



Message of Greeting on the Occasion of
The 60th Anniversary of
The German International School Washington DC

My very warm congratulations to the students, councils and committees, faculty, administrative staff, parents, and members of the school society on the 60th anniversary of the German International School Washington DC!

The school was founded in 1961. It is thus the oldest German school in North America. At that time it began with barely more than 30 students in a building on MacArthur Blvd. Its rapid growth led to several interim accommodations before it settled into today's facility of the Federal Republic of Germany in Potomac, with over 500 students. The German Language Courses and the kindergarten are likewise integral and valued parts of the school.

With the German International School, there is not only a German educational curriculum available in Washington but also an outstanding institution of cultural encounter and intercultural learning. It fosters those very skills that are required in our increasingly interconnected and international world. It imparts openness to the world, multilingualism, tolerance, and diversity to its students. Moreover, it is a place of shared welcoming culture and German-American friendship.

I am delighted that, with the German International School Washington, an especially high-performing school has emerged over the past 60 years – one that, with the German International Abitur and the US high school diploma of the state of Maryland, offers school-leaving certificates that enable graduates to pursue studies and careers in Germany, the US, and many other countries in the world. In 2008 this engagement was rewarded with the quality label "Excellent German School Abroad." In 2018/2019 it was officially recognized as a STEM Excellence Center school, the first of its kind in the US.

The first-class teaching of knowledge in combination with intercultural skills enables the German International School to stand out. Its success, however, is only possible because of the energetic engagement of a great many people: the school leadership, the faculty, the administrative staff, the volunteer fundraising organization, the school society and parent representatives, the students, and all the parents, who have supported the School with extraordinary commitment since its founding. I would like to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to all of you. It is only through your commitment that the German International School Washington has become the high-performing and unique school that it is today.

I wish the school all the best for the future and the future preparation of the students for their successful careers in an increasingly complex and international world!

Dr. Emily Haber
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany