



Curriculum for *English* Grades 5-12 Short Version

Reference curriculum: Thuringia, Germany
Year created: 2018

The English program at the German International School Washington DC bridges cultures, encourages social awareness, and develops critical thinking and language skills.

The school curriculum adheres to the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts in Maryland as well as the Core Curriculum for the German Schools Abroad in North America. As a college-preparatory school, GISW offers and prepares students for Honors English and AP classes as well as English as an Abitur subject for the German International Abitur examination. We also offer the Realschul- track with adapted language and literature competencies. The English Language Learners Program in grades 5 and 6, and the English “Foerkurs” in grades 7 through 9 offer instruction to meet the needs of students with limited English proficiency. These students are evaluated at their respective level of language proficiency.

The English program focuses on the traditional disciplines- literature, composition, language, and grammar, as well as current literary forms in media and technology.

There are 4 written exams per year, which make up 50% of the final grade. All other assessments are part of the oral grade, which counts 50% of the final grade.

Grade	Content and Competencies
<p>5th grade 5 periods/a week</p>	<p>Students will recognize different genres, and describe the various purposes, and features of those genres. They will reflect, make connections, and respond to texts in a variety of ways. Readings include young adult fiction, short stories, poetry, fairy tales, legends, and nonfiction. Students will narrate, describe, retell, and report on a text. They will be introduced to literary elements and figurative language. They will use age-appropriate vocabulary and spelling tests. Grammar and mechanics include parts of speech, sentence types, punctuation, transition; they apply these in the study of the 5-Step Writing Process.</p> <p><i>Texts: Story town , Sadlier Grammar for Writing, Wordly Wise vocabulary</i></p>
<p>6th grade 5 periods/a week</p>	<p>Students will continue to reflect, make connections, and respond to texts in a variety of ways. Readings include young adult fiction, short stories, poetry, and non-fiction. Students will focus on writing descriptive, and narrative paragraphs, and essays. Grammar and mechanics include subject-verb agreement, pronoun and its antecedent, sentences types, punctuation, transition.</p> <p><i>Texts: Elements of Literature, Grammar in Practice. A Foundation ;A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, Wordly Wise</i></p>
<p>7th grade</p>	<p>Students will continue to reflect, make connections, and respond to texts in a variety of ways. Readings include young adult fiction, short stories, poetry, speeches, drama, and non-fiction. They will continue to study literary elements, figurative language, and characterization. They will write argumentative essays, and literary analysis. Grammar includes the study of sentence structure, sentence variety, and modifiers.</p> <p><i>Texts: Elements of Literature, Grammar in Practice: Usage, Wordly Wise, A Midsummer Night’s Dream by William Shakespeare, short stories, and a novel.</i></p>
<p>8th grade</p>	<p>Students will continue to read different genres and reflect on different themes, make connections, and respond to texts in a variety of ways. They will study literary elements, rhetorical devices. Readings include young adult fiction, short stories, poetry, speeches, non-fiction. They will write argumentative essays, comparative–contrast essays. Grammar and mechanics instruction will include passive-active voice, prepositional, infinitive, gerund phrases, eliminating wordiness, punctuation.</p>

	<p>Texts: <i>Elements of Literature, Grammar in practice: Sentences and Paragraphs, Wordly Wise, Johnny Tremain</i> by Esther Forbes; <i>The Twelfth Night</i> by W. Shakespeare</p>
9th grade	<p>Students are introduced to different genres, and are encouraged to reflect, make connections, and respond to texts in a variety of ways. Students will analyze literary devices, evaluate arguments and evidence. They will conduct research and projects that are based on topics discussed in class. Readings include short stories, novels, drama, poetry, and non-fiction.</p> <p>Texts: Holt McDougal <i>Literature, Romeo and Juliet</i> by W. Shakespeare; <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> by Jane Austen <i>Lord of the Flies</i> by W. Golding; <i>Wordly Wise – Level 9</i></p>
10th grade	<p>In 10th grade students will read speeches, novels, dramas, poetry, non-fiction, and will broaden their analytical reading, writing, and listening skills. Students will learn to understand the author’s purpose, and use of literary devices to their desired effect; they will synthesize information from a variety of texts to respond to various prompts; they will write to interpret, evaluate differing perspectives; they will apply analytical, critical, creative, and reflective strategies to different types of texts; they will apply MLA documentation rules; they will develop speaking and listening skills for effective communication; they will continue to engage in text-focused discussions.</p> <p>Texts: Holt McDougal <i>Literature, Julius Caesar</i> by W. Shakespeare; <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i> by E. Hemingway, short stories, poetry</p>
11th grade	<p>This course will focus on American Literature from the colonial period to the present. The students will examine speeches, short stories, dramas, poetry, informational texts, personal narratives, other literary works that reflect the struggle to define oneself, and find one’s place in society while engaged in the quest of reaching the “American Dream”. Students will apply a range of writing strategies to develop their personal voice in writing; they will compose expository essay that will interpret/analyze works; they will employ a variety of rhetorical strategies and organizational techniques; they will use research techniques and processes to produce and present speeches as well as narratives, and expository projects. Students will apply MLA documentation rules.</p> <p>Texts: Holt Mc Dougal <i>American Literature; The Crucible or Death of a Salesman</i> by A. Miller; <i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F.S. Fitzgerald, various short stories, poetry</p>

12th grade	<p>This course focuses on British Literature from Anglo-Saxon period to modern day literature. The class studies major works that belong to each era. It emphasizes critical close reading, class discussions, and formal analytical essays, personal, and creative responses to texts. Students will analyze challenging texts showing how literary techniques and devices express meaning; they will write sophisticated developed essays to analyze the texts; they will participate in rigorously textually based class discussions; they will engage in research on topics relevant to the texts to strengthen their critical thinking, close reading, and analytical writing skills.</p> <p>Texts: <i>Beowulf</i>, <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> by Chaucer; <i>Macbeth</i> by W. Shakespeare, <i>A Modest Proposal</i> by J. Swift, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> by J. Conrad, <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> by O. Wilde, <i>Wuthering Heights</i> by Emily Bronte; short stories by various authors; poetry ranging from 16th to 21st centuries.</p>
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Regional curricula with further detail:

[> Englisch Curriculum - Grade 5](#)

[> Englisch Curriculum - Grade 6](#)

[> Englisch Curriculum - Grade 7](#)

[> Englisch Curriculum - Grade 8](#)

[> Englisch Curriculum - Grade 9](#)

[> Englisch Curriculum - Grade 10](#)

[> Englisch Curriculum - Grade 11/12](#)