LEARNING GERMAN – AN INTRODUCTION TO A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

BLS Friends of German is a group of committed students and parents who support German language study and cultural connections at Boston Latin School. BLS’s German program has a distinguished track record, in part reflected by its students’ consistently high scores in nationwide exams. BLS is the only public school in the greater Boston area offering a German program, thereby joining the ranks of prestigious prep schools such as St. Mark’s School, Phillips Academy Andover, and Concord Academy, who also recognize the significant opportunities that arise from studying German.

Why does learning German provide a competitive advantage for the future?

- German is a leading language of science, music, philosophy, and engineering: think Albert Einstein, Rudolf Diesel, Gabriel Fahrenheit, Gregor Mendel, Martin Luther, Karl Marx, Ludwig van Beethoven, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Johann Sebastian Bach, Georg Friedrich Handel, Sigmund Freud and Alois Alzheimer. A total of 152 Nobel prize winners came from German-speaking countries.
- German is the language with the largest number of native speakers in Western Europe, and is spoken in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein.
- Germany is leading the way internationally in the creation of “green” technology. German companies are increasingly partnering with US companies to expand and develop those technologies. A local example of this partnership is the MIT Germany program.
- Tuition at world class German, Swiss, and Austrian universities is either free, or a fraction of that at American universities. Every year, a percentage of seats are reserved specifically for foreign students with knowledge of German.
- Germany is Europe’s largest economy (3rd largest in the world), and currently the world’s 2nd largest exporter of goods (after China and before the U.S.). It is the 4th largest foreign investor in the U.S., with German companies supporting about 570,000 jobs here. Job applicants with knowledge of German are highly sought after by these companies in an increasingly global market.

Why is studying German fun?

BLS has a German Club that meets every other Wednesday. It is a great way to meet other students and have some fun after school. Activities planned this year include celebrating Oktoberfest, watching German language movies, and eating food from German-speaking countries. Here are some native German speakers you could impress with your German language skills: Heidi Klum, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Michael Schumacher, Hugo Boss, Henry Kissinger, Sebastian Vettel, and Juergen Klinsmann. And did we mention the German Club has Gummi Bears?

How does the “BLS Friends of German” initiative support the teachers and students in the German program?

- Boston is a hub of German language-based economic and higher education activity. We have initiated partnerships with diplomatic, cultural, academic, and business representatives in Boston which will provide enrichment opportunities for students and teachers within the local German-speaking community, as well as information about study and career options facilitated by German language skills.
- We are in the process of establishing an exchange program with a German partner high school which has a shared commitment to Latin curriculum. Mutual visits by students of BLS and its partner school will provide an opportunity for global education in an international environment.
- We will ensure that each student in the program who academically qualifies will have the opportunity to earn AP credits (at BLS, or through our extramural institutional partners in Boston).
- BLS History teacher Judi Freeman advises the German club. She includes as many German-language students as possible in her celebrated Facing History course. As part of this course, she leads juniors and seniors to Germany and Eastern Europe each year to explore the history of the Holocaust, World War II, the Cold War, and German reunification.

Getting curious? We would like to keep you posted on upcoming meetings and opportunities for interested students and families to learn more about the German program. To be included in notices for these events, or to request further information, please send your contact info to:

Marta Carney: martacarney@comcast.net or Martin Beinborn: blsgerman@gmail.com