

7th Grade German Syllabus

Course Description: In this course, students will learn the foundations for communication in German through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will also begin to explore the German culture and develop a better understanding of the structure of the German language and their own. 7th Grade German meets every other day for an entire year. Students with an average of 85% or higher are eligible for the German Honor Society in 8th grade (additional requirements and information will be given out at the beginning of 8th grade.)

Teacher: Ms. Walter (Frau Walter)
E-mail: walterk@pasd.k12.pa.us
Phone: 484-927-5075
web page: www.welovedeutsch.com

Standards: This course is aligned to the standards devised by the American Association of Teachers of Foreign Languages ([ACTFL](#)). These standards address the following: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities. Special emphasis will be placed on communication in German.

Course Content: This course includes the basic building blocks for successful communication on common topics. This course is not your traditional language course. Frau Walter puts a big emphasis on fluency therefore the class starts with a focus on listening, then speaking and only during the 2nd half of the year will we really focus on reading and writing. Below are some of major objectives covered throughout the year:

1st & 2nd Marking Period:

Students will be able to follow commands in German. Students will respond to commands by acting out commands (action verbs, e.g. walk, jump, write, etc.) and small stories in German. Students will be able to identify colors, numbers, classroom objects, body parts, animals and clothing. Students will be able to locate important German cities on the map as well as the location of German speaking countries. Students will be able to use “either/or” prepositions. Students will study and celebrate the Saint Nikolas holiday.

3rd & 4th Marking Period:

Students will be able to greet, ask for someone’s name as well as introduce themselves and bid them farewell. Students will be able to ask about someone’s age as well as speak about their own age. Students will be able to describe a person. Students will be able to speak about time and where they are from. Students will be able to write 50+ word stories in 10 minutes..

Resources: Students are encouraged to visit Frau Walter’s Web Page www.welovedeutsch.com. Also linked to her teacher page at “Teacher Pages of the PAMS site.” This site contains this syllabus, vocabulary lists, on-line practice activities, enrichment opportunities, homework choice packet, information on the program and different units and more. * BOOKMARK THIS VALUABLE RESOURCE! *

Required Materials (Each student should bring the following to class every day)

- A section dedicated to German in the student's binder: Everything we do in class should be kept together in the student's binder. Please refrain from "cleaning out the binder" and throwing German papers away. Do to the nature of a language class all vocabulary sheets should be kept. We will always use these words again. The students are to keep these sheets as their personal dictionary.
- By January all students will receive a journal to write down vocabulary and other material learned in class. Students are expected to bring these journals to class every day or leave them in the classroom. If a journal is lost, the student must replace it.
- Writing utensil & paper

***Participation:** A World Language is a skill that needs to be practiced to be acquired. Participation is an integral part of the class. Participation grades are based on answering questions, volunteering for oral activities, etc. A participation grade is assigned once a week. Average Participation is counted as 75% and students may earn more through positive, active participation or may earn less through negative actions or simple inactivity.

Homework: Language acquisition requires numerous repetitions of the same vocabulary and/or structure in context. 42 minutes every other day is not enough time to achieve this goal; reinforcement is needed outside of the classroom. Therefore, written homework and on-line practice are valuable tools for providing meaningful practice for language growth. In order to provide the students with a choice of how to practice their language skills, I am providing a Homework Choice packet. Homework will **not** be collected by the teacher. The students will be responsible for leaving their assignments in the provided homework bin on the due dates. Mid-year the students will be provided with a new Homework Choice packet.

Absences & Missed Work: Students with excused absences must make up any missed assignments, tests, quizzes, and/or participation within 5 school days of their return. A list of daily activities and assignments will be posted on the back board and updated daily. Any assignment may be handed in the regular homework bin. Tests, quizzes and participation may be made up before or after school in my room. Please have your child schedule the make-up ahead of time. No make-ups Fridays after school!

[Please note: Assignments more than 5 days late will NOT be accepted. Frau Walter is NOT responsible for providing multiple copies of worksheets that a student lost]

Classroom Expectations: Students shall...

- Be on time and bring the required materials each day.
- Respect all persons and property in the classroom.
- Speak German unless instructed otherwise.
- Comply with all PAMS rules in the student handbook.
- Do their best and participate.

A Note to Parents

How did you learn your first language? For the first year or two you didn't say a word—you just listened and absorbed. Then you began to speak. Just single words at first, then several words together in a crude sentence. Your parents didn't mind that the sentences were imperfect, that the pronunciation was off, and that you sometimes needed to try two or three times before you were understood. They were simply delighted to hear you speak. They were pleased to talk with you, even at your simple level. Later on your sentences began to mature. Soon you went to school and learned to write this language you've been learning to speak. At first it was just the alphabet. Some of the letters you wrote backwards, but eventually you got to the point where you were able to spell your name. What a thrill that was! Your parents and teachers were delighted, especially to receive notes that said "I love you, mommy." Eventually your writing skills would catch up to your speaking skills and over the next twelve or more years, you refined your speaking and writing by learning the finer points of grammar.

This natural way of language learning is exactly what I am hoping to duplicate on a smaller scale in my classroom. For about the first semester, students will concentrate on listening and responding. Then we will enter more into speaking and then writing. Grades will be based on how well the student communicates. I will be listening and reading with the mind of a German native speaker. If another German native speaker could understand the student, then the successful communication will get a passing grade. If a German could not understand the student, then there is miscommunication, not a passing grade. Grammar will be introduced slowly and intensify as the student matures in the language. It is, therefore, communication and not grammatical perfection that will guide my grading of papers.

With all this in mind, you can take several steps to facilitate your child's learning in this class. First of all, as much as possible, make attendance a priority. Try to avoid scheduling doctor appointments during class. Look at your child's schedule to make sure he/she is not called out during class or has to leave for some reason. If your child is absent, make sure he or she makes up all missed work including participation. Encourage exposure to the language. Movies. Music. Restaurants. Travel, if finances allow...

I have books from Germany that students can read in my classroom before or after school or during lunch or RECAP. I also have German movies in my classroom that they can watch during that time. Those movies only play on region free DVD players. If a student has such a device at home I will allow them to sign a movie out over night. Books may also be signed out over night, but **MUST** return the next morning during Homeroom. Note: *Students must get a pass from me ahead of time if they would like to take advantage of these opportunities. Students without a pass will not be allowed in my room outside of class time. This is in accordance with school policies.*

Parent/ Student Acknowledgement

I have read and understand the syllabus for Frau Walter's **7th grade German class**.

Student name and signature

Date

Guardian signature

Date

If you would like to add any valuable information about your child that might help their success in my class, please use the space below.