

Common Questions and Answers About The German School of Northeast Kansas

Thanks for your interest in the *German School of Northeast Kansas!*



Q1. Neither my child nor I have any background in the German language. Are your classes geared toward beginning students?

Yes, our classes are geared toward beginners. Even though you or your child have no prior exposure to German you will learn best by being immersed in the language. This is the same method by which you learned English if you are a native English speaker. Keep in mind that it takes about 200 hours of instruction to get past being a beginner, so with approximately 18 hours of instruction per semester, it will take more than five years at our school to reach the next level. In other words, beginning classes include a range of experience and everyone is expected to learn at their individual level.

In anticipation of enrolling in our school, you may want to use online lessons to become slightly familiar with German language before classes start. One option is the *Deutsche Welle* (German Wave) Internet site: <http://www.dw.de/learn-german/german-courses/s-2547>. A1 is the beginning level.

Q2. What is the curriculum for each class level and where can I find it?

The curriculum is housed on our website (www.LawrenceGermanSchool.org) where you may print, download or just review it online. From our homepage, left-click on the "Downloads" button found on the top right-hand area of the page in red. Then left-click on "*class specific resources*" under the "Quick Links..." heading. A PDF file of the curriculum should appear and you can print, download or just review the content online.

Essentially all beginning language courses have the same or a very similar pattern to achieve concept mastery. The preschool "*Bären*" class learns mostly through play routines, games, songs, and hand-on activities. The school age curriculum is adapted for the 7-14 year-old "*Igel*" class or for the adult "*Sterne*" class by changing the complexity and context of examples and activities to either suit a child learner or an adult learner, but instruction is given in German (immersion method) in both classes.

There are no textbooks used in the "*Bären*" and "*Igel*" classes and most of the learning is from the in-class experience and interaction. Students in the adult, "*Sterne*", class use a workbook which comes with a CD and DVD that supports the lessons. This makes it possible for "*Sterne*" students to work independently in addition to the group interaction on Saturdays, whether it be to work ahead, prepare, or review. The workbook is entitled "Aussichten A1.1" and is published by Klett publishing.

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Q3. Can my 3 year-old enroll in the *Bären* class?

The classrooms in which we meet are not furnished or organized with very young children in mind. We also do not have the staff to gear interactions to the very individualistic learning styles of children under the age of four. However, depending on the child's birthdate and experience with preschool and group activities, we are willing to discuss exceptions.

Q4. Is it OK if I or my child miss a couple of classes?

We hope that students can attend all twelve classes, but we do understand that life, work, and family activities may create conflicts. Remember that each hour of being immersed in German contributes to the learning process.

In the "*Igel*" class there are sometimes activities that can be done at home but most of the learning still comes from the in class experience. Likewise in the adult class ("*Sterne*"), most learning occurs in class but the adults also use a textbook which comes with a CD and DVD from which a small amount of homework, make-up work, or reinforcement of previous activities is assigned. In the final analysis missing one or two class sessions due to schedule conflicts should not prevent you or your child from enrolling.

Q5. How should we enroll?

The enrollment form is housed on the website - www.LawrenceGermanSchool.org/ . From the home page, left click on the "Downloads" button found on the top right-hand area of the page. Then left click on "*student enrollment form*" under "Quick Links". A PDF file of the enrollment form should appear and you can print out the form or save it for future use.

Before the first day of class, please complete the enrollment form and mail it along with your tuition check/money order (don't mail cash) to P.O. Box 202, Lawrence, KS 66044-0202 , Attention GSNEKS Enrollment. Please make checks out to " **German School of Northeast Kansas**".

Q6. Does your school offer other activities?

We have a short **Fest** on the last day of classes each semester (Nikolaus fest and Mai fest). We are a non-profit organization and need the help of volunteers. Contact the principal at Pfarrar@sunflower.com, if you would like to become more involved – whether as a Board Member or chair of a committee (publicity, fund raising, and special events), or just want an invitation to the '**Fest**' celebrating the end of each semester. Let the Director know that you want to stay on the "Friends" mailing list (mwindheuser@gmail.com), or join us on Facebook.

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Q7. Where are your classes held?

The **German School of Northeast Kansas (GSNEKS)** is currently meeting at **Bishop Seabury Academy** in Reese Hall (the building on the west boarder of the parking lot). So we have a classroom atmosphere around our students. We also have a large group circle or *Morgenkreis* time at the beginning and ending of classes for announcements and the official change from German to English or vice versa. Bishop Seabury is located at 4120 Clinton Parkway (same street as 23rd street); Lawrence, Kansas 66047. Please do not contact Bishop Seabury with questions about the GSNEKS. You may call or email our Director, Dr. Windheuser at 785.218.9700 (his work cell phone) or mwindheuser@gmail.com

Q8. Do you hold class at any other locations or times than 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM on Saturdays during the academic semester?

No, not at this time. We are a Saturday German language school and offer immersion German language classes for ages 4 years to adult. We understand that commuting to Lawrence from other areas of Northeast Kansas can be challenging but we have had students from as far away as Leavenworth Kansas join our school in order to continue learning the language of their ancestors or to maintain the language skills which their children learned while being stationed in Germany as is the case with many military families.

Liebe Grüße,

Michael G. Windheuser, Ph.D.
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