

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 and by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), and the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) through June 2024. It is the only 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 academic requirements for college-preparatory high schools in both Germany and the U.S., providing a rigorous curriculum including all major disciplines of the arts and sciences in a bilingual environment.
- Students graduating from GISSV receive two diplomas: the **German International Abitur Diploma and the U.S. High School Diploma.**
- Students take up to 13 different subjects in any given school 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 **11 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.

MATHEMATICS

GISSV requires four years of Math in high school. All classes are college-preparatory and taught according to German curricula, which is a high-rigor math progression that leads to Calculus Honors/AP and is more integrated in nature. In order to complete the dual-diploma program, students take Algebra 1 in grade 8. The high school math progression leads through concepts of Algebra 2, Geometry, Trigonometry, Statistics, Probability, and Calculus.

GRADING SCALE

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 3 written examinations in February of their senior year and two oral examinations in May. The five Abitur exams include German Literature, English or Mathematics and at least one Natural Science and Social Science and cover the entire material of the junior and senior years.
- The final grade for the German International Abitur 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 of their junior and senior year.
- The final diploma the students receive qualifies for admission to universities and other tertiary institutions in Germany, Europe, and worldwide.

MAILING ADDRESS

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Mountain View, CA, 94043

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SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Head of School
Mr. Gerald Miebs

Assistant Principal
Ms. Jenny Jungeblut

Heads of High School
Mr. Ivo Betten (Grades 9-10)
Mr. Sebastian Berk (Gr. 11-12)

High School Counselors
Ms. Ms. Jenny Jungeblut
Mr. Roger Traynham

College Counselor
(Germany)
Ms. Christiane Schwadten

ENROLLMENT 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Mountain View Campus:
(Preschool through 12th)
Total: 452 students.

93 students
in high school.

Average class size:
15 students.

San Francisco Campus:
(Preschool through 8th)
Total: 110 students.

FACULTY

26 Preschool/Kindergarten and 60 school teachers (Grades 1-12) with German and international degrees and diplomas. 99% of our high school faculty have a Masters in Education and 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/list>

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.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total AP Students	19	30	22	23	27	30
Number of Exams	33	52	53	38	41	58
AP Students with Scores 3+	16	29	22	21	24	28
% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	84	97	100	91	89	93

SAT SCORE RANGE

- 15 students took the SAT 2022-2023
- Average EBRW: 626 | Math: 620

The small number of students taking the SAT limits meaningful data.

SECONDARY SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Sports: Girls Volleyball, Co-Ed Soccer, Co-Ed Cross Country

Language and Culture: Model United National, Student Newsletter, Interact Club

Theater and Music: Orchestra, Musical Theater

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

Social Shadowing Week: in 9th grade

Research Project: junior year second semester

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, Case Western Reserve 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; SDSU

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:

ECSP Business School (Paris); 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; University College, London

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 2024 was heavily impacted by distance learning during school years 2019/20 and 2020/21. Our grading policy in spring Semester 2, 2020 and fall semester 1, 2020 did not change.