

German Language and Literature at Alto Middle Years Program / IB Diploma Program

Introduction

The German language and literature curriculum at Alto aims to:

- Continue and build upon the knowledge and understanding that students gained in the PYP (Primary Years Program, preschool - grade 5) German immersion program at Alto or through other German-speaking backgrounds.
- Spark an appreciation of the nature of language and literature.
- Use language as a vehicle for thought, creativity, reflection, learning, self-expression, analysis, and social interaction.
- Develop the skills used for listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing, and presenting in a variety of contexts.
- Develop critical, creative, and personal approaches to studying and analyzing literary and non-literary texts.
- Engage in texts from different historical periods and a variety of cultures.
- Explore and analyze aspects of personal, host, and other cultures through literary and non-literary texts.
- Explore language through a variety of media and modes.
- Develop a lifelong interest in reading.
- Apply linguistic and literary concepts and skills in a variety of authentic contexts.

The four **key concepts** (communication, connections, creativity, perspective) stand for our holistic approach at Alto that we also implement in our **inquiry-based** learning approach within German language and literature. Students demonstrate their learning in a wide range of **assessments** including essay writing, presentations, creative writing, and are assessed in the **criteria** analyzing, organizing, producing text, and using language.

Middle Years Program

Grade 6

Major Unit	Statement of Inquiry	Topics / Content
Friendship/ conflict resolution based on the book <i>Der Tag an dem ich cool wurde</i>	Different perspectives on friendship and fairness can be developed purposefully.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendship and conflict resolution • Grammar: prepositions with cases, conjunctions.
Detective stories, using Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's <i>Das getupfte Band</i>	Dramatic texts and thus varied skills can be developed purposefully and new perspectives (on how to live together) may be gained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to create a detective story • Grammar: word order; subject/predicate, subordinate clauses. • Use of direct vs. indirect speech, punctuation. • How to create interesting characters
<i>Rosa Riedl</i>	The impact of verbal and non-verbal expression on an audience depends on the individual communication skills as well as on the style and structure of a presentation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to prepare and produce a good presentation. • How does your audience affect your presentation? • Use of media • Looking at reading comprehension skills • Comma rules
Fables and legends	Fables and legends connect real-life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning to analyze legends and fables

	(settings and happenings) with literature and relate to specific spaces and times (epochs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to write a fable • ..and the moral of the story is.... • Sayings and proverbs • Creating your own fable/legend- project
An introduction to poetry-lyrical landscapes	Language can be a tool for crafting aesthetic communication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describing nature and landscapes • Cadence, rhythm, and meter • Stylistic effects- similes/metaphors/personification • Creating a poetry calendar project; seasons and months

Grade 7

Major Unit	Statement of Inquiry	Topics / Content
Literature Ballades Gruesomely great	Different genres and writing/language styles have the power to change the literary perspective and intention significantly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristics of different poetic text • German classics (amongst others "<i>Erlkönig</i>" and "<i>Zauberlehrling</i>") • Analyzing and linguistic skills (structure, stylistic devices) • Creative writing • Transfer content into different literary style
Language Material based text International Children's Rights Day	How to get to an informing, meaningful text by combining resources and thus getting to know and informing others in a meaningful way about children's rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Children's Rights Convention • Material based informative text • Presentation in public exhibition
Literature Autobiography <i>Malala - Living in a different world (Malala. Meine Geschichte)</i>	Different contexts and beliefs create human communities, but the power of education unites us all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autobiography of education activist Malala • Non-fiction text • Media format: Blog/Vlog, film adaptation • Reasonable statement essay
Language Playing with language	Personal and cultural expression is shaped by systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play on words, complex language systems • Grammar depending on individual needs
Discovering possibilities (Blacker: Boy2Girl)	Perspectives shape our identities and define relationships between humans and communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature analysis, global issues • Complex reasonable statement
Language and Literature Modernized tales	The creative world of language is impacted by modernization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristics of tales, different text styles • Language variations, varieties • Creative writing: Modern/alienated tales

Grade 8

Major Unit	Statement of Inquiry	Topics / Content
Language Advertising	Purposeful communication requires the know-how (method) to utilize persuasive text to influence our behavior and decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze and produce advertising strategies • Advertising Argumentations • Structure of Advertising
Literature <i>Die Welle</i>	Communication influences characters based on the cultural context at a certain place and time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literary summary • Comparing and contrasting to real world examples of fascism / governance / group dynamics • Topic and character analysis
Literature <i>Tschick</i>	Challenges cause growth. Creative text production and literary analysis enhance empathy and understanding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literary summary • Topic and character analysis
Language Media	Media is a creative method that	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyzes TV languages and analyzing

	communicates various points of view	<p>consumers/consumption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discusses how media work: What is needed for a show? What are the things I have to consider when putting together content for the show? How do I manage my TV consuming habits? • Students will apply their understanding of media and culminate the unit with creating a show
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Grade 9

Major Unit	Statement of Inquiry	Topics / Content
Language Communication, and varieties of language Me and my languages	(Literary) Communication depends upon the ability and style of (verbal/language) self-expression, purpose, and context.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Components and characteristics of different forms of verbal, non-verbal and written (literary) communication • Language varieties, dialect, heritage language • Analysis of non-fiction text/language portfolio
Literature Süskind's <i>Perfume</i> (novel)	The identity of a character, including his or her values and morals, is formed by internal and external influences as depicted by the author.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of literary text
Language Non-fiction text Discuss and argue	Reading, understanding and contextualizing non-fiction texts is a key skill to participate in the modern world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-fiction text in the digital work and their significance • Summary and analysis of non-fiction text/discussion
Literature Lessing's: <i>Nathan the Wise</i> (play)	Critical readers understand that historical context and authors' perspectives affect readers' interpretations of literary texts and of the concept of truth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theory of drama • Analysis of fiction text (drama) and characterization of literary figures
Language and Literature Political poems	The spatial and timely context forms the structure and style of poetry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language and power, rhetorical skills and stylistic devices • Discussion in free forms

Grade 10

Major Unit	Statement of Inquiry	Topics / Content
Friedrich Dürrenmatt's <i>Die Physiker- The Physicists</i> (play)	Students will understand that context and audience influence a playwright's choice of plot, characters, and setting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The context of the play: the cold war and the ethics of science • Investigating text types: formal letters, Diaries, Film/theatre reviews • Literary conventions: Dürrenmatt's use of the grotesque, paradox and coincidence • Directing plays, how to direct and create a scene from a play • Grammar grammar: cases: dual case prepositions, the subjunctive in reported speech; adjectival clauses
Creating factual texts based on the topic of families	The analysis of multiple text and media types allows us to better understand the choices writers make in creating factual texts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of texts and media about the brothers Boateng • Note taking and summarizing texts • Sourcing and organising factual texts • Creating your own factual text based on family relations

Communication skills - preparing for interviews	Communication depends upon the ability and style of self-expression, with nonverbal and verbal communication dictating purpose and context.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for careers guidance • Preparing for and evaluating job interviews • body language and non-verbal communication. • Interpersonal communication- problematic situations in interviews
Politically motivated films: the Edukators (Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei)	Films as works of art also encourage us to look at political systems and social justice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forms of political protests • Being politically aware and standing up for your sense of morals and ethics • Exploring civil disobedience • The language of film, describing and critiquing films
Debating the value of social media	Being knowledgeable enough to debate properly depends on a thorough awareness of both sides of an argument.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible use of social media • Gathering information from a wide range of texts and media, including ones that are known to be biased • Structuring argumentation and verbal debate • Writing a biased text- selling your point of view.
Comparing languages, dialects and word usage geographically and historically	What does a person's language usage tell us about them; age, cultural background and geographic background affects our language use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring etymology • Borrowed words and foreign words incorporated into languages • Dialects in Germany, Switzerland and Austrian • The origins of Germanic languages, sound shifts

IB Diploma Program

Students select either higher level (HL) or standard level (SL) German language and literature at Alto. HL and SL students study a variety of non-fiction and fiction texts for the exam paper one (guided textual analysis), the exam paper two (comparative essay), and the internal assessment.

Grade 11 - German Language and Literature

Major Unit	HL/SL	Topics / Content
Cultural context	HL/SL	Develop an understanding of language-related problems by looking at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varieties of language, dialect, sociolect, youth language • Rhetoric • Communication models • Language acquisition, bilingualism
Language and power	HL/SL	Develop an understanding of how language/literacy influences and manipulates thoughts by looking at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20th/21st-century political speeches, war poems • 20th-century novel - Bernhard Schlink: <i>The Reader</i> • Power of advertisement • Mass media in the democracy
Literature Hosseini's <i>The Kite Runner</i> (novel)	HL/SL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examining literary works of some epochs, genres, styles, and contents • Develop the ability to analyze, interpret, and discuss in aspects of literary works • Develop written and oral expressive power • Prepare for internal assessment

Grade 12 - German Language and Literature

Major Unit	HL/SL	Topics / Content
Literature: <i>Trümmerliteratur</i>	HL/SL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Context of post World War II Germany (Nachkriegszeit) Themes of Trümmerliteratur Series of five short stories by Heinrich Böll from the Wanderer, Kommst du nach Spa collection. Analysis of literary style, including rhetorical devices
Language studies	HL/SL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The language of advertising, including issues of gender, role models and sexuality The language of biographies, looking at issues of language and taboo Formal and informal letters, looking at language and the individual and multilingualism
Literature: <i>Liebelei</i>	HL/SL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turn of the century (C19/20) Vienna; class, honor, reputation, social conventions A study of <i>Liebelei</i>, a play by Arthur Schnitzler, in terms of context and use of language
Language studies	HL/SL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The language of political campaigns, including issues of censorship Preparation for the further oral assessment Media Institutions, looking at language use with different registers, audiences, Placement and selection of media platforms Revision of part three commonalities between Goethe's <i>Faust</i> and <i>The Kite Runner</i>

Detailed scope and sequences for each grade might vary. The German teachers at Alto incorporate current events into the curriculum and adapt their statement of inquiry-based on classroom discussions.