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High School Course Description: German

The German course is designed with a competency-based and student-centered approach, focusing on essential language skills: listening comprehension, reading comprehension, speaking, writing, and reflecting on language and its use. These competencies are developed and honed through progressively complex content, preparing students to achieve a high level of proficiency by the end of their studies.

As students advance through the course, the content becomes increasingly complex, challenging them to apply their skills in more sophisticated ways. By the end of the 12th grade, students are expected to:

- Make independent methodological decisions to tackle language tasks
- Fully comprehend and reflect on content in German
- Articulate their own positions and viewpoints effectively

This structured approach ensures that students not only acquire fundamental language skills but also develop the ability to use German confidently and competently in a variety of contexts.

College Board has authorized the use of the AP designation for our four-year German curriculum. Students may take the AP German exam as early as 10th grade if they feel comfortable doing so, but we place the AP label on our 12th-grade German course for consistency across all student transcripts.

Grade 9

In Grade 9, students deepen their competencies in speaking and writing by engaging in practical rhetoric. They learn and apply methods of information acquisition and processing, practice argumentation and discussion, and analyze and interpret both fiction and non-fiction. Additionally, they independently compose texts of various types.

Students also enhance their reading and understanding skills by exploring different literary genres (such as poems, short stories, parables, novels, and dramas) as well as functional texts. This deepens their literary competencies by examining the specific functions of language use. Furthermore, they expand their media literacy through activities like film analysis and engaging with online content.

The course also focuses on reflecting on language and its use. Students critically examine spoken and written language, engage with specialized and group-specific languages, and analyze linguistic devices. This comprehensive approach ensures that students develop a robust understanding of the German language, both in its written and spoken form.

Grade 10

In Grade 10, students focus on practical rhetoric, information acquisition, argumentation and discussion, text description and interpretation, as well as composing well-planned and grammatically correct texts. The course enhances critical and comprehensive reading skills, allowing students to extract meaningful information from texts and media.

Students deepen their literary competencies by identifying and describing key features of both fiction and non-fiction. They learn to recognize and apply stylistic devices and employ methods of analyzing texts and media. Additionally, they investigate the functions of linguistic and formal presentation techniques, further developing their media literacy.

The course also emphasizes reflecting on language and its use. Students explore various communication models and evaluate situations using these models, critically examining the function of language and making informed judgments about their use. This holistic approach ensures that students not only gain a thorough understanding of the German language but also enhance their ability to analyze and create complex texts across different media.

Grade 11 / 12

In Grades 11 and 12, the German language course focuses on deepening and professionalizing the following core competencies: interpreting literary texts, analyzing pragmatic texts, discussing and arguing literary and pragmatic texts, and writing informative and argumentative texts based on provided materials. The development of these skills is grounded in the study of dramatic texts on the theme "Adaptation and Resistance," prose texts on "Identity and Role," poetry from various literary epochs on "Tradition and Tradition Breaks," and literary and pragmatic prose texts post-1980 on "Homeland and Foreignness."

These core competencies are divided into skills in speaking, research, summarizing texts, arguing and discussing, analyzing and interpreting, writing based on materials, reading, literary historical orientation, and communication. Here are specific examples that lead to the acquisition of these core competencies:

- Use of nuanced and conscious German language in complex conversational contexts (debates, speeches, presentations, panel discussions)
- Applying persuasive speech techniques
- Critically observing and appropriately responding to one's own and others' conversational behaviors
- Leading discussions, taking on moderation tasks, and independently conducting projects
- Using methods for acquiring and processing information (libraries, audiovisual and digital media, interviews)
- Applying citation techniques purposefully

- Grasping complex questions, uncovering problem areas, recognizing key statements, and excerpting information
- Considering external and intertextual references in text interpretations
- Conducting functional analyses of texts focused on content and impact
- Examining and evaluating the functions of factual and practical texts in different media forms
- Writing and presenting purposefully and audience-appropriately based on provided materials (e.g., in essay form)
- Engaging with the human and worldviews presented in texts, considering intellectual, social, and cultural historical contexts
- Acquiring knowledge about important authors in German literary history
- Exploring the reception of literary works
- Recognizing, purposefully using, and critically assessing the impact of various media

This comprehensive approach ensures that students develop advanced German language skills, preparing them for both academic and professional communication.