

Curriculum Plan - Sterne
German School of Northeast Kansas

Adult Beginners (ages 13/14 and up)

Proficiency level: Novice Low (A1)

12 sessions – 18 hours

Goal: use German to get acquainted with fellow students, discover shared interests, build a sense of community, establish a solid foundation of basic skills for learning more German, and have fun.

Standards (Can-do Statements):

Interpersonal Communication:

I can communicate on some very familiar topics using single words and phrases that I have practiced and memorized.

- I can greet my peers
- I can introduce myself to someone
- I can answer a few simple questions

Interpretive

I can recognize some cognates, and the most basic works. I can identify memorized words and phrases when I read.

Listening

- I recognize isolated words that I have memorized, particularly when accompanied by gestures and pictures (greetings, colors, numbers, foods, and other nouns)

Reading

- I recognize basic words, phrases, and place names.

Presentational communication:

I can present information about myself and some other very familiar topics using single words or memorized phrases.

Speaking

- I can recite words and phrases (counting, dates and days of the week, months and seasons)
- I can introduce myself to a group.
- I can state the names of familiar people, places, and objects in pictures and posters using words or memorized phrases
- I can recite short memorized phrases, parts of poems, and rhymes.

Writing

- I can write words and phrases that I have learned

Cultures

Products: Folding paper stars, homemade *Laterne*, decorated *Weihnachtsteller*

Practices: Handshakes; taking leave of the teacher, the class, the group; group singing; celebrating birthdays; activities related to *Martinstag*, *Nikolaustag*, *Oster*, and spring celebrations (Maibaum und Windeltanz)

Connections

- Math: metric measurement, time difference,
- Geography: establish fundamental mental map of German
- Science: Temperatures in Celcius
- Current events, when warranted

Comparisons (as they come up)

- Language: as students bring up questions
- Culture: similarities and differences in major holidays

Community

- Participate in “Morgenkreis” activities
- Use German with fellow students, all the teachers, German-speaking family members of all students involved in GSNEKS
- Represent the school at a publicity or fund-raising event
- Perform a rehearsed presentation on end-of-semester ‘fest’ days

Themes:

- Getting acquainted
- Daily routines: family, friends, work, freetime
- Grocery shopping
- Getting directions and identifying people

The class will emphasize oral practice, including whole group, small group, and partner interchanges.

Reading and writing practice will be completed individually between sessions, and considered homework, especially suited to individual student goals.

The textbook we are using is Aussichten A1.1 and A1.2. It comes with a CD for the Kursbuch and a CD for the Arbeitsbuch. The two are combined in one volume, the first 99 pages are the Kursbuch and the Arbeitsbuch starts on page 100. There is also a video DVD.

Students are also asked to bring the same notebook each week, and to organize certain pages according to the teacher’s directions, in effect ‘creating a personal textbook’ that is customized to this unique setting.

Samples of class work will be collected for student portfolio, using LinguaFolio. This is a form of self assessment, a learning portfolio that documents the student’s accomplishments. Links to paper or electronic LinguaFolio guides are located on the GSNEKS website. The textbook also provides a model.

Although not a comprehensive list, differentiation between Novice Low and Novice Mid will look something like this.

Active vocabulary:

| Novice Low | Novice Mid |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Guten Morgen! Guten Tag! | Guten Morgen! Morgen! Guten Tag! Tag! Grüß dich! Moin, moin! |

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wie geht's? | Wie geht es Ihnen/dir? |
| Danke. | Danke schön. Danke sehr. |
| Pronouns: <i>ich, du, er, sie, es</i> | Pronouns: <i>ich, du, er, sie, es, Sie, wir, ihr, sie (pl)</i> |
| Verb forms: present, regular, singular of a limited number of verbs | Verb forms: singular and plural of a wider range of regular verbs |
| Past - <i>war</i> | Past – present progressive, most common |
| Prepositions: mit der Hand, mit dem Finger | <i>mit, aus, für, von</i> |
| | |
| | |
| Auf wiedersehen! | Wiedersehn! Tschüß! Bis später! |

Once a student begins to perform at the Novice Mid level, they are ready to move into the “Sternschnuppen” group.