**Deutsch I: An Overview**

***Frau Ehnle***

Hallo und herzlich willkommen zum Deutschunterricht! You all have made the decision to join our German program, and I could not be more excited to have you in my class. In this document you will find some general objectives, expectations, necessary and helpful course materials, and my contact information. **Please bring back the signed form attached to the parent letter by   
January 17.** I look forward to an educational, fun-filled semester packed with both old and new knowledge of the German language and culture!!

This semester we will emphasize the foreign language standards that focus on *communicating* in other languages, knowing and understanding other *cultures*, *connecting* the knowledge with other disciplines, *comparing* other languages and cultures to that of our own, and lastly bringing the knowledge learned to our *communities* at home and abroad.

Throughout the semester, we will be covering distinct **units** that include:

* **how to thrive in German class**
* **my family**
* **my friends and I**
* **my school life**
* **freetime and life outside of school**.

***Course objectives in working toward mastery of the four language skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing):***

* Clear and effective communication in a variety of everyday situations and appropriate use of German in context
  + Organize ideas clearly and coherently with the ability to communicate clearly through a variety of mediums in one-on-one, small group, and large group settings
  + Speaking with accuracy, fluency, spontaneity and confidence
* Greater cultural understanding and appreciation of cultural differences, e.g. customs, history, traditions, holidays
* Ability to understand, analyze and discuss various written texts and spoken conversations
* Spontaneously write short answers, and, later, paragraphs in the target language on a variety of topics
* Use technology and a variety of resources to broaden understanding of the German culture and connections to daily life at home and in German-speaking cultures.
* Begin to take ownership of learning with varied options for units that allow for learning inside and outside of the classroom.

**Participation and weekly student assignments:**

Participation is incredibly important in a language acquisition classroom—you will not learn to speak in German if you sit in class all day quietly, or chatter in English constantly. I love hearing my students’ voices; I love them more when they are on topic and in the target language. Mistakes will be made! This is not only expected, but completely necessary for learning and advancing to higher levels of German production.

In order to increase motivation, participation points will be awarded based upon your **weekly reflection,** including your own self-assessment, an outside-of-class listening and vocabulary acquisition component, and a Euro system. You will receive "euros" when attempting to actively participate in use of the target language, eg by adding to discussion, asking questions, or providing answers in complete German sentences. Every two weeks, you will paperclip your euros to a personal reflection sheet, and receive additional or fewer points based on the amount. Extra credit is possible if you have more than 3 Euro.

*\*Shy students/students who feel overly scared of making mistakes in front of their peers can feel free to schedule meetings with me in order to discuss ways of making speaking more comfortable in class, or altogether other ways of demonstrating active listening, attention, and overall participation/effort*

In addition to weekly self-reflection, you will be expected to keep **a log of German listening**, of when and what you listened to outside of class. 1 hour of listening will be required outside of class per week, with the options of music, podcasts, news, films, and TV shows. This can be done while you're brushing your teeth, eating breakfast, winding down, etc... This will be due every Monday at the start of class. In addition, 10.000 Points Memrise or a half hour of Duolingo will be due every Thursday at Midnight.

This means you should only be doing about two hours of actual homework the whole week! Pretty great ☺

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| --- | --- |
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89 |
| C | 70-79 |
| D | 60-69 |

**Grading policies:**

*The standard grading scale to be used for all graded assignments:*

Frequently, in-class assignments will involve grammar and new vocabulary. However, oral practice is also key, whether you are speaking to siblings, your dog, parents, the mirror, etc.



*Weighting for participation, assignments and tests is as follows*:

**Performance Assessments/Projects** = 50%

Homework/Class Work = 20%

Quizzes/Interim tests = 30%

Final Exam = 20% of semester grade; will have spoken, written, cultural,

reading comprehension and listening components.

I expect that you will put forth your best efforts through thorough completion of assignments, active participation, and practice of the target language both within and without the walls of this school. During class time, I will not be asked if certain materials covered will be on the "test. " There will mainly be performance-based assessments, eg projects, as the more authentic the assessment, the more I learn about your current knowledge of German. Learning a language is more than a letter grade and GPA! It can open eyes and minds to different cultures and lead to different considerations of what it means to think critically and consider differing perspectives--be excited and open-minded :)

**Materials:**

**3-ring binder:** this is essential to remaining organized in a class with no text book!

--also required: **dividers** (assessments, texts, grammatical notes, vocabulary notes, writings, and homework)

--**2 posters**, of any color, that can be kept at home until needed

--**a spiral notebook or loose leaf paper**

--an active mind and energy!!!

Online German Resources:

* Online Dictionaries--**DO NOT USE GOOGLE TRANSLATE** (I will know...)
  + pons.eu
  + leo.org
  + linguee.de (More so for use of a word or phrase in context)
* **Memrise.com** and **Duolingo** for vocabulary practice
  + Based on shifting new knowledge from short term memory to working memory to long term memory, the site allows students to practice vocabulary outside of class in a way that is not only more fun than flash cards, but more effective
  + Links to our classroom accounts will be found on Google Classroom
* Means to practice German at home:
  + Grammar games from..........http://grammatiktraining.de/spielmenue.html
  + Radio listening........................http://www.ndr.de/info/livestream150.html
  + Newspaper Articles..............sueddeutsche.de, zeit.de, spiegel.de
  + Watching the news and other television programs http://www.zdf.de/ZDFmediathek#/hauptnavigation/startseite

For class each day: **Students will need to bring their own paper and pencils**, preferably mechanical. The binder also needs to make it to class and should not be forgotten at home or in a locker.

**My contact information:**

E-mail: kehnle@horrycountyschools.net School phone: (843) 236-7997

**Classroom Empowerment:**

* **Honesty**

My students are expected to uphold the utmost integrity in their work and participation, as honesty is not only important in high school and, later, university/college, but also in life. If a student does make a mistake, eg uses an online translator, plagiarizes, or otherwise cheats, he/she will have a meeting with the parents/guardian and myself. More serious transgressions will be reported to the administration, as per school policy.

* **Communicate**

Talk to me about almost anything: issues you may have, points of contention, questions, concerns, what you had for breakfast, something fascinating you did/saw over the weekend, etc., in either German or in English! If anything is going on that is affecting your learning, let me know! In addition, if one student has a question about something, I am sure others do as well—never be afraid to raise a hand and ask a question! I can also be contacted via E-mail: [kmae@umich.edu](mailto:kmae@umich.edu). One hot tip for communicating in the target language: it is best to use words and sentence constructions you have already learned and know, especially when spontaneously speaking in class.

Ways to success:

* **Respect one another!**

Mistakes will be made—I expect all students to be patient with themselves and with one another. While laughing is much needed, it should never be *at* a particular person. We are all still learning! Safety, property, personal space, concentrations, and individual differences should all be respected as well.

* **Be present, awake, and engaged!**

Because this is a proficiency-based language class, and students will rarely have the chance to speak the target language outside of school hours, it is crucial that they be in class in order to prevent falling behind. During my class, engagement is equally critical—sitting at a desk staring blankly out the window is not learning German. Students need to be both physically and mentally present. This includes listening actively; learning a new language is not just learning how to speak, but also learning how to listen to others (not the kind of listening that wanders in one ear and stumbles out the other, either). Work should not be done for other classes in my class, unless a student finishes a test early. **If I see you texting with your phone, I will take it away.**

* **Be organized and prepared!**

This will reduce stress and make school a much more pleasant experience! Homework must be done at the start of every class, either turned in online or in person for the completion grade. Completion of homework will prepare students for class that day and serves as extra practice outside of class; it is not busy work. Students must also bring their energy, enthusiasm, and perseverance to my classroom in order to participate actively. In order to most effectively study for quizzes, remember: take great notes and study in small chunks, rather than last-minute cramming. Keep your binder organized!. When entering the classroom, students should retrieve any necessary handouts or returned work from their labeled folders.

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**Other Important Notes**

**\*You are responsible for homework, class work, quizzes and tests even when you are absent.** For this reason, you should **always** contact me. If you are absent for more than three days, you may call the guidance office. If you miss only one day and are present on the day of an assigned test or quiz, you will be **required to take the quiz or test.** Remember that you can always email me if you have a question about the assignment.

**\*\*It is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements for make-up work after an absence. You have** **2 days to make up homework or daily work, 5 days to make up a test**. Remember that it is to your advantage to make up work as quickly as possible, since you still have to keep up with the current assignments. Tests and quizzes must be made up before or after school. **No make-up work is done during class**. If you make an appointment to make up a test and do not show up, a zero will be counted for that test unless there is a valid excuse.

\*\*\*A “0” will be marked for any missed assignments. These zeros can be converted into a different grade upon completing the work. A grade of a “1” will be entered into the grade book when the work can no longer be made up and it is final.

\*Carolina Forest High School has a zero tolerance policy for cheating. The use of someone else’s work is prohibited at all times. This academic misconduct has become increasingly popular with the use of technology and the Internet. If at any time the student appears to have **copied another’s work** OR used **online translation services**, the student will receive a **ZERO** for the assignment. I take this misconduct seriously and it will not be tolerated.

Please contact me if you need extra help or have questions about our program. I would welcome the opportunity for you to be a guest speaker in our classes. Please let me know if there are experiences you or other family members can share about Germany or other German-speaking countries. I have an open door policy with my students and their parents. Please do not hesitate to contact me or visit with any questions.