

Willkommen!

Dear Student and Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your son/daughter to German class at Apex High School. As always, the start of a new course is full of excitement and I am hopeful that the 2011-2012 school year has been and will be academically successful for all students. I am interested in making the learning of a language enjoyable as well as relating its importance to the future of a new and ever changing world. This emphasis is reflected in my personal mission statement: *The study of German at Apex High School challenges students to become linguistically proficient and culturally aware of the global community through meaningful use of the target language.*

Although a newcomer to both Apex High School and North Carolina six years ago, this is my 19th year in the classroom and my 17th consecutive year of helping students develop German language proficiency. From 1995 until 2006, I taught German at Bay Point Middle School in St. Petersburg, Florida where I served as the Tampa Bay area's only middle school teacher of the language. I am also the 2005-2006 Florida Foreign Language Association German Teacher of the Year (statewide Florida designation for the 2005-2006 school year).

I will do what I can to give students a barrier free learning experience. In order to do so, your son/daughter must be responsible for several important matters, primarily: the materials necessary for class, his/her behavior, class participation and all of his/her assignments including vocabulary practice and readings. Listening, speaking, memorizing, reading, and writing are essential skills. We will have audio and visual materials available, which will be used to reinforce classroom presentation of the lessons.

Learning a language requires patience and repetition. Consequently, all students are expected to participate in class. Students will only reap as much benefit as the effort they put into studying a foreign language. **Time invested practicing outside of the classroom is more important than the time spent inside school.** Stress to your son/daughter that there is nothing wrong with making mistakes and that it is through mistakes that we learn.

Please review the following guidelines carefully:

CLASS MATERIALS: When the bell rings, students will place on their desks a pen/pencil and their notebooks open to the previous evening's homework assignment. If a test is being given, all materials should be cleared except what is needed for the test.

HOMEWORK: Whether the assignment is a written or a study requirement, it is important that it be done consistently. *Since each day of language study is built on the day before, students who fall behind can become lost easily!* Students who are having difficulty with homework assignments should ask for extra help, although prioritizing videogame playing, texting and Facebooking cannot be overcome with tutoring.

NOTEBOOKS: Students are required to keep a 3-ring class binder with ruled paper in which daily exercises are to be written and handouts, corrected homework assignments and returned/corrected quizzes are to be kept. These materials will be of utmost importance when reviewing for unit tests and course exams. *Many handouts will be used again in subsequent German courses.*

MAKE-UP WORK: It is the **student's responsibility** to arrange to make up work **immediately** upon return after an absence. Except in the case of an extended absence or other extenuating circumstance, work must be completed within one week of returning to school. Class time is not normally used to make up work. *Frequent absence is the main cause for lack of success in a language class.*

STUDENT CONDUCT: Students will treat each other and the teacher with respect and helpful consideration and will work at maintaining the pleasant learning environment of our school. German students should seldom need to be reminded of the importance of respectful, responsible behavior. Students in this course will be treated like college students and it is expected that behavior will be mature and that deadlines will be met.

CELL PHONES AND MUSIC PLAYERS: *Simsen ist verboten!* I do not want to see a student playing with their cell phone, music player OR headphones during class! Texting while driving is dangerous but texting while in class is rude and makes learning impossible. Students will have their electronics confiscated for a repeat violation of this rule. Emergency contact with your son/daughter should be made by calling the school's front office at (919) 387-2208.

GRADING: All tests, unit tests, oral presentations, homework and class participation will be evaluated according to the Wake county percentage scale (see handbook.) Grades for each quarter will be weighted as follows:

- 25% Quizzes (Quiz/Prüfung) - Students may correct any vocabulary quiz with a grade of 84 or below, for five extra points, to a maximum score of 85. (If a quiz with a grade of 80% is corrected, it will become an 85%.) To correct a quiz, *correct the entire sentence or re-write the misspelled vocabulary word correctly three times on an attached sheet.* Turn in corrections promptly after the assessment is returned.
- 25% Unit Tests (Examen) - There will be approximately two to three Examen each quarter.
- 30% Essays (Aufsätze) - There will be regularly assigned essays of at least 150-200 words. All essays will be graded for content (Inhalt) and for grammar, syntax and fluency. Students will be required to correct their grammar mistakes based on a common numbered correction sheet. They will then receive 50% of their lost grammar points back.
- 10% Homework & Assignments (Aufgaben) - Homework is assigned regularly. Student proficiency in German hinges on daily practice with assignments outside of the classroom as well as inside.
- 10% Class Participation (Teilnehmen) - Students develop their German skills through classroom practice. Most of this grade is earned by speaking German daily in the classroom.

The final exam counts for 20% of the final course grade. Seniors may be exempt from the final, depending on their grade in the course and their attendance record.

Please complete and return the page following this letter stating that you and your son/daughter have read and understand the course outline and expectations. I wish your family all the best for the year ahead and if you wish to contact me, please do so via email (pmaseman@maseman.org) or through my website (www.maseman.org). In addition, appointments for conferences can be set up through the Guidance Office.

Beste Wünsche (Best wishes),



Paul Maseman

Student Name (**please print**): _____

Student - please check the box below:

- My parent(s) and I have read the information for this course and the Wake County Student Handbook's rules regarding *appropriate computer & cell phone usage* as well as appropriate behavior in general.

Student Signature: _____ Student E-mail _____

Parent(s) – please check one of the following:

- I/We do not have access to a computer and will require my son/daughter to print me/us a hardcopy progress report every 3 weeks. (This can be done in the media center during lunch.)
- I/We have a SPAN account and will use it to check grades.
- I/We do not currently have a SPAN account but will soon acquire one.

Parent Signature: _____ Parent E-mail _____

Parent Signature: _____ Parent E-mail _____

Please print e-mail addresses neatly ☺

I am collecting e-mail addresses in order to facilitate parent/teacher communication. In addition to the above written e-mail addresses, it might be helpful if you e-mail me directly, so that there will be no errors when I add you to my address list.



„Ich habe grosse Angst, sehr, sehr jung zu sterben.“
„Aber, aber—Davon brauchen Sie doch jetzt keine Angst mehr zu haben.“