September 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Hello and welcome to the 2016-2017 school year at Pittsburgh Barack Obama Academy of International Studies Academy. My name is Gary Harger and I will be teaching IBMYP German 8. I would like to share some information with you to help make this a successful year for your child.

**Course Materials**

We will be using the *Wir* text and ancillary materials in addition to authentic materials from various German speaking countries (magazines, newspapers, videos, internet, etc). Every day we will be practicing all four language skills – reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

In addition we will be using several websites that will be of interest to your child that can also be accessed at home.

- [www.kikaninchen.de](http://www.kikaninchen.de) (cartoons that may be watched at home)
- [www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk) (online grammar and writing practice)

**Course Description**

A student in the International Baccalaureate Middle School Programme (IBMYP) will be expected to use their knowledge of German to:

- Communicate information, ideas, and opinions
- Understand and appropriately use structures and vocabulary
- 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

Language skills in the IBMYP are divided into three areas of assessment: Oral Communication (speaking and listening), Writing, and Reading Comprehension. Tests, quizzes, oral presentations, and projects will be given to assess these skills. Rubrics stating specific requirements for oral presentations and projects will be created from the IBMYP and the District standards.

Additionally, all 8th 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. Those not passing with a proficient in 8th grade will be given another opportunity in 10th grade. 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.
Grading Guidelines:

I will use the standard Pittsburgh Public School grading scale. (90-100%-A, 80-89%-B, 70-79%-C, 60-69%-D, and 0-59%-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, Tuesday, and Wednesday. (Each homework assignment is worth 10 points. Homework will only be accepted one day late for half credit.)

**Class Participation**-30% (Points will be given each day for class participation. Individual responses, partner or group work, and any non-written activities).

**Oral Participation**-30% (This includes a daily participation grade of 10 points. Students must communicate only in German to receive these points).

**Tests/Quizzes/Projects**-30% (All language skills will be assessed regularly).

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

**Academic Expectations**

Students are expected to:
- Participate. That means they must speak German in class.
- 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.
- Study vocabulary everyday and keep a vocabulary journal.

**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 fun learning experience for your child. Every child is an individual and has individual strengths and learning styles. I will make every attempt to get to know your child to build on those strengths and adapt to various learning styles. I am looking forward to meeting you.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns 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

Response Form

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 #_____________________________________