

Learning in Germany – at the Max-Rill-Gymnasium in Reichersbeuern Castle in Bavaria

The Max-Rill-Gymnasium was founded in 1938 as a private boarding school. It is situated in a historic castle located south of Munich in the German state of Bavaria and, with around 130 pupils, it is one of the **smallest state-approved grammar schools and boarding schools in Bavaria that can point to a long tradition.**

Given the manageable size of our school, our teachers know their students very well and can **take care of them and accompany them on an individual basis during the learning process.** We admit a limited number of students whose native language is not German and successfully integrate them into our classes.



The school is headed by **Frau Carmen Mendez.** She studied Russian, English and French. Prior to taking over the **headship of our school** three years ago, Carmen Mendez taught English Didactics at the University of Jena and was the Principal of a grammar school in Munich, which, under her leadership, finished in the Top Twenty Best Schools in Germany in the renowned Bosch Foundation competition.

She publishes books for senior classes with two large German publishing companies. **Frau Anna Marszalek,** who studied Social Pedagogy, is **in charge of the boarding school.** She has several years of experience with EON and Siemens in the field of Human Resources Management.



Admission to our Grammar School

We offer a grammar school education leading to the German “Abitur”, which is recognized by all universities (the equivalent of A-levels). Students from abroad whose native language is not German can enter our school. The requirements are as follows:



- above-average academic performance or, respectively, high performance potential
- good knowledge of the German and the English language
- social adaptability and being open for a new culture and mentality.

In the event that command of the German language does not exist or is inadequate, students from abroad can take a **one-year language and school preparation course** before being admitted to regular teaching lessons. The minimum prerequisite for entry to the normal German school system is linguistic ability on the B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

We offer the **Language Class** for a maximum of **12 pupils every year.** Students of this class will learn at our school and will therefore be integrated into the German pupil community from the very beginning of their stay. The pupils will live in our boarding facilities and will participate in the leisure activities we provide.

Integration into the regular school system can take place between Class 5 and 10. The Abitur exams are taken in the course of Class 12.

Course of studies at our school for pupils whose native language is not German	
Intensive German language course	In the transitional language class at our school
From Class 8 on (or earlier)	Integration into the regular school system
Class 10	Introductory phase into the Upper School
Class 11 Upper School	Term teaching 11/1 and 11/2 – points achieved here contribute to the overall Abitur results
Class 12 Upper School	Term teaching 12/1 and 12/2 – points achieved here contribute to the overall Abitur results; Abitur examinations take place at the end of term 12/2

The Transitional Language Class

In our Transitional Language Class pupils are given an **intensive course of teaching in the German language according to a special timetable** and also receive teaching in **English and other subjects** in order to prepare them in the best way possible for admission into a regular school class.

The language class commences at the start of the Bavarian school year in **the middle of September and lasts until the end of the school year on 31 July**. The weekly teaching schedule comprises **40 lessons** (each of 45 minutes duration) with eight lessons a day for five days. There are also **additional lessons** in German on Saturdays.

The **language programme** is structured as follows:

Period	German	Other subjects
September – November 11 weeks	A1 – A2 350 lessons	English: 60 lessons Intercultural Learning: 20 lessons
December – Februar 10 weeks	B1 300 lessons	English: 40 lessons History: 20 lessons Intercultural Learning: 20 lessons
March – July 17 weeks	B2 510 lessons	English: 60 lessons History: 20 lessons Economics/Law and Social Studies: 15 lessons Intercultural Learning: 15 lessons
Saturdays	120 lessons	Reading German

We teach the pupils in a core group which can, if needed, also be divided up, depending on educational levels. The English courses in particular involve quite a high workload in view of the fact that **English is, alongside Mathematics and German, an obligatory examination subject in the Abitur in Bavaria**. After obtaining sufficient basic knowledge in German (A1-A2), the programme is complemented by instruction in the subjects Economics/Law and Social Studies, thus also



The Theatre Guild, known well beyond the region, performing a play



The entrance area to the castle with the Wedding Bench

enabling the acquirement of specialized vocabulary in these fields.

The subject of Intercultural Learning serves to impart knowledge of German culture and mentality in comparison to the various cultures known to our students from abroad.

In order to strengthen contact to German students at our school, the participants in the Transitional Language Classes attend the so-called **Guilds**. These are **sporting and creative activities** such as for example:

- Sport: ball games, climbing, table tennis, fitness, yoga, diving, riding, sailing, rafting, badminton
- Culture: theatre, choir, instrumental music, school band, jazz band, dancing
- Home Economics and Handicraft: Pupils' café, cooking, carpentry

Entry into a regular class

Students from abroad are assigned to a suitable class at the end of the transitional year in the language class depending on their level of proficiency in the German language. Students have until the end of the school year in Class 10 to prepare for entry to the Upper School. Points achieved in the Classes 11 and 12 contribute to the overall Abitur results. Additional instruction in German as a Foreign Language is provided throughout a pupil's time at school.

Instruction in German as a Foreign Language	
Intensive German language course and school preparation course	In the Transitional Language Class at our school according to a special plan (compare language programme, see table above, left)
Class 9	4 Lessons German as a Foreign Language
Class 10	Language a week in addition to the regular German lessons
Class 11 and 12	4 additional German lessons; and on Saturdays: 6 additional German lessons

Grammar school education

In order to be able to sit the Abitur exams, a set number of subjects have to be taken and this is **uniformly regulated** in Germany. We provide quality education in all subjects:

- Core subjects: German, Mathematics, English
- Science subjects: Biology, Physics, Chemistry
- Social Sciences: Geography, Social Studies, Economics/ Law
- Languages: Russian, Latin, French, and, from 2017 on, Chinese (mainly spoken Chinese)
- Religion (Catholic or Protestant) or Ethics
- Sport, Art, Music
- Optional Courses: Theatre and Film, Choir

In the Abitur examinations our students repeatedly achieve top performances. Generally all our students pass the Abitur examinations. In the school year 2014/15, an only 16-year-old pupil passed his Abitur, after skipping two years of school.



Our Abitur celebrations: boarders receive a School Cone filled with sweet things and things for school – a ritual that is normally practised in Germany prior to starting primary school

In order to ensure that our students get off to a good start at university, a **seminar on the subject of occupational orientation and choice of degree** takes place in Class 12. In this connection we offer every year excursions to different **university towns and cities**, for example to Berlin, Augsburg, Innsbruck, Jena, Heidelberg, and Salzburg. This way our students will, in the course of their school education, get to know approximately 12 to 15 university locations and will be able to make a well-founded decision in favour of a later course of studies and place of study.



Life in our boarding school

About a half of the students at our school are boarders. Girls and boys reside separately, usually in double rooms. The modern shower and toilet facilities are situated in the corridors. In each living quarters there is a kitchen, and a lounge area and learning zones. W-LAN is, of course, available. Each **room** is functionally equipped with furnishings of solid wood.



The following facilities are also at the disposal of the pupils: a sports hall, a hard court and a volleyball court, a fitness room, the library, the theatre area, practice rooms for instrumentalists, a laundry and dining-rooms, a pupils' café and ballrooms. Our kitchen, which is managed by a starred chef, provides us with self-made meals. On weekends boarding school groups have the opportunity of cooking themselves



Our pupils are taught, helped and supervised by qualified **teachers and pedagogues** with many years of experience, some of whom have a doctorate. The counsellors provide support in daily life, supervise the observance of meal times and periods of learning and help shape the leisure programme (with excursions, sport, and cultural events like theatre, cinema or concerts). Supervision and counselling is round-the-clock. The girls are looked after by female pedagogues and the boys by male pedagogues.

Communication with parents takes place via Skype in German, English, French, Russian and Chinese.

Group work of our students who have a multicultural background of more than 20 nationalities. Here they work out project ideas.

Information on enrolment

Enrolment for a place in our school takes place through co-operation partners or directly with us

Contact details:

The Overall Director and School Principal, Frau Carmen Mendez, Carmen.Mendez@max-rill-gym.de and Frau Anna Marszalek, the Head of the Boarding School, Anna.Marszalek@max-rill-gym.de

Enrolment:

- The filling out of a fact sheet relating to the pupil
- An interview and, if desired, a visit to the school and a trial period in the boarding school
- The transfer of the school fees for a school year
- The issuing of the invitation and the administrative documents by the school

Should a visa not be granted, then we will assist you in your endeavours, or, if necessary, refund the school fees already paid.



Costs:

Annual school fee: 33,600 euros (school attendance, supervision, accommodation, meals, leisure activities)

Enrolment: 500 euros (non-recurring)

Expenditures: 3,000 euros (settled on a yearly basis in relation to additional services, journeys, personal shopping)

Security deposit: 8,400 euros (non-recurring, will be reimbursed after the pupil leaves the school; serves as security)

How to reach us:

From Munich Airport: by train in 2 hours; with our Shuttle Service or by taxi approximately 60 minutes.

Further information:

www.max-rill-gym.de

Photos from left:

*Physics lab, Study in the library,
Computer room, Art room*

Photos from right:

*Christmas performance in the Pienzenauer Saal
Our students are an international community
The castle with a view of the Alps*

