

## **ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT GUIDE TO RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES FOR TEACHERS OF GERMAN**

Willkommen! The Anchorage School District has a lengthy tradition of providing excellence in German instruction to its students. This guide will help acquaint you with the many resources available to you as a new faculty member in German. Though scattered throughout the city, our German teachers collaborate on a regular basis for professional development, to provide extracurricular enrichment activities for students, and to support each other with materials and ideas.

Currently one middle school, Northern Lights ABC, offers two years of German instruction. With successful completion of the classes these students are able to enroll in German II when they begin their freshman year of high school. When these students complete both semesters of Level II with a "C" or better during their freshman year, they may petition to receive the incentive credit for Level I to recognize the work completed in the middle school program.

All ASD high schools currently offer German. We teach classes beginning with German I through German V and Advanced Placement German.

### **ASD CURRICULUM COORDINATOR FOR WORLD LANGUAGES:**

Janice Gullickson

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### **ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT GERMAN TEACHERS:**

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### **2008-2009 AATG OFFICERS FOR ALASKA:**

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## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



### **AMERICAN COUNCIL ON THE TEACHING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES (ACTFL):**

This group is the largest professional organization for world language educators in all levels of instruction, from elementary through graduate programs, in the United States. Founded in 1967 by the Modern Languages Association of America (MLA), ACTFL is dedicated to the improvement and expansion of teaching and learning of all languages. An annual ACTFL convention is held each November, and allows educators to engage in professional development and access to many resources. Location changes each year. More information regarding opportunities and membership can be found at [www.actfl.org](http://www.actfl.org).

### **ALASKANS FOR LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (AFLA):**

Each October AFLA holds a conference for all world language educators in the state of Alaska. This is the annual opportunity to network with colleagues, present ideas to one another and attend workshops geared toward content area. Membership fees are minimal and it is highly recommended that you join. Your department chair should have more information regarding this or visit the website: [www.intlacademy.us/AFLA/](http://www.intlacademy.us/AFLA/)

### **AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF GERMAN (AATG):**

Membership in this group has enormous benefits for German teachers and you are encouraged to join. Members receive their choice of journal (*The German Quarterly* or *Der Unterrichtspraxis*), regular newsletters with valuable teaching tips and opportunities, and reduced prices for materials sold through the AATG Online Store. The AATG website at [www.aatg.org](http://www.aatg.org) has much helpful information as well as a link to apply or renew for membership online. AATG holds its annual meeting during the ACTFL convention each November.

AATG also has a national listserv that you may find helpful. German teachers from all levels communicate about topics related to German and some great ideas are generated on this list. Go to [http://aatg.org/member\\_services/lists/aatg-l.html](http://aatg.org/member_services/lists/aatg-l.html) to find out how to subscribe.

AATG-Alaska holds its annual meeting during the October AFLA conference, and sponsors many of the extracurricular events described in this guide. For more information about the Alaska chapter of AATG contact Chapter President Kristi Senden at Chugiak High School

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

### **GERMAN CAMP:**

Camp Coordinator: Will Kimball [Kimball.William@asdk12.org](mailto:Kimball.William@asdk12.org)

This annual German immersion experience for high school students, Lager Nordlicht, began over thirty years ago. It is an immersion weekend each October held at Camp Carlquist. Students arrive on a Friday evening and remain through Saturday evening. The theme varies each year and the cost is approximately \$60.00 per student.

All levels are welcome to enroll. Students are grouped into cabins based on level of ability, and German teachers stay overnight in the cabins to supervise.

Students must arrange their own transportation to and from the camp. If students drive themselves, car keys must be turned in on arrival at the camp.

All German teachers are encouraged to bring students to this camp! There are several handouts you will need for this:

1. Permission slip that must be completed by parents (a new one is issued each fall).
2. Map to the camp.
3. A list of items each camper should bring for the camp.
4. Camp rules.

Please contact Will Kimball for copies of these forms. It is expected that each teacher who brings a group will also prepare a session in German for the students. On Saturday the groups of campers rotate through the various sessions, which all revolve around that year's particular theme.

For more information regarding German Camp and signing up for a session contact organizer Will Kimball or AATG-Alaska President Kristi Senden. Organizational meetings take place during the beginning of the school year.

AATG-Alaska provides camp staff sweatshirts with the Lager Nordlicht logo. Please contact Will Kimball to be sure you have one to wear during the camp.

### **INTERNATIONAL SONG FEST:**



In December all ASD World Language students are invited to sing international carols together. Date and location are announced in October or November each year. Check with your department chair for specifics.

## **DECLAMATION:**

### Coordinators:

Angie Nishimura      [Nishimura\\_Angela@asdk12.org](mailto:Nishimura_Angela@asdk12.org)  
Chris Rees            [Rees\\_Chris@asdk12.org](mailto:Rees_Chris@asdk12.org)

Declamation is a competition designed solely for World Language Students. Each February students gather to compete in poetry recitation, trivia tests, and impromptu speaking in both solo and partner events. It is a terrific way to have your students gain recognition for their accomplishments in World Languages.

The regional competition generally takes place the first Saturday of February, and the state competition follows two weeks later. There are limits on how many students may enter each event, they must also meet ASD regulations for participating in activities, and the registration deadline is in January. Students may enter multiple events, and you may register an alternate for each competition in the event someone is unable to attend.

Limits on participants for each school:

Poetry: A maximum of 4 students may compete in each level for German (i.e. German I, German II, German III, etc.) Students must memorize the required poem, and another alternate poem from the approved list.

Cultural Trivia: A maximum of 10 students may compete in each level. Tests for German I and German II are in English while tests for German III and higher are in German. Students may prepare by studying the German cultural trivia cards available through Teacher's Discovery. If your school does not have these already, ask your department chair about ordering these out of school funds.

Impromptu: A maximum of 4 students may participate in this event. Students choose two topics from a hat, are given two minutes to prepare and then must speak on that topic for an amount of time that varies by level. Topics for this event are included in the declamation booklet distributed each fall.

Dialogue: A maximum of 2 partnered teams may participate in this event. The format is similar to that of impromptus, and students carry on a conversation with each other on the given topic for an amount of time that varies by level. More specifics and a list of topics are included in the declamation booklet.

Poster: A maximum of 5 posters from the German program may be entered, regardless of the student's course level. The theme changes annually, and this is a regional competition only.

Your department chair will have more information regarding this competition and the district coordinators distribute an annual handbook full of guidelines each fall. Make sure

you begin working on this early, and have students submit their registration forms to your activities office by your school's deadline in order to qualify for competition. Contact Chris Rees or Angie Nishimura for copies of the German poems. Additionally, if you would like to volunteer to help with registration or other duties on the days of competition, please let them know.

### **JUGENDFEST:**

Coordinator: Lucie Woofter [Woofter\\_Lucia@asdk12.org](mailto:Woofter_Lucia@asdk12.org)

This is an annual immersion day for elementary-aged students held each spring at Northern Lights ABC. Students participate in six mini lessons and enjoy a German lunch together. The goal is to attract students into the Northern Lights German program, and to spread awareness of German-language study to participants. Teachers of German are invited to help facilitate the festival, and AP German students also serve as great assistants to those leading the mini-courses.

Watch for dates and times to be announced at the beginning of the academic year. This year's Jugendfest is scheduled for March 31, 2007.

### **GERMAN DAY AT UAA: FRÜHLINGSFEST**

This day is an opportunity hosted by the UAA German Department for high school students enrolled in German II and higher to visit the University of Alaska and learn about post-secondary German instruction. Events vary annually and an all-you-can-eat lunch is provided.

Important: Make sure you follow your school's procedures to arrange for a field trip. Consider how much advance notice is needed, how students receive permission to attend, how to reserve a school bus, etc. Make sure you talk to your administrator. Make sure you tell your administrator you need "release time" to provide for a substitute.

UAA Contact: Professor Natasa Masanovic [afnm@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:afnm@uaa.alaska.edu)

Cost: Varies annually and averages 15.00 per student, made payable to AATG.

Buses: Book well in advance, and make sure you fill your bus. Be sure to bill the bus to AATG, and not to your school.

Chaperone guidelines for field trip: The German teacher is expected to attend with students and ASD policy is one adult for every 10 students.

### **OTHER EVENTS:**

At times other events for students of German are scheduled during the school year. Be sure to watch for information regarding other special opportunities.

## **TRAVEL ABROAD**

### **HOW TO GET STUDENTS OVERSEAS:**

The Anchorage School District has specific guidelines regarding traveling with students outside of the district. If you are interested in traveling with students overseas make sure you talk with your building principal, your activities principal, and tap your World Language colleagues for ideas.

To travel abroad with students you need to complete a travel training provided by Janice Gullickson. Please contact her to see when she will next offer the course.

Trips overseas need to be planned and approved well in advance. Begin the process early and refer to deadlines delineated in the activities handbook.

### **GERMAN-AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (GAPP):**

Many ASD high schools have an established GAPP exchange, in which the American high school is partnered with a German high school. Contact your ASD colleagues who work in German if you are interested in getting some ideas about how to run such an exchange successfully.

The Goethe Institute in New York oversees the GAPP exchanges, and is the place to contact if you are interested in locating a partner school in Germany. In addition, once you have established a partnership, the Goethe Institute offers an all-expense paid GAPP training course in New York. Contact the Goethe Institute to sign up for this valuable seminar that is held each January. The website is found at: [www.goethe.de/newyork](http://www.goethe.de/newyork). Several ASD German teachers have attended in the past, so be sure to ask others if you have questions regarding this.

GAPP requires a minimum of three weeks abroad, in which a minimum of two of those weeks are spent in a home stay and attending classes at the partner school. Work closely with experienced ASD GAPP coordinators to get tips on how to make this a successful experience for yourself and your students. And as noted above, travel abroad requires completion of Janice Gullickson's travel seminar, in which you will learn about district rules and regulations regarding time overseas.

The German partner students attend your school during their time here in the USA. Work closely with your German partner teacher to determine what time in the school year works best for both of your groups. Be mindful of important dates such as state-mandated testing, and Spring Break which is a time during which families might not be willing to host their visiting students if they already have alternate travel plans.

The best keys to success are ample planning time and talking with experienced teachers about their tips for making such an exchange a success. Travel overseas is considered an

ASD field trip, and students who participate need to be actively enrolled. For example, a student who graduates from ASD in May 2007 may not participate in June 2007.

### **AATG TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES:**

The AATG also offers summer travel opportunities for students. As a member of AATG you will receive a regular newsletter as well as information about such trips. These offer an opportunity for a student to spend time in a German-speaking country even if he or she is unable to participate in a GAPP exchange at your school.

AATG also hires German teachers to chaperone these trips abroad. More information can be found by contacting their offices or searching the AATG website.

### **EXCHANGE PROGRAMS:**

There are ample opportunities for students to travel and live abroad for a longer period. Most programs require students to apply during the fall semester, and exact dates vary by programs. Some of those groups are listed below. Ask your department chair for more information.

#### **Congress-Bundestag Exchange:**

This prestigious scholarship is for one year's study in Germany. Watch for informational flyers in the fall if you have students who are interested in applying.

#### **Rotary Club:**

The Rotary Club offers scholarships for study abroad. The application deadline is early, and students need to submit a general application in order to receive a screening interview. Students rotate through three host families during their year overseas.

#### **AFS:**

AFS offers a variety of programs for students who wish to experience life abroad. Check their website at [www.afs.org](http://www.afs.org) for more information. Some programs offer scholarships, others are available at a cost to students.

#### **YFU (Youth for Understanding):**

YFU also facilitates international exchanges for students. Check their website at [www.yfu.org](http://www.yfu.org) for more information regarding costs, deadlines, and country-specific programs.



## **OTHER RESOURCES**

### **AATG NATIONAL EXAMS:**

This exam is offered through the American Association of Teachers of German to students enrolled in levels II, III, and IV. The exam costs \$5.00 per student, and must be purchased by November each year. The German teacher must place the order and be a current member of AATG. Order forms are available at the AATG website.

This exam is often given as a midterm exam (end of the first semester). It provides an opportunity for program evaluation on a national scale.

#### **Benefits of the exam include:**

Students who score in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile or above may qualify to win a free trip to Germany. Most recently a student from Service High School qualified and won one of the national AATG trips abroad for the summer of 2007.

Students who score in the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile or above are recognized at a statewide reception.

Some universities recognize scores in the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher on these exams as proof of language proficiency for admissions requirements.

Coordinator: Kristi Senden at Chugiak High School. Contact her with any questions.

### **SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS:**

Contact Janice Gullickson for a current list of German substitutes available in the Anchorage School District.

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT GERMAN:**

If you are teaching AP German there are multiple resources to help you prepare for this College Board course. See <http://apcentral.collegboard.com> for more information. You will need to register on this site to access materials. Among items offered are released materials from past exams, sample syllabi plus valuable tips and hints for teaching AP German. The site also contains the test calendar for upcoming years. Please note that currently the AP German exam is offered concurrently with the AP English Literature exam, which may affect many of your AP students. There is a late exam offered for each, and according to College Board German trainers, the late German exam tends to be much more difficult than the standard date exam.

Since 2007 Advanced Placement teachers are required to submit a course syllabus to the College Board to gain approved AP status for their classes. Follow directions on the website, and contact Janice Gullickson for a copy of the sample syllabus compiled by ASD German teachers in the spring of 2007.

The College Board also offers seminars to train teachers in how to best prepare students for the Advanced Placement exam, and if you attend a week-long session sample textbooks and other materials are provided for you to take home. Check the website for upcoming dates and locations.

### **RILKE SCHULE GERMAN SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES:**

This ASD charter school opens fall semester 2007 and is a K through 8 school that provides education focused on high academic achievement through an enriched language curriculum taught primarily in German. Enrollment is based on a lottery system. For more information visit the school website at: [www.rilkeschule.org](http://www.rilkeschule.org).

### **COMMUNITY RESOURCES:**

#### Honorary German Consul for Alaska:

Mr. Bernd C. Guetschow  
428 G Street, Suite 650  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: (907) 274-6537  
Fax: (907) 274-8798

#### German business in Anchorage:

Alaska Seafood and Sausage (Herb and Martin Eckmann)  
2914 Arctic Blvd.  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
Phone: (907) 562-3636

### **OTHER RESOURCES:**

ASD German teachers each have a collection of supplementary materials made up of film, music, books, etc. Check with others to see what materials they are willing to share. See the list below for other ideas, and note that the on-line AATG store offers many valuable materials at reduced prices for AATG members.

#### **Some helpful books and resources in which you may want to invest:**

*Grammatik Kreativ*. Langenscheidt: Berlin, 1999. This book contains games and creative plans to reinforce and teach German grammar.

*Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik*. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003 (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). Written by Jaime Rankin and Larry Wells, this text is used widely throughout German university programs in the USA. It is a helpful resource for advanced high school courses.

*Mastering German Vocabulary: A Thematic Approach.* Barron's: New York, 1995.  
This is the American republication of the text *Thematischer Grund- und Aufbauwortschatz Deutsch-Englisch* published by Klett. It is used by many Advanced Placement German teachers throughout the United States to supplement their advanced classes.

*Mitlesen Mitteilen: Literarische Texte zum Lesen, Sprechen, Schreiben und Hören.*  
Heinle: Canada, 2004. This contains twenty-one short texts or stories accompanied by listening texts included on a CD.

*Pro-Deutsch! Promoting your German Program.* This is an advocacy binder for teachers of German in the USA compiled by the Goethe Institute. It is available through the on-line AATG store for a minimal price.

*Spielend Deutsch lernen.* Langenscheidt: Berlin, 1997. Thirty different activities to stimulate conversation. Pages to copy, and lessons can be easily altered for multiple levels.

*Wechselspiel* and *Wechspiel Junior.* Langenscheidt, Berlin. 2000. Both contain partner activities that require students to communicate in a meaningful way to get information that the other partner has on his or her sheet. The junior level book contains simpler topics than the other text.

### **HELPFUL WEBSITES:**

These are sites you may find of use as you teach your classes.

[www.quia.com](http://www.quia.com)

[www.aboutgerman.com](http://www.aboutgerman.com)

[www.verbix.com](http://www.verbix.com)

[www.conjugemos.com](http://www.conjugemos.com)

[www.deutschlern.net](http://www.deutschlern.net)

[www.dw-world.de](http://www.dw-world.de)