

# The German Program at Apex High School

Apex is the only high school in Apex and western Cary where German language instruction is offered (levels 1 through 5 and AP). Apart from being the most spoken language of the world's wealthiest economic market, the European Union, German is an essential language in technology and science-related fields and is an important area of study in many of our state's universities. Greater job opportunities and higher salaries are available to those who speak German. It is also **fun** to learn. Here are some other great benefits of studying German at Apex High School:

- We have an active **German Club** that meets on a regular basis. We plan dinners at local German and Turkish restaurants and arrange fun language and culture-based club activities. These have included: German movie days, German board games, German cooking and scavenger hunts.
- Some of our students attend the annual North Carolina German competition – known as **German Day**. This is an all-day field trip held during normal school hours at one of our state's university campuses. In the last several years at this event, Apex students have won many awards in **German Day** competitions, including state quiz bowl and spelling bee championships and earning first place in the state speaking contest in successive years.
- German students in levels 2 and higher may take the National German Exam administered by the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG). This exam has been offered for decades, is recognized by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), and is highly regarded by college admissions offices. Those who score above the 90th percentile receive a medal and are eligible to win a *free* study trip to Germany. Apex High students have been frequent winners of this paid trip and our school has had multiple finalists for this award in almost every year of participation.



Apex German Students at the 2008 German Day at Elon



Shuffleboard, another activity sponsored by the German teacher, Herr Maseman, is popular among German students

- We have an active chapter of *Delta Epsilon Phi*, the **National High School German Honors Society**. Special scholarship money is also available, including the \$1500 Watts Scholarship, which is awarded annually to one exceptional senior student of German in Wake County. Apex High students are frequent winners of this award.
- Those who choose German at Apex High are also choosing to be a **family**. They are assured of having the same teacher and classmates throughout their course of study. Being familiar with an instructor's methods and requirements *and* developing long-lasting friendships with a tight group of classmates over 2, 3 or 4 years is a rare advantage that our students of German enjoy.
- Last but not least, our own language, *English*, is also a *Germanic language*, which makes German **familiar** and **fun** to learn. English and German are sister languages, much as Spanish and French are sister languages to each other. Many German words and sounds are similar and one gains a greater understanding of the English language by learning German.

Here are some of the top reasons for studying German:

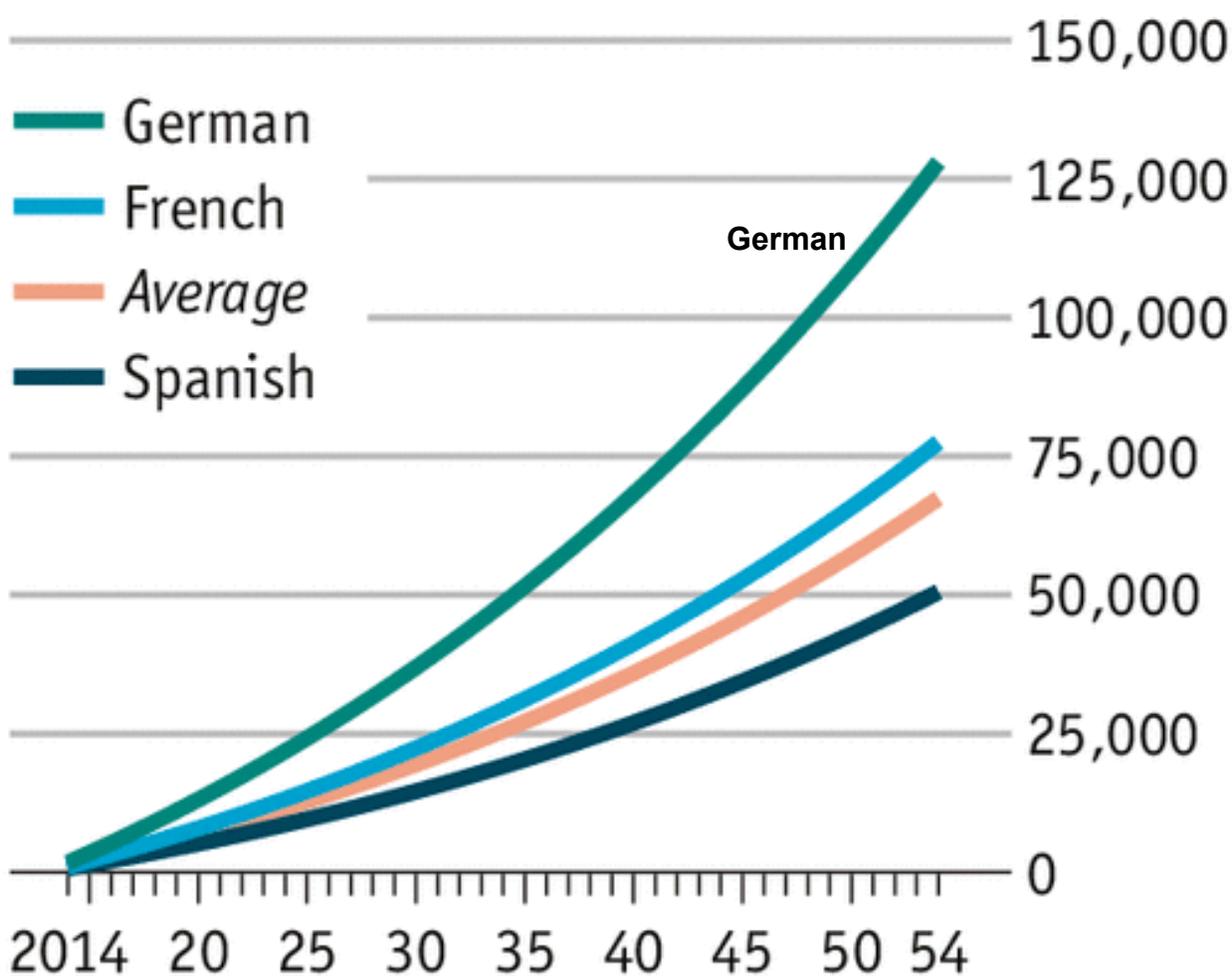
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- **To succeed in school.** Students who take German score higher on college acceptance tests (ACT/SAT) than other students.
- **The Internet.** German is a major language of the Internet. Only English surpasses German in the total number of web pages and articles in massive online repositories such as Wikipedia.
- **To learn about your American heritage.** Almost one out of every four Americans nationwide has German or Austrian heritage. German- and Austrian Americans are the largest ethnic group in America today and have made many contributions to our country. Some of the more famous include Levi Strauss, Albert Einstein, Werner von Braun and Arnold Schwarzenegger.
- **To learn the language spoken by over 120 million people.** German is spoken in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Luxembourg and Liechtenstein, as well as parts of other European countries. West of Russia, twice as many people speak German in Europe than any other language. And after English, German is the most popular foreign language to learn in Europe. It is the most popular foreign language of study in eastern European schools.
- **To participate in an exchange or travel program.** Many schools are involved in either a travel abroad or exchange program. Such students who learn German can tour places in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Many Apex High School students have attended study trips in Germany.
- **To get a good job in the United States.** Many American companies are owned by German companies. You may have heard about the Daimler (Mercedes Benz) purchase and re-sale of Chrysler or the acquisition of Random House Books by Bertelsmann. German companies now represent the largest source of foreign employment in the United States today. Most of these firms name German as the language they would most like their employees to know. Recently, *Deutsche Bank* opened a new global technology center in Cary, where the average salary is **\$88,000** per year! *(An advantage to landing a high-earning job with a German company in the US: In a survey conducted by the German-American Chamber of Commerce, 64.9% of all respondents conducting business with Germany "specifically ask for German and English bilingual skills when conducting a search for new employees.")*
- **To get a job in the global economy.** Germany has the world's fourth largest economy (after the USA, China and Japan). Germany is the largest economic and political influence in Europe. Germany has the highest paid workers in the world and was also the leading export nation in the world through 2009. Switzerland and Austria, other German-speaking countries, are two of the world's richest nations. The standard of living in German speaking countries is among the highest on Earth.
- **To be a scientist.** A majority of the world's scientists have come from or studied in German-speaking countries. Many new scientific discoveries happen in German-speaking countries and much scientific information is only available in German. A German scientist recently discovered the newest elements on the Periodic Table. Universities encourage science majors to learn German.
- **To be a great musician.** Most of the western world's famous composers and musicians came from German-speaking countries. Vienna, the capital of Austria, has been a world center of music for hundreds of years. Think of Beethoven, Brahms, Bach, Händel, Mozart, Schubert, Mahler, etc.
- **To work in the tourist industry.** Germans are the most traveled people in the world. You will find German tourists everywhere. In the US, they are among the most numerous tourists in states such as Florida, New York, and California. Many American tourists go to German speaking countries, which are some of the most beautiful countries in the world. Plus, German is widely spoken throughout Europe, including Turkey.

# Accumulated U.S. Lifetime Earnings Bonuses (for those proficient in a 2<sup>nd</sup> language, by language)

## Accumulated language bonuses

Forecasts, €



Source: *The Economist*

Converted to dollars, based on 2014 average U.S. starting salary of \$45,000 per year for college graduates