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 IBMYP German 9/10. I would like to share some information with you to help make this a successful year for your child.

**Course Materials and Course Description**

We will be using *Wir* as our main text, in addition to authentic materials from various German speaking countries (short stories and novels, magazines and newspaper articles, videos, internet, etc). Each day we will be practicing all four language skills –reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Here are some websites that we will be using in class and that students may want to access at home.

- [www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk) (grammar practice site)
- [www.lilipuz.de](http://www.lilipuz.de) (German News for kids)
- [www.kindernetz.de/minitz](http://www.kindernetz.de/minitz) (Spoken German news for kids)

**Course Expectations**

A student in the International Baccalaureate Middle School Programme (IBMYP extends from grade 6-10) 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 10th 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 in 10th grade will be given another opportunity in 12th 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 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 homework assignment is worth 10 points. Homework will only be accepted one day late for half credit.)

**Classwork 20%**
Points will be given each day for class participation including individual responses, partner or group work, and any non-written activities. This includes a daily participation grade of 10 points. Students must communicate only in German to receive these points.

**Oral Participation 20%**
Students will participate in oral interviews and classroom discussion.

**Reading and Writing Assessments 30%**
All languages skills will be assessed regularly with formative and summative assessments.

**Speaking and Listening Assessments 20%**
These will be in class assessments, as well as google voice assignments.

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

**Academic Expectations**

Students are expected to:

- Participate and speak German.
- Ask questions.
- Study vocabulary everyday and incorporate learned vocabulary into conversation.
- 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)
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. Please help me by contacting me with any questions or concerns. I may be reached by phone via voice mail 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.

Mr. Gary Harger
German – Room 233

Approved: __________________________________________
Dr. Wayne N. Walters, Principal

Parent 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 #__________________________
Comments or suggestions:
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

We are an equal rights and opportunity school district. | Parent Hotline: 412-622-7920 | www.pps.k12.pa.us