



GERMAN
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
WASHINGTON D.C.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



WELCOME

The German International School Washington D.C. (GISW) is one of the leading international independent schools in the Washington D.C. metro area. More than 550 students from different countries and diverse cultural backgrounds are taught here from preschool through Grade 12 when they graduate with two degrees: the German International Abitur and an American high school diploma.

Our Elementary School stands out by fostering an outstanding learning environment within the individual learning groups and a warm and inviting school atmosphere. Students enter elementary education at the School Entry Level (SEL) and move on to the upper school after Grade 4.

The German language and culture are at the center of our teaching program, but our daily school life is full of culturally diverse experiences.

As the only full-time German school in the Washington D.C. metro area, GISW has been offering an excellent education to children of internationally-minded families for over 60 years.

GISW is not just the first MINT-EC school in the United States (i.e. STEM-certified) but it is also accredited with the German Ministry of Education and approved by the Department of Education of Maryland.



INDEPENDENT. BILINGUAL. WELTOFFEN.

SCHOOL ENTRY LEVEL

At our School Entry Level (SEL) we focus on getting our youngest students school-ready while still prioritizing play time. In small groups, students explore basic mathematical, linguistic and scientific concepts in a play-based manner.

By the time they enter Grade 1, our students have developed the necessary skills and competencies to begin reading and writing in German and to actively participate in other subjects, such as Mathematics, English, Social Studies, science, music, and art.

During the School Entry Level, the main focus is on helping our students develop sound social-emotional skills.

“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.”

- Mr. Rogers



**SCHOOL ENTRY LEVEL – THE BRIDGE
FROM PRESCHOOL TO FIRST GRADE.**

You can find more information on play-based learning in our Preschool and School Entry Level on the website created by the regional network of German Schools Abroad (USA & Canada) at www.germanapproach.org.





GRADES 1 TO 4

The rigorous curricula at GISW are based on the school curricula of the state of Thuringia in Germany for the following subjects: German, Mathematics, Social Studies, Music, Art, Physical Education and Swimming. Additionally, our students are exposed to the basics of computer science by learning to use iPads responsibly.

The subject English is taught starting in Grade 1. In Grades 2 to 4, English is taught in three separate learning groups, depending on language proficiency level.

Our curricula and teaching methods foster problem-solving, teamwork and creativity to help our students develop intellectual, emotional and social competencies that are necessary to thrive in a globally oriented world.

In Elementary School, students of grade 3 and 4 elect two class representatives who are role models and help fellow students and/or teachers in the classroom, when necessary, but also learn to represent their class and school. All class representatives meet once a month in the Elementary School Council.



RESPONSIVE CLASSROOM

The Responsive Classroom concept is at the basis of our social-emotional program at the Elementary School. This concept aids students in developing strong classroom communities and a strong school identity which in turn provide the students with a great sense of safety and positivity in everyday school life.



THE CHURER MODEL

We work in accordance with the Churer model, which supports self-motivated learning in our students. Our faculty prioritizes discovering and fostering the learning needs of the individual students in their classroom.



FASTTRACK

FastTrack is a program offered at GISW to support students in learning German. Thanks to this program, academically strong and highly motivated students are able to start at the German International School Washington D.C. up to Grade 5, even if they do not have any prior German language skills.



MINT / STEM

Since 2018 GISW has been an accredited MINT-EC school. The MINT program fosters student interest in the sciences. The MINT acronym stands for **M**athematics, **I**nformatik (Computer Science), **N**atural Sciences and **T**echnology.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM UNTIL 3:10 PM
with a wide variety of courses to match our
students' varied interests.



EXTENDED CARE
UNTIL 4:45 PM
with games and fun
activities.



RECESS

Lots of fun and movement
outside are just as much part
of our school day as learning in
the classroom.

THE CHILD IS AT THE
CENTER AND HAS
ACCESS TO MANY
USEFUL OFFERINGS.



SWIMMING POOL

At the GISW Elementary
School, all children learn to
swim in Grade 1.



BOOK STORE

At our book store, parents and
students may buy school books
and supplies. School merchandise
and spirit wear is also available.



LIBRARY

A fixed staple of our classes is the weekly library visit. Our library is at the center of teaching our students to research independently and to develop a love of reading. Our students use the library as a study space across all subjects.



COUNSELOR

In one-on-one-meetings or group sessions with our Guidance Counselor our students experience support when it comes to solving problems, gaining emotional strength and aid in their social development.



CAFETERIA

Students who have purchased an annual lunch pass can get a healthy warm meal at the cafeteria every day.



HEALTH ROOM

Just like all US schools, GISW has a health room. Students who are hurt or don't feel well during the school day, may see the health coordinator.



GISW SCHOOL BUS

GISW offers school bus service to Maryland, Virginia and Washington D.C.



BUDDY, OUR SCHOOL DOG

In the 2022/23 school year, a “four-legged faculty member” joined our team! Having well-trained and certified dogs join the classroom has proven to create a positive learning environment, enhance focus and foster a feeling of responsibility in students. Dogs can comfort and motivate children.

FESTIVITIES AND HOLIDAYS

GISW celebrates the German as well as the US holidays, e.g. Carnival, Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, St. Martin, St. Nick, Christmas and Valentine’s Day.







PLEASE CONTACT US:

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Exzellente
Deutsche
Auslandsschule



MINTec
Schule.

