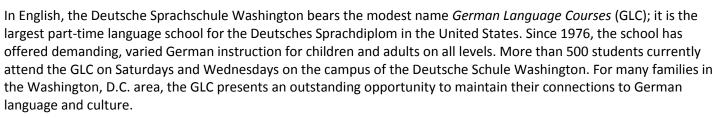
## Welcoming Speech for the 40th Anniversary of the German Language Courses

Students, parents, teachers, employees and administration, friends and supporters, in the name of the Central Agency for German Schools Abroad, I would like to congratulate you on the 40th anniversary of the Deutsche Sprachschule Washington.

For 40 years, the Deutsche Sprachschule Washington has built a cultural bridge that connects Germany and the United States. Its students do not just learn the German language, they also get to know Germany. In turn, they become bridge builders and ambassadors. Their special educational experiences connect them throughout their lives to both countries and simultaneously connect Germany and the United States.



With the Deutsches Sprachdiplom II (DSD II), the Deutsche Sprachschule Washington offers an examination that prepares students to study at universities in Germany. More students here than at any other German educational institution in the United States take and pass this examination. A broad portfolio of German and American German language examinations, as well as a wide variety of extracurricular activities round out the offerings of the Deutsche Sprachschule Washington. The Central Agency for German Schools Abroad assists the Deutsche Sprachschule Washington in securing and enhancing quality standards.

Your school is an official member of the PASCH partner school initiative of the German Federal Foreign Office. In this context, your students regularly participate very successfully in competitions and international meetings. With the online magazine *GLC-Wortspiel*, the school makes regular contributions to the website of the PASCH initiative. Exemplary too is the work of the Deutsche Sprachschule Washington with its alumni. Again and again, this work demonstrates the school's long-term connection to its "Saturday students."

As part of the PASCH network, your school is one of the mediators of the foreign cultural and educational policies of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Deutsche Sprachschule Washington blazes paths to understanding, encourages exchange and networking, and thus also fulfills a cultural-political function.

In a time of many crises and conflicts, cultural and educational policies are devoted increasingly to social questions. They provide help to humanity. The concern is to understand and bridge differences and also to learn and teach how to assume responsibility. The PASCH schools play an important role here too: The intercultural encounters and dialogue at your school are a valuable basis for a joint transatlantic future! All of you contribute to the success of this exchange.

In this spirit, I wish the entire school community well on the school's 40th anniversary and great success in the future!

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Joachim Lauer Leiter der Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen

Translation services by Linda Gaus, MadDocs LLC, Vienna.

