, IELTS, etc.).

ENROLLMENT

Total Number of Students: ±1570

High School (7-12): ±785	Elementary (K-6): ±785
Seniors:	127
Juniors:	125
Sophomore:	136
Freshman:	137

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.

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 at JFKS.

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.

HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE AND CREDIT ALLOCATION

Classes are generally one year in length and students attend periods of either 45 minutes or 90 minute blocks, depending on the subject. Classes meet anywhere from one to six times per week and credits are allocated as follows. 1 x per week = .25 credits, 2 x per week = .5 credits, 3 x per week = .75 credits. 4 x per week and above = 1 credit.

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, approximately the top 50% of the German student population enters the Abitur track. Most German students at JFKS as well as 20 to 25% 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 pass an oral group presentation in a research subject of their choice.

The Abitur examinations take place in the spring of each year. 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 consists of a written test. One of the remaining fundamental courses is tested orally; the other in the form of a presentation.

CLASS of 2024

- Median Weighted GPA **3.37**
- Highest GPA **4.15**

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) 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.

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 77 Abitur students who completed grade 12 in 2024. (1.0 highest – 4.0 lowest). The JFKS average was 1,96 while the Berlin average is 2,20.

Abitur Distribution	Class of 2024
Top 10%	1.0 - 1.2
Top 20%	1.3 - 1.4
Top 30%	1.5 - 1.6
Top 40%	1.7
Top 50%	1.8 - 2.0

Class of 2025 Ranking	Weighted GPA
Top 10%	3.99 - 4.15
Top 20%	3.79 - 3.98
Top 30%	3.61 - 3.78
Top 40%	3.45 - 3.60
Top 50%	3.37 - 3.44

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

24 subjects tested

92 students took AP exams

259 total exams taken

89% of exams earned a score of 3 or above

97% of test takers scored a 3 on at least one exam

SAT Mean Score for the 2023 - 2024 School Year

Reading & Writing	665
Mathematics	628
Total	1293

UNIVERSITY MATRICULATION CLASSES OF 2020-24

United States of America

Allegheny College
American Musical and Dramatic Academy
Baylor University
Bennington College
Berklee College of Music
Brown University*
Cedarville University*
Columbia University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Grand Valley State University*
Harvard University
Longwood University*
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
Rutgers University*
St. John Fisher University
State University of New York—Buffalo
State University of New York—Oneonta*
The Art Institute of Chicago
Towson University
United States Army*
University of Chicago
University of Florida*
University of Maryland
University of Rochester*
University of Texas—San Antonio
Washington University in St. Louis*

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
Friedrich Schiller University*
Free University Berlin
Hamburg University of Applied Sciences
Hochschule 21
Humboldt University Berlin
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
Leuphana University Lüneburg*
Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich
Philipps-University Marburg*
RWTH Aachen*
SAE Institute Berlin
SRH University of Applied Sciences*
Technical University Dresden*
Technical University Munich*
University of Bonn
University of Freiburg
University of Göttingen
University of Hamburg
University of Heidelberg
University of Mannheim
University of Potsdam

United Kingdom

King's College London*
Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts*
University of Edinburgh
University of Glasgow
University of Leeds
University of Oxford
University of Stirling
University of Strathclyde*

The Netherlands

Amsterdam University College*
Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences
Eindhoven University of Technology*
Erasmus University College*
Erasmus UC/Willem de Koonig Academy*
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 of Amsterdam
Utrecht University
Vrije University Amsterdam

Other International Universities

University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria
University of Vienna—Austria
Memorial University—Canada*
University of British Columbia—Canada
American University of Paris—France
Institut Français de la Mode—France
University College Cork—Ireland
University College Dublin—Ireland
University of Galway—Ireland
New York Film Academy—Italy*
ETH Zurich—Switzerland

*Indicates 2024 graduate. Note that, on average, 40% of JFKS students take a Gap Year before enrolling in higher education.

