

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

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SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Head of School (interim)
Mr. Thomas Spahn

Assistant Principal
Ms. Jenny Jungeblut

Head of High School
Mr. Thomas Spahn

High School Counselor
Ms. Marcea Eckhardt

College Counselor
(Germany)
Ms. Christiane Schwadten

ENROLLMENT 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Mountain View Campus:
(Preschool through 12th)
Total: 440 students.

83 students
are in high school.

Average class size:
16 students.

San Francisco Campus:
(Preschool through 8th)
Total: 114 students.

FACULTY

31 Preschool/Kindergarten
and 59 school teachers
(Grades 1-12) with German
and international degrees
and diplomas.
99% 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.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total AP Students	24	19	30	22	23	27
Number of Exams	38	33	52	53	38	41
AP Students with Scores 3+	23	16	29	22	21	24
% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	96	84	97	100	91	89

SAT SCORE RANGE

- 5 students took the SAT 2021-2022
- Average EBRW: 670 | Math: 665

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 Volleyball, Co-Ed Cross Country

Language and Culture: Model United National, Student Newsletter, Interact Club, Faculty & Students Diversity Committee

Theater and Music: High School Drama, Chamber Ensemble

Science & Technology: Entrepreneur Club, Maker Space, Eco School

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

Job 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

The graduating class of 2023 was heavily impacted by distance learning during school years 19/20 and 20/21. Our grading policy in spring Semester 2, 2020 and fall semester 1, 2020 did not change.