



“HOW DO WE BEST PREPARE OUR CHILDREN FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE IN A GLOBALIZED WORKING ENVIRONMENT?”

A question that all parents ask themselves. At the present time, we cannot even imagine all the professions our children might aspire to in the future. Nevertheless, one fact is obvious: a solid academic foundation and the study of a variety of languages and cultures will give our children the best opportunities.

In 1961 the German School Washington, D.C. was founded with the goal of offering students a learning environment in which they would have daily and intensive exposure to German culture and language. Up to 650 students attend the German School from preschool through 12th grade.

Many of our families have lived in several different countries before coming to Washington. They bring together a variety of nationalities and experiences and learn from each other. Our student community is marked by tolerance which often brings about respect and fairness automatically, leading to a swift integration of new students. Washington, D.C., the American capital is a special location in which the largest German school in North America represents a German island, intertwined in politics, economy and citizen sector organizations with the support of a strong established German community. Lectures by senior diplomats, politicians, writers, scientists and scholars



ENVIRONMENT

As a model for environmental protection in Maryland, the German school has been teaching its students to separate their trash since 2005 and has received several awards from Montgomery County for its successful recycling program. Students are not only taught to appreciate and preserve the environment, but the school also decided to build the science building according to a green concept. This building has been awarded with the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certificate by the U.S. Green Building Council for LEED.



are part of school life, such as visits to various embassies, world-class museums, or the participation in a Model-UN meeting for young people.

In addition the German School Washington, D.C. is part of the worldwide Association of German Schools Abroad, which is overseen by the Office for Schools Abroad (ZfA). The school was assessed by the Federal and State Inspection (BLI) in the spring of 2009, found excellent and awarded with the BLI certificate of excellence. The German School is also part of the PASCH-initiative “Schools: Partners for the Future”, a program that was founded by the German foreign ministry. The goal of this initiative is to inspire young people in the participating schools to be involved with the German language and to open doors to German culture, science and business.

Former DSW students attend the best universities in the world and find themselves in promising careers. Despite the geographically often large distances, alumni are closely connected, cultivating friendships and maintaining professional connections.



OUR GRADUATES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED TO U.S. UNIVERSITIES SUCH AS:



- Harvard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Princeton University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Stanford University
- Duke University
- Georgetown University
- Yale University



At the German School Washington, D.C. we speak, read, write and live German. Classes are primarily held in the German language and German culture is not only taught but lived on a daily basis.

The school kitchen prepares fresh German food every day, offering the students an insight into German culture. It helps the children of German families to feel at home and introduces American children to German food culture.

Beginning with the basics of the English language in Elementary School up to the complex analysis of literature in the upper level of the Secondary School, the DSW offers a comprehensive English program that teaches reading, writing and speaking, helping the students reach native-level knowledge of the English language. By providing special attention and safety nets for beginners as well as offering demanding tasks and literature to advanced and gifted students, we prepare our students for their daily and professional life with interesting and challenging English classes. Living in their American host country, students have the opportunity to advance and deepen their knowledge of the English language through visiting theaters and museums, participating in Model United Nations, poetry and other workshops, lectures as well as in interdisciplinary projects.

Almost all our teachers come from Germany. Some are delegated while others have been living in the U.S. for many years. All of them hold advanced teaching certificates and follow German curricula.

Students from many nations live and learn together in our school. Having lived in very different countries, our students come together with like-minded peers with different, yet so similar experiences: settling in a new country, learning a new language, making new friends while still missing the ones left behind. Fellow students actively help others through this initial phase.

FIRST GRADE

The first day of school for incoming first graders is celebrated with the traditional German “Schultüte” a big cone-shaped goodie bag filled with school supplies and all kinds of treats. The “Schultüten” are crafted and decorated in the School-Entry Level.



For many years it has been a popular tradition to have St. Martin riding on campus on a real horse to help us celebrate Saint Martin’s Day by acting out the legend in open-air. The Elementary and Preschool students gather around this presentation and illuminate it with their self-made lanterns.

During Advent one does not need to fly to Germany in order to get into the Christmas mood by visiting a wonderful Christmas bazaar with creative hand-made works of art and hot mulled wine. This takes place in our own auditorium every year.



SPANISH AND FRENCH

In sixth grade students choose either French or Spanish as their second foreign language. In 10th grade students can even choose to study Spanish as a third foreign language and will thus become multilingual like many

students at the DSW. A skills training helps our young “French” and “Spaniards” to improve the organization of their language learning.



The German School Washington, D.C. follows German curricula and all subjects are taught primarily in German. The second language is English, which is used in selected classes in preparation for the International German Abitur (DIAP). Foreign language classes include English, French, Spanish and Latin.



GERMAN AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE



In Pre- and Elementary School we offer additional intensive German classes (German as a foreign language) for students whose first language is not German.

Science is a particularly important part of the German school concept. As early as the elementary-school years, children attend combined science and social studies classes. In fourth grade they move on to science education (NaWi), where biology and chemistry are taught with the help of student-oriented experiments. From seventh grade on, all students have biology, chemistry and physics classes. These classes are taught under great conditions in our new state-of-the-art science building.

The teaching and learning culture at the German School provides a stimulating academic environment that helps our students give their best in all areas and to develop into responsible global citizen. The German International Abitur opens doors to universities all over the world, which is more important than ever before for the young generation.

DEGREES

The German School offers the following qualifications:

- German Abitur – after grade 12
- German International Abitur (DIAP); a German Abitur with English language elements; following the German curriculum – after grade 12
- High School Diploma (Maryland) – after grade 12
- Realschul Graduation – after grade 10

Advanced Placement (AP) classes are part of the academic program.



Whenever you visit the various buildings of the German School Washington, D.C., you will always find creative works of art of all grade levels on the walls. There are colorful three-dimensional works of art to be admired in the hallways, the door to the art studio is always open and you can hear the sounds of busy artists. They potter, draw, paint, cut - everything you can imagine. Concentrated and absorbed, the students work on their creations or study artists and the history of art.

Standing in the assembly hall at almost any time of the day, you can hear students singing or playing instruments through the door of the music room. Chimes and other Orff instruments, piano, wind instruments, strings, and percussion are permanent and popular parts of the program. The students also do not miss out on singing German and international songs.



play. The performances are popular with parents and students alike and are always well-attended.

Not only plays are performed on the assembly hall's stage. The students also put on a talent show called "Kultursplitter" at least twice a year. They dance, sing, play instruments and perform short sketches, entertaining the school community.

However, at the center of the musical experience at our school you will find performances and events featuring several or all extracurricular music groups. Choirs, orchestra, band, instrumental groups, as well as a Musical Club in cooperation with the Drama Club provide fun and entertaining evenings, especially on the occasion of Christmas and Summer Concerts but also other musical performances.



While listening to the music, one might wonder which play is presently being rehearsed. There is a variety of plays that students put on stage and the background changes constantly: sometimes colorful and lively, sometimes rather monochrome and calm – depending on the contents of the

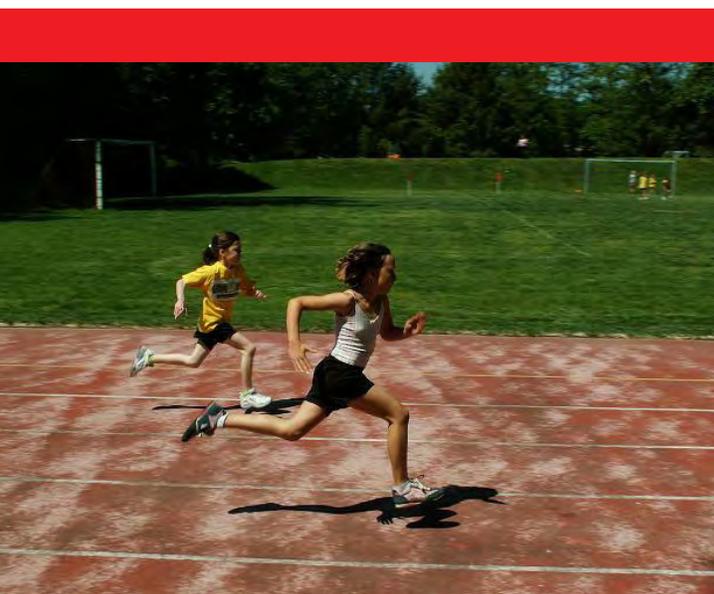




In the German school system the academic education of students has priority over their athletic development. Nevertheless, due to the influence of American culture, the German School Washington, D.C. offers a much wider range of athletic extracurricular activities compared to schools in Germany.

Volleyball, Basketball and Swimming. Students participating in the Athletic Program work toward individual goals and in the direction of physical awareness, mental determination, social cooperation, respect and fairness. Throughout their development, the sports experience prepares the student to understand life's many challenges. With the support of family and friends, our Sports Program encourages a lifetime obligation to promote physical health and wellbeing.

Having an indoor pool, several gyms and outside field space, the school provides an opportunity for every student to participate in a variety of sports on a regular basis. In addition to regular physical education classes and extracurricular activities the school frequently involves itself in competition with area public and private schools. Typical sports teams include Soccer,



“A HEALTHY MIND IN A HEALTHY BODY”

- MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANO -



A variety of dance, drama and music groups bring their skills to the stage at the end of the school year to show their parents and classmates what they have learned. During these evenings particularly fond memories are created for all the families of the school community.

From first to 12th grade, each student can participate in a wide range of afternoon activities to test or deepen athletic, musical, artistic, scientific and other interests or to simply try something new. From soccer to yearbook, to playing the violin students can spend every free afternoon with a different group.



Certainly not every school has its own swimming pool and ours is never found empty. Grades one to 12 regularly have classes in the swimming pool and of course there are also the swim team and various extracurricular groups that meet there and exercise. Every year there is a swim festival with it's own theme.

Other groups organize exhibitions of their works, such as the needlecrafts group, textile design and similar craft courses.

There is definitely an activity for everyone, an opportunity to spend afternoons with friends trying out something new or learning a new skill in the school facilities.



All our students enjoy themselves and can be proud of the results.





Parents play an important role at the German School Washington, D.C. Each class is represented by two representatives on the Parent Council. The class representatives bring forward the concerns of parents to educators and teachers and, when indicated, to the school and pre-school principals and the Board. This strong community of parents provides a forum to discuss parents' ideas and suggestions leading to initiatives that can be implemented cooperatively.

Most DSW families are members of Friends of the German School, founded in 1969. The goal of this foundation is to promote and support the German School and its students through concerted activities.

The "Friends" host the Christmas Bazaar, Easter Bazaar and the Spring Ball.



The sale of various items such as T-shirts, sweat shirts, aprons, etc., all bearing the DSW logo, is another source of income. The "Friends" sponsor and organize activities such as the crafts group, which produces beautiful items throughout the year and the dance lessons for the spring ball.

Another area in which you can contribute effectively as a parent is as a member of the Board of Directors of the German School Society. The purpose of this society is to

establish and maintain an institution of general education, including the Preschool and the Language School. The board of the German School Society consists of nine members whose term of office is three



VOLUNTEERS

Many of the "Friends" also volunteer in the school kitchen. There is nothing better than seeing how every day hundreds of hungry children enjoy the healthy food that you helped prepare under the direction of the school cook.

years. Each board member is part of one of the committees, which actively and vigorously participate in various areas of school life.

No matter how much you want to get involved - at the German School you will find many opportunities to contribute your knowledge and experience and to become an integral part of your children's school life.

