

Deutsch I

Mrs. Meissner

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Herzlich Willkommen in Deutsch! I am looking forward to our time together as you learn about German language and culture. I love teaching German and I enjoy watching the explosion of progress that students make in the first course.

It might prove useful to know something about me, as I will be learning about each of you. I was born in this area and have lived here for much of my life. I graduated from OHS in 1986. This is my eleventh year as a teacher here. While in high school, I spent a summer in Austria as an exchange student, which is where I developed my interest in and love for the German language. I also met my husband, Manfred, in Austria, although we didn't like each other very much as teenagers. We have two children: Thomas is a freshman and Gabriele is a 8th-grader at OMS. Manfred is an electrical engineer and works for Caterpillar. We lived in Vienna, Austria for the first five years we were married. In our home, my husband and I never speak English with each other; German is a way of life for me, not just a job. I hope this will be evident to you; I believe the best teaching occurs when the teacher truly loves what she does and uses her skills in her own life. We moved back to the U.S. in 1997. I went to Hesston College and the University of Iowa for my bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. I returned to school and earned a Master's degree in German literature; I also earned a second Master's degree in English Studies.

As you can see, I have remained a student long after high school. That is one of my core beliefs about being a teacher: I also need to remain a student. Right now, even though I'm not in a class, I am trying to learn Biblical Hebrew. (It's *much* harder than German!) I enjoy listening to what students think about literature and life, and I enjoy long, respectful and honest class discussions. I believe in the life of the mind. I believe in people and education. I think that people need to be educated more now than ever before and that education is the key to personal improvement and contentment. I enjoy reading aloud to my children, for my own pleasure, and for my classes. For me, life is unimaginable without books. I also like to write and appreciate the hard work involved in the process.

To me, the *best* classes are the ones that have students who are prepared for class, who are willing to share their thoughts and work, and who respect their classmates. Great classes bond in hard work and achievement, and the students are willing to take risks to pursue quality. I hope this is such a class. You must know from the start that it takes a great deal of work to learn a second language. I attempt to use best practices in teaching, but much of your success depends on you. This means daily practice and working to master vocabulary and concepts. I will give you many tips on how to be successful in learning German, not only in this class, but in your subsequent German classes as well. Sometimes I even pass on pearls of wisdom about how to be successful in life.

Hausaufgabe

German is a subject that requires a great deal of practice. You can expect homework on most days. Homework also means spending time every day learning the vocabulary in whatever way is most helpful for you. My philosophy on homework is that it should help students, not just create busy work for all of us. How well you understand your homework impacts daily decisions in class. You are expected to have your homework completed when you arrive in class. We will always grade homework at the beginning of class. Each daily homework assignment is worth 10 points. 5 of these points are for completion; the other 5 points are earned from accuracy. You will grade your own work and make corrections. I also view homework as a place for dialogue and I always

give students time to write me individual questions about what they did not understand so that we can clear up issues right away.

Sprechen

It is essential to practice spoken German in order to improve. Please do not worry that you do not do it perfectly. I would be astounded if you could and then you would not need to be in this class. Everyone makes plenty of errors at the beginning. The students who are most successful in the long run are those who are willing to risk sounding like a two-year-old again. Just keep trying!! We will work with a program called Audacity to do some recording of your spoken German.

Themenübersicht

- I. Einführung, das Alphabet und die Zahlen 1 – 1.000.000
- II. Wer bin ich? Über mich und andere.
- III. Wie ich wohne
- IV. Familie und Freunde
- V. Mein Tag
- VI. Einkaufen

Schulsachen

- One low-odor dry erase marker – blue or black only
- One dry-erase eraser OR one clean white athletic sock
- One 2” three-ring binder with one set of dividers
- One outstanding attitude and a curious mind

Contact Information

Please see me ASAP if you are struggling and would like some additional help. First of all, you are not the first student in this position; I also do not expect any of you to be experts in German – that’s my job. I’m available during lunch/advisory and after school by appointment. Feel free to email me at rebecca.meissner@olympia.org. I maintain a website to the teachers’ pages. You can access my website by going to the Olympia homepage. Click on the ‘high school’ link on the left side of the menu. Then, click on ‘Teacher Pages’. My goal is to keep homework assignments and valuable information and links on this page for you.

Nach diesem Kurs

At the end of this course, you should be able to say all the following statements.

- I can use the vocabulary of all the units we studied in German 1 in speech, reading, and writing.
- I can conjugate German verbs correctly.
- I can use correct word order to form German sentences.
- I can tell and write about several German holidays and customs.
- I can identify the 16 federal states of Germany on a map and I can say their names in German.

Unterschriften

Student signature

Parent signature