

Open Disclosure

# German 1

Ms. Tennant

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406-222-0448 ex 232

Teacher Commons/ D-4/

Periods 2/4: 9:09-10:03 am/11:07am-12:36pm\*

\*4<sup>th</sup> period prep will vary depending on lunch break and scheduled meetings

## ***Course Description***

This course is an introduction to the study of the target language and its culture. It allows students to perform the most basic functions of the language and to become familiar with some elements of its culture. The emphasis is placed on the development of the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing within a given context extending outside of the classroom setting when possible. The context focuses on the students' lives and experiences and includes an exposure to everyday customs and lifestyles. Grammar is integrated throughout the course and is selected according to the language needs. Students acquire some insight into how languages and cultures work by comparing the target language and culture(s) to their own.

## ***Course Goals***

German 1 will introduce the German language by exploring basic conversational topics, vocabulary, and grammar. You will learn to speak in both the present and future tenses while exploring cultural, geographical, and historical aspects of the German-speaking world. You should all be prepared to read, write, speak, and eventually understand a great deal of German throughout the duration of this course.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- to use the German Language phonetics
- to understand and participate in basic conversations in German
- to understand basic structure of German
- be aware of various aspects of German speaking cultures

***Character Norms:*** Everyone deserves a positive, safe, (and I believe) fun environment to learn in. In order to ensure that this is possible, the following six norms have been established.

1. Respect (People, Places, and Things)
2. Responsibility (Materials, Homework, Study Habits)
3. Integrity (Honesty, and completing your own work!)
4. Craftsmanship (Turn in things that you are proud of)
5. Stewardship (Leave every space better than how you found it)
6. Perseverance (Don't give up when things get tough, ask for help!)

***Materials:*** There are certain materials you are expected to have in class **EVERY DAY!**

1. A learning attitude; open and ready to go when the bell rings.
2. Paper\*
3. Pencil or Pen
4. Completed homework and assignments

\*Learning best takes place, when one is organized. I highly recommend a 3-ring binder or a folder to keep handouts in. I am here to help you be successful; if you struggle with maintaining organization in class, folder/binder checks will be implemented.

**Bathroom:** Restrooms are to be used during the 5 minute passing period. However, if it is an emergency, you may talk with me-try to wait until the instruction/lecture/assignment has been given for the day.

**Tardies:** Students have 5 minutes of passing, except for assembly schedule days (4 minutes), to get to their next class. A student is considered tardy if they arrive after the bell has sounded. Per PHS protocol, doors will be closed upon the bell ringing and you will need to see Mrs. Cahoon in the ATTENDANCE OFFICE. If you arrive late, enter the room quietly. Consequences for a tardy can be found in the PHS Student Handbook.

**Behavioral Expectations:** Students are expected to work to cultivate an atmosphere of kindness and respect. Part of being respectful means taking off your hat (and/or leaving it in your locker) when you enter the classroom.

**Academic Expectations:** Students are expected to do at least ten minutes of studying EVERY NIGHT, whether or not homework has been assigned. This is far more effective than studying for an hour before a quiz or exam. There is always a vocabulary list to work on. It is encouraged to speak to parents, siblings, and even pets in the target language being studied! Any kind of practice is helpful; even if your family does not speak the language. Identify objects, food, clothing, and animals; and try to make simple sentences.

**Absences and Make-Up Work:** If you are absent it is YOUR responsibility to make up any of the missed work! You will have ONE WEEK from the day of the absence to make up the work without any consequences. Make up work can be found in the designated area established by the classroom teacher. If you have personal business that interferes with you getting your work done within the allotted time, please bring a signed note from your parent or guardian BEFORE your make-up work is due.

**Turning in Work:** Homework is due at the beginning of class. Some work will be graded for completion and some for accuracy. This is done so that you do not feel pressured or stressed to be “perfect”. Learning a language takes time and some content topics come to us faster than others. The purpose of homework is to practice what we are learning and not to demonstrate mastery; that is what assessments are for. If an assignment is going to be graded on completion, it cannot be made up if incomplete; I reserve the right to not disclose what the assignment is being graded on to encourage completion of all assignments as well as best effort. In order to help students be successful, most homework will be assigned the last few minutes of class so students can get a good start on it; if time is used efficiently, homework will be completed before the end of class.

I understand that life happens. For this reason, I will accept, per quarter, 1 LATE ASSIGNMENT for full credit; subsequent late assignments will be graded for partial credit. This means the second late assignment will be docked 10%, third 20%, so on and so forth. No work will be accepted after the reporting period. It’s very important to learn accountability, appropriate use of time, and to put forth best effort!

**Assessments:** I believe that assessments are the best way of checking to see if students fully understand concepts. Attendance is so important in order to be successful on these assessments. Please make sure you are staying up to date and preparing for each assessment. If you are absent for an assessment, it will be your responsibility to get it made up before or after school within 3 days of your return. After that, it will be marked as a zero.

**Grading Scale:** A traditional grading scale is used in this course; it very much represents a student’s effort and motivation to do well in this course.

A 90-100      B 80-89      C 70-79      D 60-69      F Below 59

\*Second Semester Prerequisite-If you have below a C- average at the semester, you cannot go on to the second semester; you will have to drop the course.

**Grade Computation:**

**Quarter Grade Computation:**

- 15% Participation Points
- 20% Oral and Listening
- 15% Homework/Daily Journal Entries
- 20% Quizzes and Graded Work
- 30% Tests and Projects

**Semester Grade Computation:**

- 45% First Quarter
- 45% Second Quarter
- 10% Semester Exam

**Demonstrating Character/Participation Points:** Character and getting involved can show through in many different forms, from being a good student to being an overall good person. Therefore, to show my appreciation for good character and getting involved, I will reward Participation Points whenever I see someone demonstrating good character and participating in class discussion. Learning a language requires us to communicate and get involved; therefore you will be required to have **30 PARTICIPATION POINTS PER QUARTER**. Any additional points will be considered extra credit in the “Homework” category.

Note: This will be the ONLY type of extra credit that I will offer.

**Food and Drink:** Food and Drink are NOT ALLOWED unless it is water, a food day, something prearranged for the whole class, or something I bring to share with the class.

**Technology:** I am an advocate for using technology for learning. Unless it has been previously communicated, technological devices are to be SILENCED and STORED in the assigned hanger located in the classroom; I reserve the right to confiscate any technology should it become a problem. Your personal technology is your responsibility; I will not be held accountable for lost or stolen technology. If you are uncomfortable with this policy, please leave your device in your locked locker. As per PHS policy, no photos or videos will be taken during instructional time as to not violate the privacy right of others. Violations of this will result in confiscation; the device will be turned in to administration.

\*There will be NO technology allowed during assessments. If a student chooses to ignore this expectation, they will earn a zero on their assessment. \*\*For a list of all offenses, please refer to the PHS Student Handbook.

**Student Handbook:** Rules and regulations of the PHS student handbook will be upheld and consequences will be delivered as established by PHS when appropriate.

**Being Culturally Aware:** Throughout the duration of this course, class discussions will cover different cultures and views; comparing and contrasting them to our own. It is the expectation that students be mindful and demonstrates respect for all opinions, views, and personal beliefs. We will talk about stereotypes and why they exist. It is important to understand that right or wrong and good or bad are not being discussed but rather observations.

**Being Vulnerable:** Taking a language usually makes us vulnerable. We become unsure of ourselves or just don't want to sound “stupid”. It is the expectation that we create a warm, welcoming, and safe environment so that we can be vulnerable. We all possess different strengths and we are ALL going to make mistakes; this truly is what it means to learn. Together we will build our confidence in the language and comfort level with being vulnerable.

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**Teacher Note:** I am looking forward to an exciting and productive year. Learning another language is a great deal of fun and is beneficial for various reasons. I expect participation and hard work. Attendance in a language class is of the utmost importance as **language is sequential and builds upon itself**. Frequent absences or not paying attention can be detrimental to your learning success. A language cannot be learned passively; you have to be proactive to achieve proficiency. Come to class, do your best, and let's have a great year!

I, (print STUDENT name) \_\_\_\_\_ have reviewed Ms. Tennant's Open Disclosure with my parent(s)/guardian(s). By signing below, I am in agreement to follow the expectations of the classroom in order to maintain a positive and safe learning environment for all.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Open Communication:*** I believe that open communication between parent(s)/guardian(s) and teachers is the best way to help students be successful. I will be sending out periodic emails inviting and informing you of open house, parent teacher conferences, etc. In order to ensure that this happens, please make sure that your information is updated in Infinite Campus (IC) and let me know the best way to contact you. Thank you!

The BEST way to contact me is to:

- Call: \_\_\_\_\_
- Text: \_\_\_\_\_
- Email: \_\_\_\_\_