GISSV

German International School
of Silicon Valley

DIA –
The Path to the Finest German and International Universities

Philosophy DIA

Since the GISSV had the first graduates worldwide of the *Deutsches Internationales Abitur* in 2009, the DIA has distinguished itself as an outstanding diploma which successfully combines the **education towards global citizenship** with the **challenging expectations of the German Abitur.**

Philosophy

- Unique focus on **bilingualism** and **independent learning**
- Outstanding educational program ending with **written and oral exams**
- Integration of country-specific requirements, exams, and diplomas
- New exam format colloquium focuses on **project-based** and **cross-curricular studies**

www.diap.org

DIA

Deutsches Internationales Abitur in Nordamerika
German International Abitur in North America

ZfA Deutsche Auslandsschularbeit International

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THE DIA ADVANTAGE

The German International Abitur, known as the Deutsches Internationales Abitur in German (or simply DIA for short), is an internationally acclaimed college preparatory curriculum and diploma that provides an academically exceptional and culturally rich multilingual education to students of all nationalities and backgrounds.

By inspiring inquisitive, open-minded, independent thinkers through a robust, internationally-oriented, interdisciplinary curriculum of languages, science, mathematics and the arts, the DIA opens doors to the finest colleges and universities

GET TO KNOW A DIA STUDENT

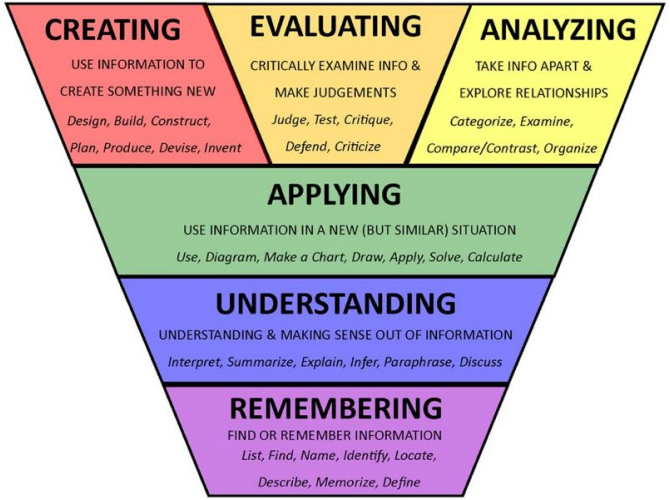
NEWS & EVENTS

Congratulations to the 2015 DIA Graduates!
July 23, 2015

Five North American German Schools Launch DIA Website

November 25, 2014

Anforderungsbereiche



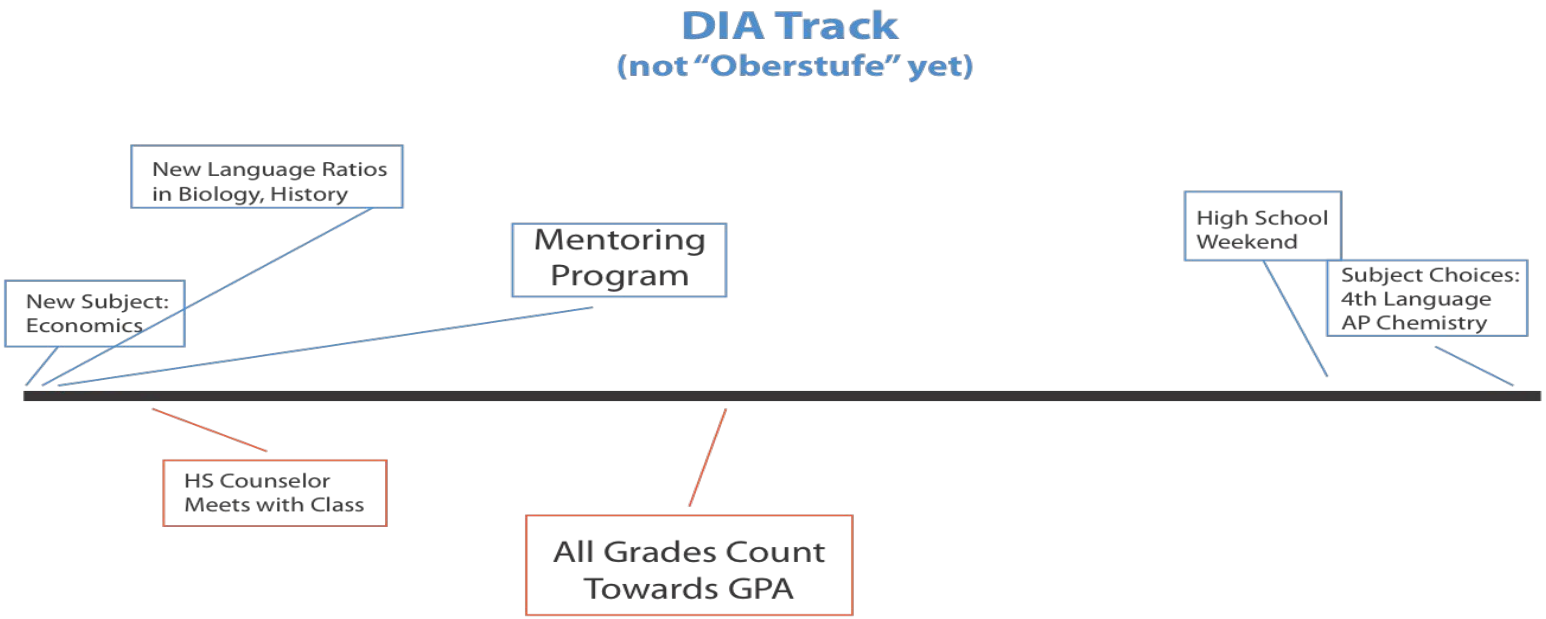
Students are taught and tested based on three performance levels

Anforderungsbereich I: **Understanding** of the given material and the ability to reproduce it

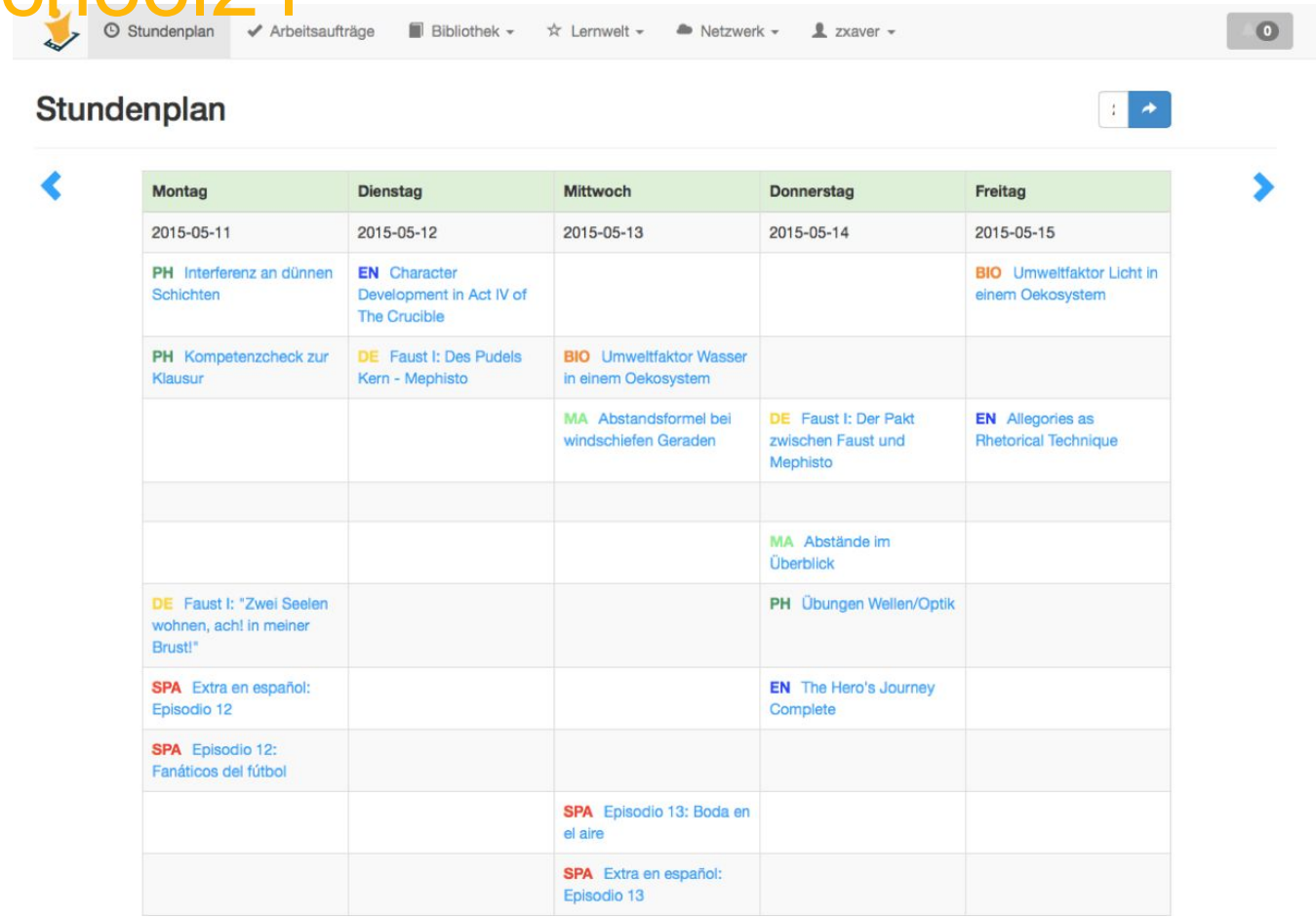
Anforderungsbereich II: **Reorganisation** of the given material, e.g. analysis and interpretation

Anforderungsbereich III: **Transfer** and **critical evaluation**- the ability of the student to go beyond the text or problem to demonstrate and apply knowledge in another context.

Grade 9: Not “Oberstufe” but High School



eSchool21



Stundenplan

Montag	Dienstag	Mittwoch	Donnerstag	Freitag
2015-05-11	2015-05-12	2015-05-13	2015-05-14	2015-05-15
PH Interferenz an dünnen Schichten	EN Character Development in Act IV of The Crucible			BIO Umweltfaktor Licht in einem Oekosystem
PH Kompetenzcheck zur Klausur	DE Faust I: Des Pudels Kern - Mephisto	BIO Umweltfaktor Wasser in einem Oekosystem		
		MA Abstandsformel bei windschiefen Geraden	DE Faust I: Der Pakt zwischen Faust und Mephisto	EN Allegories as Rhetorical Technique
			MA Abstände im Überblick	
DE Faust I: "Zwei Seelen wohnen, ach! in meiner Brust!"			PH Übungen Wellen/Optik	
SPA Extra en español: Episodio 12			EN The Hero's Journey Complete	
SPA Episodio 12: Fanáticos del fútbol				
		SPA Episodio 13: Boda en el aire		
		SPA Extra en español: Episodio 13		

Mentoring Program

- Guide students when it comes to experiences outside of the school – like choosing the right place for their internship or decide if and what they want to study
- Help students find out where their strengths and weaknesses are, skills defining, career planning, joint formulation of goals etc.

Grades 9-11 (12th grade = Mrs. Wenk / Mrs. Krejcik)

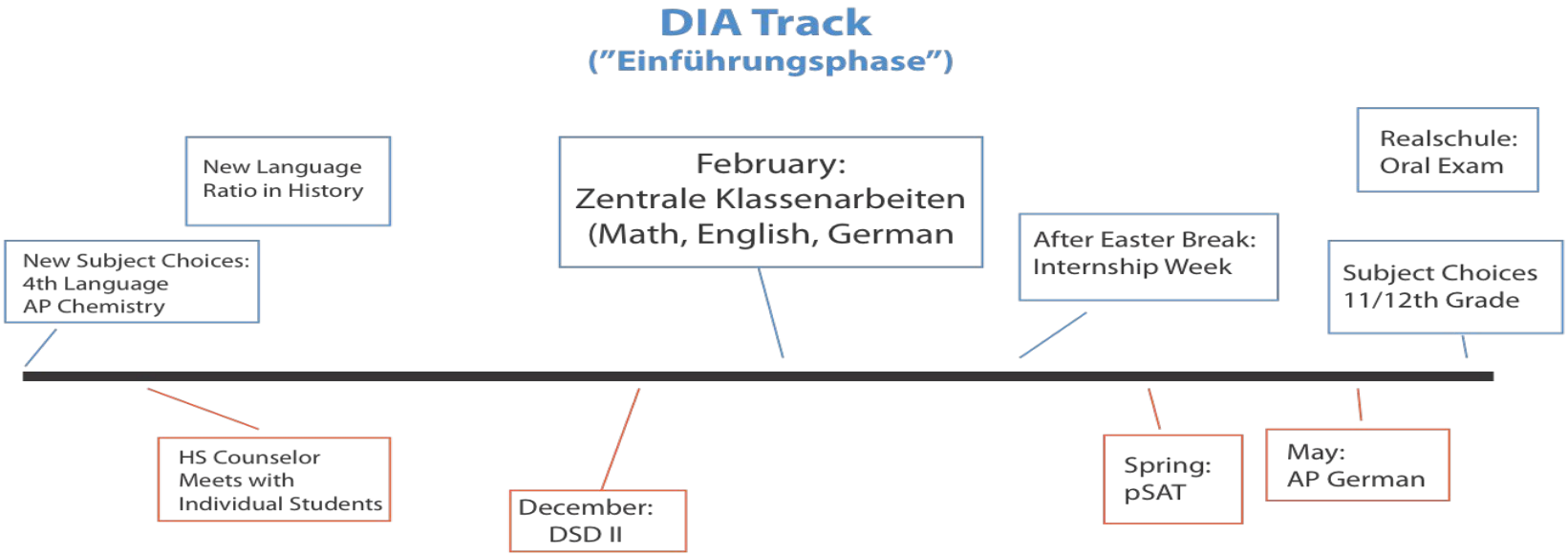
Max. 4 students per teacher (students pick their teacher --> trusting relationship)

2 meetings per semester

American Track

- Counselor meets students as a group
- What Colleges Look at:
  - Academic record- GPA
  - rigor of the curriculum
  - A-G requirements for the UC (University of California) and CSU (California State University) Minimum requirements.
  - Standardized test scores.
  - Number of and performance in Honors and AP courses.
  - Experiences that demonstrate leadership qualities; community service and/or participation in school related activities
  - Special talents, achievements and awards in a particular field
  - Letters of recommendation and Personal Essay
  - School profile (accompanies the transcript)

Grade 10: Introductory Phase



Third Foreign Language

- Spanish or French (minimum 5 students)
- Guaranteed from 10th-12th grade

- Small learning groups guarantee an intensive exposure to the language
- Keeps options open for DIA subject choices
- Possible credits in college

Zentrale Klassenarbeiten

- Part of the official requirements to enter the qualification phase
- Sent by Germany
- graded by GISSV teachers according to set expectations
- Written exams in all three core subjects:
  - German (150 min)
  - Math (135 min)
  - English (135 min)
- Count twice as much as a regular exam

Internship

Objectives: gain insight into the professional world and different job specifications, become aware of their own interests and abilities

- Weeklong internship the week after (or during) spring break
- Students organize their internship themselves
- Support and information provided by Ms. Wenk
- Presentation the Wednesday after

American Track

- Individual meetings with counselor 3-4 times a year to discuss:
  - The holistic review.
  - 9th grade report card and subject interests.
  - Extra curricula activities currently involved in.
  - The PSAT 10 and the Khan academy.
  - AP courses offered in 10th grade and beyond.
  - Internship possibilities for the summer.

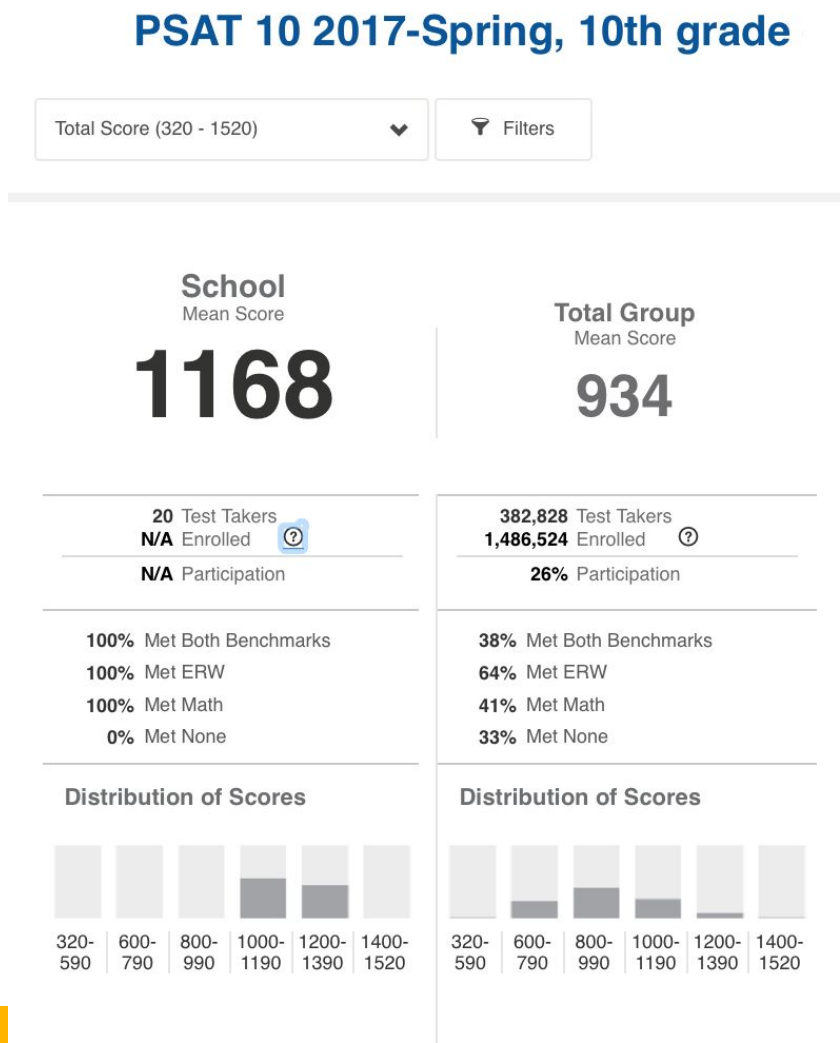
- Any other college-related questions

PSAT

Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test

- American Centralized Test in Reading Comprehension Writing, and Math
- Students get detailed feedback on their results and tips for improvement for the SAT
- School gets feedback on class performance

All students take it in grade 10.



AP (Advanced Placement) Exams

courses which offer college-level curricula and examinations to high school students.

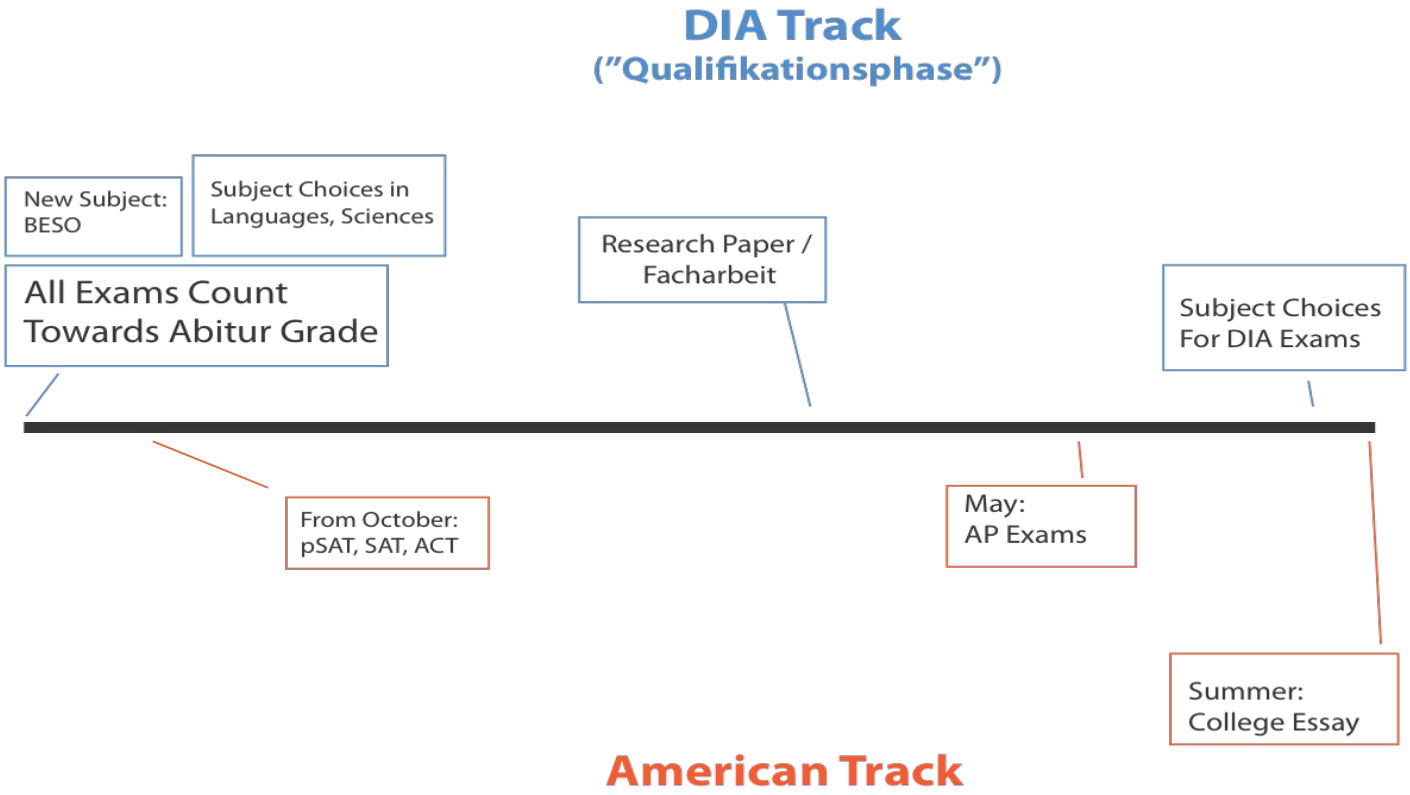
- Students who fulfill the requirements of an AP course are given an extra point towards their GPA.
- College credit with AP exam: scored on a scale of 1-5, a grade of 3 or higher may receive credit administered in May over a two week period.
- GISSV offers: German/French/Spanish Language and Culture, Chemistry, English Language and Composition, Microeconomics (11); English Literature and Composition, Biology, Calculus (12)

AP Requirements

(except AP German)

- Willingness and ability to do extra work, amount depending on the subject
- Regular participation in the extra AP classes
- At least 11 points in the subject on the last report card (2)
- At least a 10 point average (2.3)
- Extra credit given

Grade 11: Qualification Phase



DIA and High School Diploma Requirements

1. German
2. Math
3. Four subjects from the subject areas of
   - foreign languages (English, French, Spanish)
   - sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Biology)
4. History
5. (Ethics)
6. Art
7. Physical Education

For high school diploma:

8. English
9. Economics
10. American History / American Government (9th/ 10th grade)

Languages of Instruction

German

German

History

Math

Physics

Art

Ethics

English

English

Economics

(Am. History/Gov.)

Bilingual

Biology

Chemistry

Other

French

Spanish

P.E.

Grading Scale

Point System	15-13	12	11	10	09	08	07	06	05	04	03-01	00
German Grades	1	2+	2	2-	3+	3	3-	4+	4	4-	5	6
American Grade	A+	A		A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F

Facharbeit (Research Paper)

The research paper combines an involved process of research, critical thinking, source evaluation, organization, and composition

- written in a subject of the student's choice
- Subject teacher advises on topic and grades the paper
- duration: 8 weeks (end of Jan - March)
- replaces the exam in that subject in the first half of the second semester

Studien- und Berufsorientierung (BESO)

Career Counseling

- Unique weekly class that introduces the students to experts from various fields
- Students explore different career possibilities, perform job and IQ tests, prepare their resumes, LinkedIn profiles, portfolios, etc.
- Goes hand-in-hand with one-on-one career counseling starting in grade 10

DIA Exam Subjects

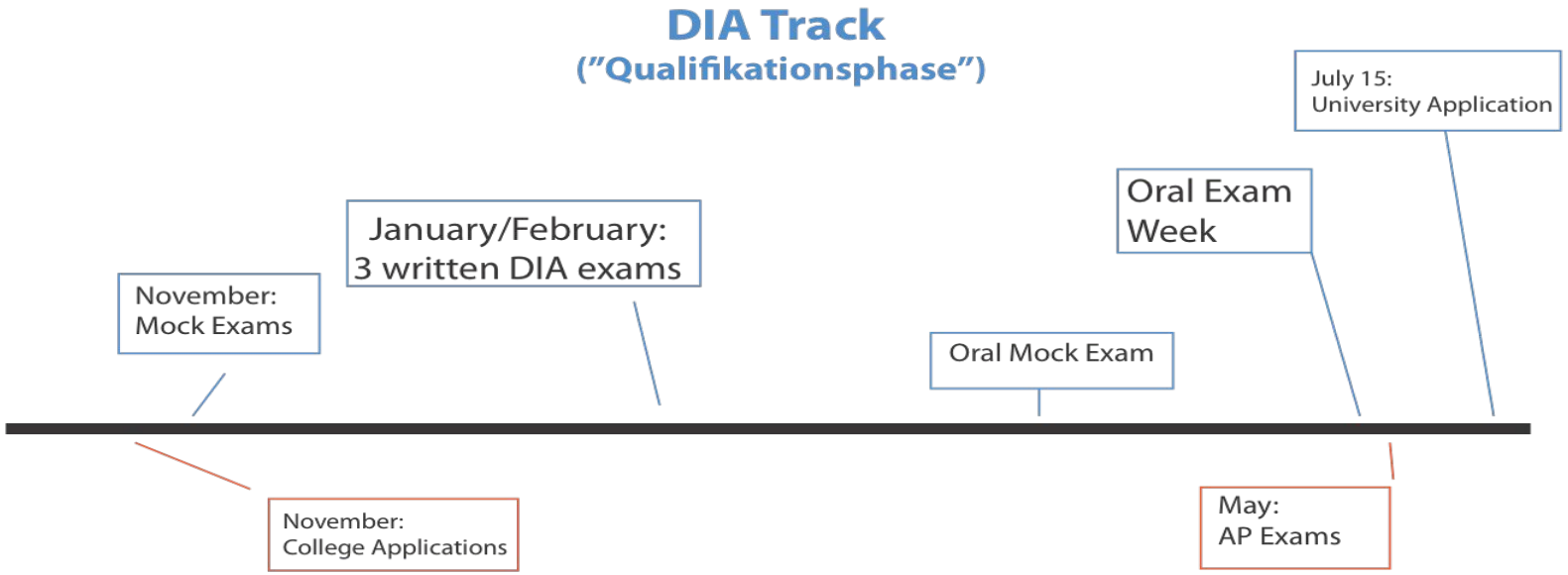
- **3 written and 2 oral examinations**

- 50% German-taught subjects (one oral exam in German language)
- All three subject areas have to be covered: Languages, Natural and Social Sciences
- German is a mandatory written subject
- Another one is Math or a foreign language
- P.E. and Art cannot be Abitur subjects

American Track

- Individual meetings with counselor 3-4 times a year to discuss:
  - Grades, course load and GPA.
  - Extra curricula activities both in and out of school.
  - PSAT/NMSQT test in the fall. Discussion of SAT dates in 2nd semester and preparation plans.
  - AP courses currently taken and intended courses.
  - Internship and summer plans.
  - Personal Statement discussion.

Grade 12: Qualification Phase



American Track

DIA Timeline

- Written Exams: Feb 1-10
  - Three written Abitur exams
  - Will be graded by two teachers and sent to Germany for final evaluation
  - Student will not get the results until after the oral exams

- May/June: Oral Exam Week
  - Two oral examinations
  - Student will be signed / can sign up for additional exams based on their performance

Graduation!

DIA Oral Exams

- One oral exam must be a subject taught in German
- 4th subject: 20 minute oral exam

- **5th subject: Colloquium (20 min)**
  - Students define and structure their topic themselves
  - **The presentation marks the pinnacle of an independent, cross-curricular and project-based learning process**

Besondere Lernleistung

- ***Special Study Performance:* research paper with colloquium about the paper as a 5th exam subject**
  - Independent, critical, creative and scientific, college-level work on
  - special interest or talent in an academic area
  - academic contest
  - extraordinary cross-curricular project

American Track

- Aug-Dec senior year: completion of standardized tests.
- Students begin Common Application, UC and CSU applications. Deadline December for regular and November 1st for Early Decision applications.
- Write personal statements, UC essays and supplements.
- Visit colleges, interview with admissions folk or alumni
- Request counselor and teacher recommendations

Paving the Way

- **Worldwide academic college and university preparation**
  - WASC/CAIS accredited
  - “Excellent German School abroad”

- Germany and Europe with the bilingual DIA format
- USA with High School diploma, standardized tests plus rigorous coursework

Corporations & Scholarships

- TU9 (Association of the 9 most influential Technical Universities in Germany)
- DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Auslandsdienst), including full scholarship
- Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes
- UAS7, stipends of up to $300/month
- National Merit Scholarship
- and others

GISSV Alumni

- **76 graduates since 2009**
- **98% gone to four-year colleges/universities**

- **Germany**: Munich, Berlin, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Jena, Heidelberg, Hannover, Frankfurt, Karlsruhe, Cologne, Aachen, Göttingen, Dresden, Reitlingen, Hildesheim, Darmstadt, Augsburg, Tübingen, Leipzig, Freiburg
- **US**: UC Berkeley, Boulder University (Colorado), NYU, SCU, Tufts, Stanford, Menlo College of Business, UC Davis, Santa Barbara City College, UC San Diego, Ponoma, San Jose State, Santa Clara University, Georgetown (Washington, D.C.), Lewis and Clarke (Oregon); graduate studies at Cornell, Berkeley
- **Other**: Austria, France, Netherlands, Switzerland, England

Information Channels

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- Stefanie Wenk (Career Counselor for German Universities) - swenk@gissv.org
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