

Herzlich Willkommen!

Welcome to German at Pizitz!

I hope that DEUTSCH will be an interesting and rewarding experience for you, as you continue to study German language and culture. In addition to learning to speak German, you will also explore various aspects of the cultures of German-speaking countries including: **geography, history, music, traditions, food, current events, and popular culture.** As you can see, learning a foreign language involves much more than just grammar and pronunciation drills...

Learning a foreign language is a fun and exciting adventure!

You have made a wise choice in your decision to begin your foreign language study in middle school. **Did you know...?**

- Statistics prove that **the earlier you begin** learning a foreign language, the better your accent in that language.
- Students who have studied another language score **higher on their SAT's** than those who have not.
- In our **global economy**, **the ability to communicate in a second language**, as well as to display some knowledge of another culture and its business practices, are highly sought after qualities by employers.
- Most **colleges** **require** foreign language study and often give credit for what you've learned (even if it's not an AP course!)

By electing to take the year-long German course in the 7th grade, made a commitment to continue with the 2nd half of the course as an 8th grader. After completing German I at PMS, you will be ready to start German II at the high school as a ninth grader! Congratulations!

Here's what you'll need this school year and what you'll need to do to make your year of **German** the very best it can be!

SUPPLIES:

You should have the following items for German:

Spiral notebook (1 subject)

High-lighters: blue, pink, yellow

Pens/pencils

Pocket folders (*optional)

It is imperative that you come to class prepared to succeed. The most important thing to bring with you each day is a positive outlook and **warm and fuzzy** behavior.

HAUSAUFGABEN: You can expect occasional homework or HAUSAUFGABEN. These assignments are usually short and either introduce or provide practice for what we do together in class.

When homework is assigned, you should come to class with your homework completed and ready for review. You should have a way to “edit” or correct your work.

GRADES: In addition to homework, class participation and short quizzes, tests, interviews and projects will be used to assess progress. Homework, projects, quizzes and tests and class participation are all of equal weight in my class. Class participation will be an important factor in determining weekly and final grades. Please use iNow and Edmodo to check your grades; your grade should never be a surprise to you or your parents! Remember: enthusiasm, curiosity, and a positive attitude will go a long way toward achieving good grades, (and you'll **learn a lot** too!).

ATTENDANCE: If you must be absent from class, you should make every attempt to find out what was covered and to make-up that work as quickly as possible. You should see me before class begins and present your re-admittance slip for my signature. I will sign the slip after we discuss make-up work, etc. Please check our Google site as well as our class EDMODO page to keep up with assignments while you are out.

BONUS:

Bonus opportunities are available throughout the 9-week grading period. Bonus can be earned by responding to “**CHALLENGES**” or by finding a “**CONNECTION.**” The possibilities are endless if you keep your eyes and ears open! Bonus should be reported using the index cards and bonus basket on top of the file cabinet or by responding to prompts on Edmodo. Be sure to check Edmodo DAILY (you might even find a surprise bonus challenge!) A student may earn up to 15 Bonus points for Challenges/Connections each term. Additional bonus may be offered on tests or quizzes, etc.

STUDY TIPS:

Learning a foreign language is a cumulative process, with one skill forming the foundation for the next. You could compare it to building a tower; you can only add more blocks and make progress if you have a strong base. We'll discuss strategies for learning a language and you'll start to figure out what works best for you and your way of learning. Sometimes I'll suggest something to you that might sound sort of silly (like singing a list of vocabulary words!) and I'll expect you to give it a try and participate because I've seen that strategy work, and other times you'll come up with study techniques that really work for you and you'll do your own thing. What's

most important is that you never give up or skip over an important “block.” There’s one thing I know for sure about learning a language: you can’t “cram” for a test and try to learn it all in one night! Doing that would be like cramming for a swimming test-- you’d sink!

Learning German is for you! Making the choice to take the German I course in the 7th and 8th grades takes **energy and commitment**. You’ve got to come to class prepared, stay organized, be as positive and curious as you can, and always try your very best. The rewards for making this choice will be huge. Our high school German program is the largest and best in the state. I will work with you to make sure you are prepared to succeed at VHHS. I want you to know that I love what I do and that I am committed to making learning German a fun and exciting and **successful** experience for you. I promise to try to do all that I am asking of you and more! I am very lucky to teach in a wonderful school system with super students (and parents!) and I take my responsibility seriously. I know that, working together, we’re going to have a great year!

WIR SPRECHEN DEUTSCH!

One of the best ways to assimilate a new skill is to try to teach to another that which you are learning. Here are just a few of the words, phrases and concepts, which we will be addressing during the first weeks of Deutsch:

- Guten Tag!
- Guten Morgen!
- Guten Abend!
- Gute Nacht! (sing song with gestures)
- Hallo!
- Date written as: Tag-Monat-Jahr
- Wie heisst du?
- Ich heiße: _____. (play the game)
- Auf Wiedersehen!
- Deutsch is fantastisch!
- Cognate words
- GASLL (Geography)
- Warm und Kuschlig
- Ich kann Deutsch!
- Etc!

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