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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/or 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:	119
Juniors:	126
Sophomore:	132
Freshman:	121

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. Advanced Placement and Abitur Leistungskurse (LK) 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+		2	3
3-	7	C	70-80	2	3
4+	6	C-		2	3
4	5	D+		1	2
4-	4	D		1	2
5+	3	F	60-70	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 Abitur (grades 11-12), a student must take a third language through Grade 10, take Math with exams weighted at 40% of their quarterly grade and earn the Middle School Leaving Certificate (MSA). 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

CLASS of 2025

- Median Weighted GPA **3.37**
- Highest GPA **4.31**

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 exam combinations. In Germany, requirements are evaluated by an outside authority called *Uniassist*. Other countries have different credentialing authorities.

More information on this topic can be sought on our website (jfk.s.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.

of the remaining fundamental courses is tested orally; the other in the form of a presentation. 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 84 Abitur students who completed grade 12 in 2025. (1.0 highest – 3.5 lowest). The JFKS average was 1,92.

Abitur Distribution	Class of 2025
12%	1.0 - 1.2
12%	1.3 - 1.4
12%	1.5 - 1.6
9%	1.7 - 1.8
13%	1.9 - 2.0

Class of 2026 Ranking	Weighted GPA
Top 10%	3.99 - 4.20
Top 20%	3.86 - 3.98
Top 30%	3.69 - 3.85
Top 40%	3.58 - 3.68
Top 50%	3.46 - 3.57

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

25 subjects tested
89 students took AP exams
232 total exams taken
90% of exams earned a score of 3 or above
93% of test takers scored a 3 on at least one exam

SAT Mean Score for the 2024 - 2025 School Year

Reading & Writing	652
Mathematics	608
Total	1259

UNIVERSITY MATRICULATION CLASSES OF 2021-25

United States of America

Allegheny College
 American Musical and Dramatic Academy
 Baylor University
 Bennington College
 Berklee College of Music
 Bowdoin College*
 Columbia University
 Columbus State Community College
 Cosumnes River College
 Fordham University*
 Grand Valley State University
 Harvard University
 Michigan State University
 Northern Virginia Community College
 New York University
 North Carolina State University
 Northeastern University
 Northwestern University
 Oberlin College Conservatory of Music*
 Ohio University*
 Pratt Institute
 Purdue University*
 Queens College - CUNY
 Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
 Rutgers University - New Brunswick
 Rutgers University - Newark*
 St. John Fisher University
 Santa Ana College
 Santa Fe College*
 State University of New York - Buffalo
 State University of New York - Oneonta
 The Art Institute of Chicago
 University of Chicago
 University of Florida
 University of Hawaii - Manoa*
 University of Maryland
 University of Pittsburgh*
 University of Rochester
 University of Texas - San Antonio

Germany

Bard College Berlin
 Berlin Technical University
 Berlin University of Applied Sciences
 Braunschweig University of Art
 BSP Business and Law School
 CBS International Business School
 Charité Medical University*
 Friedrich-Alexander University
 Friedrich Schiller University
 Freie Universität Berlin *
 Hamburg University of Applied Sciences
 Hochschule 21
 Humboldt University Berlin*
 IBA University of Cooperative Education
 Leuphana University Lüneburg*
 Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich
 Medical School Berlin
 Philipps-University Marburg
 RWTH Aachen
 SAE Institute Berlin
 SRH University of Applied Sciences
 Technical University of Dresden
 Technical University of Munich*
 Technical University of Wildau
 University of Bonn
 University of Freiburg
 University of Göttingen
 University of Hamburg
 University of Heidelberg
 University of Leipzig*
 University of Potsdam
 University of Marburg

United Kingdom

King's College London*
 Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts
 University of Edinburgh
 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
 Utrecht University College*
 Vrije University Amsterdam

Other International Universities

University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria
 University of Toronto - Canada*
 American University of Paris - France
 Institut Français de la Mode - France
 Semmelweis University - Hungary
 Trinity College Dublin - Ireland*
 University College Cork - Ireland
 University College Dublin - Ireland
 University of Galway - Ireland
 New York Film Academy - Italy
 CAE Flight School - Spain
 ETH Zurich - Switzerland*

*Indicates 2025 graduate. Note that, on average, 40% of JFKS students take a Gap Year before enrolling in higher education.

