September 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Hello and welcome to the 2016-2017 school year at Pittsburgh Obama Academy of International Studies. My name is Gary Harger and I am delighted to be teaching IB German 11/12. I would like to share some information with you to help make this a successful year for your child.

**Course Materials**

This course is part of the IB Diploma Program and students taking this class are considered IB Diploma candidates. Generally speaking, students will write their IB exams in the spring of their senior year. Therefore this course is intensive preparation for the rigorous IB exam. Students are expected to speak German exclusively in class and work both collectively and independently to improve their speaking, reading and writing of German. All students will be prepared for the standard level test in German. Students with exceptional skills in the language may take the higher level exam with the recommendation of the instructor. We will be using several texts, including *Gut Lesen, besser schreiben, Handbuch der deutschen Grammatik*, and *Schreiben lernen: a writing guide for Learners of German*. In addition we will access authentic materials from various German speaking countries (novels, magazines, newspapers, videos, internet, etc). Here are some websites that we will be using in class and that students may want to access at home.

- [www.dw-world.de/dw/0,,2068,00.html](http://www.dw-world.de/dw/0,,2068,00.html)  (Deutsche Welle- portal for activities and news reports)
- [www.slowgerman.com](http://www.slowgerman.com)  (Informative website about German culture)
- [www.checkeins.de](http://www.checkeins.de)  (longer news segments for kids)
- [www.nthuleen.com/teach/grammar.html](http://www.nthuleen.com/teach/grammar.html)  (handouts and grammar explanations)
- [www.lindenstrasse.de](http://www.lindenstrasse.de)  (weekly soap opera)

Additionally, all 12th graders are required to take the PPS Oral Proficiency Exam. This will be given in the spring and will give students an opportunity to show their ability to speak the language. Students must pass this exam at a proficient level in order to graduate. Some may have already reached the Proficient level and will be working to a proficient plus or distinguished level of achievement. The curriculum and class activities will give all students an opportunity to practice the skills necessary to move on to the next level of proficiency.

**Course Description**

A student in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) will be expected to use their knowledge of German to:

- Communicate information, ideas, and opinions. Students will make regular presentations in German which will be progressively longer as the year progress.
- Understand and appropriately use structures and vocabulary in text analysis and writing.
➢ Provide and request information in both spoken and written contexts.
➢ Engage actively in oral production using comprehensible pronunciation and intonation.
➢ Take part in formal and informal exchanges related to the areas of interaction and to cultural and international issues.

**Evaluation**
I will use the standard Pittsburgh Public School grading scale. (90-100%-A, 80-89%-B, 70-79%-C, 60-69%-D, and 50-59%-E). Rubrics stating specific requirements for writings and projects will be created from the IBMYP and the District standards.

Grades will be determined as follows:

**Homework 10%**
Homework will be assigned Monday through Friday. (Each assignment will be given a grade of up to 10 points). Homework will be collected daily. Students should keep assignments in pocket folder, dedicated to German homework.

**Class Participation 30%**
Points will be given each day for class participation, including, individual responses, partner or group work, and any non-written activities. Students are required to keep a notebook for class notes and vocabulary. Notebooks will be checked periodically. A daily participation grade of 10 points will be given each day. Students must communicate only in German to receive these points.

**Oral Participation 30%**
Students will present prepared or impromptu oral presentations in class, complete google voice assignments from home and summative assessments one on one. There will be numerous opportunities to speak with a partner and in small groups.

**Tests/Quizzes/Writing tasks 30 %** Vocabulary tests, grammar unit tests and formative and summative writing tasks.

No extra credit will be given. Students are expected to participate every day and turn assignments in on time.

Students are expected to:

➢ Participate and speak German.
➢ Be responsible for any make-up work or scheduling tests due to absence. (The length of time given for make-up work will depend on the length of the absence)
➢ Ask questions and speak with others in German.
➢ Study vocabulary everyday and incorporate vocabulary into their conversation.
➢ Keep a vocabulary notebook and work independently to increase their vocabulary.
Behavioral Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Be in the classroom in their assigned seat on time.
- Come prepared everyday with, agenda book, folder, and pen or pencil. Be respectful and polite to everyone in the class.
- Follow specific procedures posted in the classroom.

All school-wide rules also apply in the classroom.

Communication

My goal is to create an orderly, academic, interesting, and challenging learning experience for your child. Please help me by contacting me with any questions or concerns. I may be reached by phone at the school office at (412) 529-6224. I will return phone calls within 24 hours. My e-mail address is gharger1@pghboe.net. Danke! Thank you for taking the time to read this and go over it with your child.

Gary Harger
German – Room 233

Approved: _____________________________
Dr. Wayne N. Walters, Principal

Please sign and return to me to indicate that both you and your child have read the above letter.

Student signature________________________ Grade______
Homeroom_______
Parent or Guardian
signature______________________________________________
Home Phone #________________________________________
Work or Cell #________________________________________