

Herr McCloskey
German
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(Email is the best way to contact me!)

Grading Policy

According to middle school level policy, your grade for each marking period, semester, and academic year is based on the following percentages...

Primary 50% (Benchmarks, tests, major projects)
Secondary 35% (quiz, minor project, class participation)
Support 15% (Homework)

- **Tests:** Tests are always announced and given at the end of each unit. Also included in this percentage are mid-term and final examinations, which include written and speaking tests.
- **Quizzes:** May not always be announced but will adhere to material in the current unit.
- **Homework:** Given to help strengthen skills being learned in class. This homework generally comes from either the Portfolio Deutsch textbook or workbook, which is available online at blinklearning.com. Homework will only be given full credit if it is completed on time and correctly (full words, sentences, etc.).
- **Class Work/Participation/Presentations:** This grade includes remaining on task for in-class work, preparation for class, verbal participation, and teacher assigned projects. Oral participation is kept track of using classdojo.com. The "Reisepass" (passport) is also used as a way for students to earn prizes once they have gained 30 participation points. The student should not take this paper outside of class to prevent loss. There is a folder for each class in the room that the Reisepass can be placed in at the end of every period. If a student loses their Reisepass they will be given a blank one to start gaining points again.

Class Preparation

As the district integrates into the one to one initiative, I will be attempting to have most assignments and files available on our class' OneNote Online Binder. However, certain materials may not be easily translated to an online format at the current time, so students should still come prepared to class with the following items...

- Charged Laptop
- A folder to keep important handouts that can't be uploaded digitally
- A pen or pencil to write with (just in case!)
- Completed Homework or projects (homework from Portfolio Deutsch only needs to be submitted online)!

Failure to come prepared to class everyday may affect your grade negatively!

Cheating and Plagiarism: If a student is found to be cheating or plagiarizing on class assignments the student will automatically receive a zero on the assignment. **This also pertains to the use of online translators/translation services (Google Translate, etc.).**

Progress Reports and Report Cards: Please see appropriate section in Student Assignment Book.

Extra Help: I am available after school for extra help but it is very important that *students give me advance notice*. I may have to make special accommodations.

Portfolio Deutsch and Blink Learning

In all German courses at Bunker Hill Middle School, students will be using the Portfolio Deutsch 1 textbook and workbook. Students won't be responsible for a physical copy of the book, because they will be given access online through blinklearning.com. For a guided tutorial of the Blink Learning platform and Portfolio Deutsch series, please see the video on my YouTube page.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZBIN8Uxh2A&t=2s>

Expectations

Learning a foreign language takes time.

The only way to effectively learn to speak in German is to use the language as frequently as possible. When you have the ability to I expect you to use the German to know to communicate. You have a full class period to practice German with individuals who are on a similar level as you. Use this time to your advantage!

Learning a language takes commitment.

Unfortunately, no one has figured out how to magically make you learn the German language instantly so until then it will require hard work! Learning another language requires effort on your part inside and outside of the classroom including doing classwork, homework, and exposing yourself further to the language and culture. What you gain from this class depends upon what the effort you put into it.

Learning a foreign language is cumulative.

In Math you are expected to know how to add $2 + 2$ even though you are now able to do more complex arithmetic. You will have to remember vocabulary from the beginning of the year until the end of the year and every year that you study German from now on. Building a strong foundation of these skills is important.

To help yourself succeed in this class make sure you're doing the following...

Participate: Not only does a large part of your grade depend on speaking and participating in class but your comprehension of what we discuss in class does as well. Other large parts of participating are paying attention, taking good notes, and answering questions when called on.

Be Polite: Don't do anything that could interfere with my ability to teach and other's ability to learn. Be considerate of others trying to speak in any language. Listen to directions and follow them the

first time. Not everyone learns at the same speed so be patient and help others who are struggling with a concept. Allow your classmates time to ask their questions and to make mistakes without making them feel self-conscious.

I like to make class enjoyable and interesting to you all but that is only possible if you follow the policies and expectations listed above.