

German Newsletter

Wir lernen, wir haben Spaß, wir diskutieren.

Featured Profession – Classical Musician



Although Germans are often known for great scientific advances, it would be a shame to forget the importance of German in classical music. Due to the popularity of composers such as Mozart, Beethoven, and Schumann, many choral programs prefer students who have a certain level of German fluency. German is also used in some music theory, so one may find some music written with German annotation (Mahler comes to mind!). Musical groups such as die Berliner Philharmoniker and other large ensembles often employ musicians from all around the world. Having a knowledge of German is a quick way to keep the position! (Fun fact, I have had a former student who has performed with some German and Austrian groups as a pianist.)

Featured extra-curricular German: Duolingo

Duolingo is a free language-learning program that is web-based, and also available as an app for most formats. Because of the short lesson formats and availability to go back and refresh old skills, Duolingo encourages reinforcement of foundations of language. (Fun fact, I started doing Duolingo for Danish to see what it's like – 2 weeks later, I was dreaming in Danish!)

Word of the Week: Das Bauernopfer

This term comes from chess – the sacrifice of a pawn. Literally a “farmer victim,” the term has spread to everyday life. In English, we would say “to throw someone under a bus.”

Wissen Sie schon? Did you know?

In Germany, like many other countries in Europe, there is no separation of church and state. Because of this, German schools take many days off throughout the year for church holidays. Coming up next week, some states will have Monday the 31st off for Reformationstag (celebrating Martin Luther), and some have Tuesday off for Allerheiligen (All Saints' Day).

News from the classroom: German 1

Using Time, and soon much more!

German 1 has written full sentences about things they do often, and what time of day they do them. Students surprised themselves with how simple a German sentence can be to put together!

Coming up, we are transitioning into an online text. Students are asked to leave their books at home for homework and studying. We are very near to beginning chapter 1B in the other textbook, *Sag mal*, which will focus on schooling in Germany.

News from the classroom: German 2

Past tense

German 2 is circling back to the packets students have been working on for several weeks now. They are writing stories in German, one paragraph at a time, all in past tense. These stories will be traded and continued by another student in class. The scores will be given only for the paragraph they write, though! This assessment will continue as students work out their confusion and misunderstandings of how the structure works until students are happy with their understanding, and their score.

German 2 will also soon begin a unit on the movie *Die Welle*. This ties in with their in-depth discussions last week on school and politics! We will focus on vocabulary as well as grammar in this time.

In addition to that, German 2 is also transitioning into the online textbook, with their traditional books kept at home for homework and studying. Students are excited that they understand the material in the other book.

News from the classroom: German 3

Berlin, Berlin!

German 3 has completed their very first essay in German! Students were able to successfully write their opinions, and back those opinions up with facts, experiences, and counter-arguments.

We are now moving into a large unit on Berlin. This idea came from the conference I was able to attend last week, as well as materials I was able to bring back. The basis of the unit: *Liebe Mauer*, a romantic comedy about an East German border guard and a West German woman, and a chapter from a textbook called *Stationen*. In *Liebe Mauer*, we are learning a lot about history and culture (focusing on the cultural differences between East and West). In *Stationen* there will be an opportunity to focus more on vocabulary and grammar.

The plan is to continue this unit until it blends into a unit on multiculturalism in Germany, or specifically in Berlin. Discussions have already come up on Turkish German culture, and we will be looking further in-depth on that topic.

News from German Club:

Opera, Halloween, und Leavenworth!

German Club is trying to be a highly active and very interesting club this year. This Friday we will take a field trip to the Seattle Opera, where *Hansel and Gretel* is playing in German with English subtitles. 24 students are joining us.

We are having a Halloween party after school Monday until 5 pm. We will cover the details (what to bring, what to wear) at our club meeting on Wednesday.

Leavenworth field trip is coming up Friday, December 2nd! Stay tuned for more details!