

# HERZLICH WILLKOMMEN IN DEUTSCH I



PENNRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL  
PENN SOUTH MIDDLE  
2010-11  
FRAU GURNEY

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August 30, 2010

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

My name is Elizabeth Gurney and I will be your son/daughter's German teacher this year. I am very excited about the prospect of building your child's German skills and knowledge!

I have studied German for over 15 years and my German experience has brought me countless opportunities, such as living abroad and participating in foreign exchange programs. It is my hope to be able to share my love of the German language and culture with you again this year.

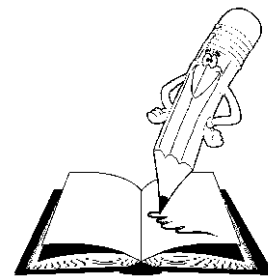
I am focused on building the your ability to read, write, and speak German by utilizing materials from our textbook, as well real world materials such as the internet, music, films, and literature. It is also my intent to provide you with a strong understanding of the culture in the German-speaking countries, giving you confidence should you have the opportunity to travel to Europe to further explore the language that you have chosen to study, especially with our GAPP exchange.

Attached is our class syllabus, which outlines my expectations for all students for the remainder of the year. Please review and discuss the syllabus with your son/daughter, sign the bottom, and return a copy to me.

Should you have any concerns about your (or your son/daughter's) progress throughout the year, please feel free to contact me by calling the school office or by e-mailing me. Thank you for your time and support. I look forward to a successful year!

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Frau Elizabeth Gurney



# Deutsch I

## Class Syllabus

### Pennridge High School/Penn South Middle School

**WILLKOMMEN!**



#### Instructor

Frau Gurney

Telephone: (215) 453-2728

E-mail: [egurney@pennridge.org](mailto:egurney@pennridge.org)

#### Text

*Komm mit!* Level 1

#### Course description

In this first year of German, you will begin to develop the basic vocabulary and grammatical structures needed to interact and create meaningful conversations. The focus of your studies is on real-life topics and situations such as travel, school, food, and clothing. You will become familiar with the culture and customs of the German speaking countries through authentic materials such as readings, videos, and CDs.

### Class Information

#### Materials

All students should come to class on a daily basis with the following items:

- Planner
- Notebook paper
- 3-ring binder (at least 1½ inches)
- Pencil
- Pen
- 3x5 inch index cards
- German dictionary\*

\*For home use

#### 3-ring binders/Notebooks

You will need to have a 3-ring binder, at least 1½ inches, to **only** be used for German class. It is important you keep ALL classroom handouts, homework assignments, overhead work, and tests/quizzes organized. Keep all of these papers in chronological order as they are handed out/back to you. It is suggested that you keep your papers organized by using dividers to categorize all work.

Keeping an organized notebook with all papers contained therein will allow you to go back to past lessons if you are having difficulty. You will also need these papers to study for future tests/quizzes. It is YOUR responsibility to be able to find old tests, quizzes, and homework assignments if a question arises regarding a grade.

**\*\*NOTE: When something is written on the board, it should be recorded in your notebook!!!**

#### German-English Dictionary

I would highly suggest you purchase a German-English dictionary (full size or pocket-size) for your use at home as you complete projects and homework assignments.

Learning a foreign language is fun, but it also takes effort. I would recommend you purchase either an Oxford-Duden or Langenscheidt dictionary, as they are the most complete dictionaries I've come across. Both of these could be purchased at Barnes & Noble, Borders, or Amazon.com among other places.

### **Grading Policy**

Your grades will be calculated based on the following criteria:

Tests & Projects	45%
Quizzes	20%
Homework	15%
Participation	20%

### **Tests, Quizzes, and Projects**

As we study each new chapter, you will take tests and quizzes on the new grammar, vocabulary, and culture that you are learning. You will typically be given a number of days notice prior to tests and quizzes. Please be certain to STUDY for these exams, for they will play a large role in your grade.

You will be assigned several projects throughout the semester. You will often have some time in class to work on your project, but all projects will require outside work. Do not fail to complete these projects!

### **Homework**

I believe that homework is necessary for practicing skills that have been learned or for enriching the classroom experience. You will receive homework typically 2-3 times a week. Each homework assignment is given for a purpose: for you to practice on your own what we have done in class. Some weeks you may receive more homework and some weeks less. All homework assignments will either be spot-checked or collected and graded for points. As a general rule, late assignments will not be accepted.

### **Participation**

Your class participation grade will be based on your contribution to each class period. This includes: being on time, having your materials (including a pencil and paper!!!), participating in class discussions, answering questions, going to the board, attending to the task at hand during group work, and posing meaningful questions among other things.

### **Written Work Policy**

1. **Definition of Late Work:** Any outside-of-class assignment (exercises, projects, etc...) that is not COMPLETE when you walk into class is considered late. Any in-class work must be turned in before you leave the classroom for the day unless otherwise stated.
2. The following will result in a "0" on any written assignment:
  - All late work
  - Work not labeled with your NAME, DATE, CLASS, and PERIOD
  - Work that is copied (this includes translation services; see "Academic Honesty" below)
3. If you are absent on the day an assignment is due, you are expected to turn it in the day you return.
4. Computer and printer problems will not be accepted as an excuse for late work. If the problem involves a SCHOOL computer or printer, you must have a signed note from the computer lab teacher.

**Academic Integrity**

As stated in the PHS Student Handbook, students found guilty of cheating may be given a zero grade for the academic work. The teacher or principal will notify the parents/guardians if cheating occurs. Additional disciplinary measures may also be imposed.

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE:\*\*\*** Using an online translator for class work is considered cheating and will result in a zero. Please do not put yourself in this situation!

**Attendance**

If you are absent, you will be responsible for completing all missed work/homework assignments. You will have a 3-day grace period to complete all work once you return to school. You are responsible for speaking with your classmates to find out what was missed. Any worksheets/handouts will be in the class folder. If you have further questions, please see me after class.

**Restroom/Pass Policy**

At the beginning of each marking period, students will receive four passes each, which may be used to go to the restroom, water fountain, or your locker. You may not leave the room unless you have a pass. At the end of the marking period, remaining passes may be turned in for 1 point extra credit per pass.

**Extra Help**

I will be available by organized after-school study sessions or by appointment for extra help during homeroom, lunch, or after school. Please make sure you see me after class in order to set up a time to meet!

**German on the Web**

Our class has a home on the Internet! I maintain a class website on which I display homework, upcoming assignments, important documents, and pictures of our happenings in the classroom. Parents can visit the webpage as well to keep up-to-date on classroom events. The website is located at [www.fraugurney.com](http://www.fraugurney.com). If you would like to contact me by e-mail, you can use the e-mail link on the web page or write to me at [egurney@pennridge.org](mailto:egurney@pennridge.org).

**After reviewing the syllabus, please sign below and return one copy to Frau Gurney.**

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 Student Name

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 Student Signature

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 Parent/Guardian Name

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 Parent/Guardian Signature

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 Phone Number

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 E-mail Address (parent/guardian)

# Website Permission Slip

August 2010

Dear Parents and Students,

I maintain a webpage on the Internet as part of my German instruction here at Pennridge, as I believe it can be an excellent tool to include in the learning process. The webpage I maintain is located at [www.fraugurney.com](http://www.fraugurney.com).

In creating and maintaining my website, I may wish to include your child's work, first name, or photograph. In accordance with the Pennridge School District policy, I am seeking your approval. Permission must be given for use of your child's photograph, first name (only), or examples of their class work on the website. Your signature on this shows your agreement to the possibility of your child's picture, first name, or class work to be used as part of the webpage. Note: I will never use a student's full name on the website.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss the above information, feel free to call or e-mail me.

Kind regards,

Frau Elizabeth Gurney

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### **Parental Permission**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, give my permission to use my child's picture, first name, or examples of class work on the school's website. I understand that last names and other identifying information will not be used for the safety of my child.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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### **Student Permission**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, give my permission to use my picture, my first name, or examples of my work on the school's website.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# ***Frau Gurney's German Film Permission Form***

## **Penridge High School/Penridge South Middle School**

### **2010-11**

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#### **German Language Films in the Classroom**

Several times during the school year, the German classes will view feature-length German films. These are theatrical release films on video. Most are shown in the original language with English subtitles, while a few are without subtitles.

We show these films to give students exposure to the language and culture they are studying. They do not just watch these films passively, but are expected to answer questions and be able to discuss the films. Any film shown is chosen for its educational value, and most are award-winning cinematic works.

#### **Hollywood Films**

Some American movies, in their German or English versions, are also scheduled for viewing. These include familiar Hollywood movies such as *Ice Age*, *SpongeBob*, *The Mask*, *Harry Potter*, *Legally Blonde*, and *The Incredibles* in German without subtitles. Since the students are usually familiar with such films, they are generally able to follow the meaning of the film. Other U.S. movies may be shown because of their historical or cultural information (*Amadeus*).

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#### **Film Guide for 2008-09**

Below is a brief description of some of the German films that may be shown this year to help you decide about permission for your son or daughter. The MPAA rating or an estimated rating for non-rated films is in ( ). **NOTE:** Not all of these films will be viewed each school year.

- ***Amadeus*** (1984) Oscar-winning film based on Mozart's short life (he died at 35) and career. "A stunning film full of great music, drama, and wit." In German. Mild violence. (PG)
- ***Bella Martha*** (2001) An award winning film about a German chef who struggles when she must care for her 8-year-old niece. This film was recently remade in the US with Catherine Zeta-Jones as "No Reservations". In German. (PG)
- ***Sophie Scholl: The Final Days*** (2006) Well-acted film based on the true story of Hans and Sophie Scholl and a group of college students in wartime Munich who fought against Hitler by printing and distributing anti-Nazi leaflets. They and one of their professors were finally executed shortly before the end of the war. In German. Brief nudity. (PG)

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My son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_ **may** \_\_\_ / **may not** \_\_\_ view the above listed German films or similar films if shown during this school year.

PARENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Please Note:**

- The movies listed above may or may not be shown this year.
- Students not allowed to view these films will be given related assignments.
- Parents may arrange to review a particular film at school with special arrangements.
- **NOTE:** Students without a signed form on record will not be allowed to view these films.



## ***Frau Gurney's Tips for Success in German***

1. **Listen** in class! Keep listening even if you get lost. You will pick up the gist of the conversation if you let it *flow* through you.
2. **Speak** in class! Repeat new words and patterns out loud. This will help you remember them.
3. **Memorize** at home by repeating vocabulary and patterns.
  - **Make flash cards!** Use markers or colored index cards to help color-code vocabulary. Use blue for masculine nouns, red for feminine nouns, and green for neuter. Use yellow for verbs and orange for all other words. Take your time and PRACTICE!
  - **Talk to yourself!** Repeat patterns out loud in your room, while getting ready for school, exercising, etc... Teach your dog, cat, or hamster German. You can make up songs or mnemonic devices.
4. **Write** in class! Take notes in your notebook, keep a vocabulary list, and write down any questions you might have. Don't be afraid to ask!
5. **Do your homework!** Übung macht den Meister! (Practice makes perfect!)



## Shortcuts for Typing German Characters

### PC

The following keystrokes work on any PC computer when working in any program. Just hold down the Alt key at the same time as typing the numbers in on the number keypad on the right side of the keyboard. If you are working in a Microsoft program, you can also use the "Insert Symbol" function.

German Symbol	Keyboard Shortcut
ä	Alt-132
Ä	Alt-142
ö	Alt-148
Ö	Alt-153
ü	Alt-129
Ü	Alt-154
ß	Alt-225
é (French)	Alt-130
€	Alt-0128

### Mac

The following keystrokes work on any Mac computer when working in any program.

German Symbol	Keyboard Shortcut
ä	option + u, a
Ä	option + u, A
ö	option + u, o
Ö	option + u, O
ü	option + u, u
Ü	option + u, U
ß	option + s



## Extra Credit Tickets

During the year, you will have the opportunity to earn participation points by collecting tickets that are awarded to you in class.

### Tickets will be awarded for the following:

#### Academic

- Demonstrating outstanding participation throughout the entire class.
- Posing a well thought out question.
- Being able to answer a particularly difficult question.
- Using German in class during group activities.
- Coming in before school/staying after school for extra help if needed.
- Winning a review game (team or individual games).
- Bringing in a news article that is related to the topic being discussed or Germany/German culture and explaining it to class. *Note: this needs to be approved by Frau G. first!*
- Leading a discussion on a cultural/current event point. *This also needs to be approved by Frau G. first!*

#### Behavior

- Showing exemplary behavior during class; student is active, attentive, and courteous. Comes to class prepared.
- Coming to class and immediately working on the warm-up (“Vorspeise”) without being prompted by the teacher.
- Any behavior/act deemed to be worthy of a ticket.

### Ticket Rules:

1. Tickets are handed out at the teacher’s discretion. Tickets will not be awarded if a student asks for one.
2. Teacher may hand out as many or as few tickets as she chooses during each class.
3. Please keep track of your tickets; if you lose your tickets, they are lost. It is recommended that you keep your tickets in the provided envelope in your binder/notebook.
4. Please not write on or shred your tickets.
5. Tickets may be redeemed/handed in after class.
6. Tickets must be handed in in groups of 5 or 10.

### Redemption Value:

The point breakdown is as follows:

<b>10 tickets</b>	2 extra credit points
<b>5 tickets</b>	piece of candy

