

### THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

GISSV is a private, non-profit, co-educational college-preparatory school founded in 2000 in Mountain View, CA, the center of Silicon Valley. The academic programs of the GISSV are created to meet the needs of American, German and international families living in the Bay Area. GISSV has a second campus in San Francisco which opened in August, 2011. Over 40 nationalities are represented in our diverse student body and faculty. GISSV offers a multilingual, multicultural education to students from preschool through 12th grade.

### ACCREDITATION

The GISSV is accredited by the Conference of German cultural ministers, the German Foreign Office, by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges – WASC, and the California Association of Independent Schools - CAIS through 2022. It is the only elementary and secondary school in the Western United States that meets the strict accreditation requirements of the German government, enabling entry into European as well as the American educational system.

### THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

- GISSV fulfills and exceeds all official requirements for college-preparatory high schools in both Germany and the U.S.
- Students graduating from GISSV receive the **German International Abitur Diploma and the CA High School Diploma** by fulfilling the requirements of both systems.
- Provides a rigorous curriculum including all major disciplines of the arts and sciences in a bilingual environment.
- Students take up to 13 different subjects in any given year, including Math, English, German, at least two sciences, at least two social sciences, as well as Arts and P.E.
- Project-based, cross-curricular and independent learning opportunities put the emphasis on the development of critical thinking skills and a breadth of knowledge, resulting in a holistic and well-rounded education.
- In grades 10-12, students can choose from 9 AP and 14 Honors classes.
- All examinations leading up to the final Abitur are required to test what are referred to as the three levels of thinking; the first level tests understanding of content and the ability to reproduce a text or mathematical problem; the second level involves analysis, exploration and interpretation; the third level called "transfer" tests the ability of the student to go beyond the text or mathematical problem to demonstrate or apply knowledge to another context.
- Multiple choice testing is not used in examinations at GISSV.
- GISSV does not rank students.
- The distribution of grades is not published due to the small number of students.

### GRADING SCALE USED BY THE FACULTY

American Grades	German Grades (Points)	Verbal Grades	
<b>A+</b>	15/14/13	1	superior work, exceeds all expectations
<b>A</b>	12/11	2	excellent work, meets all expectations
<b>A-</b>	10		
<b>B+ B</b>	9/8	3	good work
<b>B-</b>	7		
<b>C+</b>	6	4	acceptable work; 4 points/C- in the Abitur is non-passing
<b>C</b>	5		
<b>C-</b>	4		
<b>D</b>	3/2/1	5	work does not meet requirements
<b>F</b>	0	6	work does not meet requirements

### THE GERMAN INTERNATIONAL ABITUR

- Students take a written examination, the German International Abitur in February of their senior year. The five Abitur exams in German Literature, European History, Mathematics or a Natural Science and a subject of the student's choice, cover the entire material of the junior and senior years.
- In June of 12th grade oral examinations (one of which must be a presentation), overseen by a German educational official, are also mandatory for all students.
- The Numerus Clausus (GPA) includes the grades of both the junior and senior year as well as of the five Abitur examinations.
- Students must receive a C- or better in at least 29 semester grades.
- The students must pass final examinations at the end of grade 12, consisting of three written and two oral exams.
- The final diploma the students receive, after successful completion of these examinations, enables them to qualify for admission to Universities and other tertiary institutions both abroad and in the United States.

### MAILING ADDRESS

310 Easy St,  
Mountain View, CA, 94043

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Facsimile: (650) 254-0749  
Website: www.gissv.org

### SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Head of School  
Ms. Kathrin Roeschel

Assistant Principal  
Ms. Jenny Jungeblut

Head of High School  
Mr. Thimas Spahn

High School Counselor  
Ms. Marcea Eckhardt

College Counselor  
(Germany)  
Ms. Stefanie Wenk/  
Mr. Thomas Spahn

### ENROLLMENT 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

**Mountain View Campus:**  
(Preschool through 12th)  
Total: 420 students.

69 students  
are in high school.

Average class size:  
15 students.

**San Francisco Campus:**  
(Preschool through 8th)  
Total: 98 students.

### FACULTY

21 Preschool/Kindergarten  
and 48 school teachers  
(Grades 1-12) with German  
and international degrees  
and diplomas.  
95% of our high school  
faculty have a Masters  
in Education or another  
advanced degree.

Minimum Requirements for the German International Abitur (DIA)		Minimum A-G Requirements for the University of CA	
4 years	English	4 years	English
4 years	German	2 years (3 rcmd)	Language other than English
4 years	a third language		
4 years	Mathematics	3 years (4 rcmd)	Mathematics
2-4 years	three sciences: Physics, Chemistry, Biology	2 years (3 rcmd)	Laboratory Science
4 years	one or more sciences		
4 years	History and Social Science	2 years	History/Social Science
4 years	Ethics		
1 year	Geography		
4 years	Visual Arts or Music	1 year	Visual and Performing
4 years	Physical Education	1 year	College-Preparatory Electives

\*To fulfill the a-g requirement, these courses must be included on the German International School's UC-certified course list: <https://doorways.ucop.edu/llist> | Students seeking to satisfy the a-g college admissions requirement must pass the 15 year long high school courses with a "C-" or better.

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

#### Current Offered AP courses:

AP classes are offered on a rotating basis to maximize the variety a school of GISSV's size can offer. English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, German Language and Culture, French Language and Culture, Spanish Language and Culture, Microeconomics, Chemistry, Calculus AB and Biology, Computer Principles and Music Theory.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Total AP Students</b>	20	24	19	30	22	23
<b>Number of Exams</b>	39	38	33	52	53	38
<b>AP Students with Scores 3+</b>	19	23	16	29	22	21
<b>% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+</b>	95	96	84	97	100	91

### SAT SCORE RANGE

- 12 students took the SAT 2019-2020
- Average EBRW: 701 | Math: 695

The small number of students taking the SAT/ACT some years **limits meaningful data**. Minimal SAT/ACT tests were taken in the 2020-21 school year due to cancellation as a result of the COVID pandemic

### SECONDARY SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**Sports:** Girls Volleyball; Co-ed Soccer; Tennis; Yoga; Eagles Pro Fitness

**Language and Culture:** Creative Writing Club in English and German; Diversity Committee; Model United Nations, German Debate Club

**Service:** Interact Club; Eco School

**Theater and Music:** German Musical Theater; Youth Orchestra; Senior Orchestra; Choir; Strings

**Science & Technology:** Programming; Robotics; Entrepreneurship Club; Science Club, Maker Space

**Exchange Program:** 3-month student exchange program between high school students from the Marie-Curie Gymnasium in Dresden, Germany.

Shorter exchange programs take place with the German School of Valparaiso, Chile and the Lycee Saint Joseph de Tivoli in Bordeaux, France.

**Mentoring Program:** from 9th-12th grade

**Internship Week:** (shadowing week) in 10th grade

**Research Project:** junior year second semester

**Transcontinental Projects:** between German schools

### POST-HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT

**98-100% of our students were accepted at 4-year universities both in the US and Europe.**

These include: Boston University, CU Boulder, CO; Cal Poly SLO; Cal Poly Pomona; Chapman, Cornell, Columbia; Georgetown, Lewis & Clark; Menlo College; U Missouri; NYU; Pepperdine; Pomona; Santa Clara University; Stanford; Temple; Tufts; UC Berkeley; UCLA; UCSD; UCSB; UC Irvine; UCD; UCR; UCSC; UC Merced; USD

#### Universities in Germany:

University of Aachen; RWTH Aachen; TU Berlin; University of Berlin; University of Constance; TU Darmstadt; University Dresden; Goethe University of Frankfurt; University of Hamburg; University of Heidelberg; Humboldt University of Berlin; University of Leipzig; TU Munich; Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich; University of Munich; University of Stuttgart; University of Tübingen

#### Other European Universities:

University of Amsterdam, Netherlands; University of Basel, Switzerland; University of St. Gallen, Switzerland; University of Applied Science, Krems, Austria; University of Maastricht, Netherlands; University of Marseilles, France

### PATTERN OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Two semesters beginning mid- August and mid- January with a total of 180 school days.

### LANGUAGES SPOKEN

Over 40 nationalities on our campus!  
50% German families,  
30% American families,  
20% international families.

### IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM AT GISSV

Our grading policy in spring Semester 2, 2020, and fall semester 1, 2020 did not change.

The SAT School Day scheduled for April did not take place. 50% of the students who would have taken the SAT/ACT were not able to. 75% of students were unable to do in-person campus visits. At least 75% of students could not sign up for the summer programs where they were accepted. All counseling meetings for grades 9-12 were conducted on Google Meet.

Students had the option to return to campus at the end of Oct. 2020 or continue with distance learning. A detailed plan of return and instruction was in place. All curricular standards were met and grading remained unchanged.

For school year 2021/22, GISSV returned to full in-person instruction.