Dear German School Student:

It is a special privilege for us to welcome you to the Middlebury College German School. Since 1915, thousands of students, from beginners to the DML candidate, have joined dedicated faculty and staff in taking the Language Pledge, attending courses and cultural events that include lectures, films, plays, sports activities, and choral and cabaret performances set in the Green Mountains of Vermont. If you like a challenge, are willing to work hard, and if you enjoy some “serious” fun, then you have found the right place and program, and we can guarantee you a successful learning experience.

Pre-Arrival Information: At the following website you will find information that you should read carefully before arriving on campus for the summer: http://www.middlebury.edu/ls/students/prearrival

Please take the time to read all the information, including ESPECIALLY the Language Schools Handbook, General Pre-Arrival Information, and information specific to the German School on this webpage. If you still cannot find the answer to your question after having read ALL of the pre-arrival information posted on this webpage, then please feel free to call me at (802) 443-5203, or e-mail me at cellison@middlebury.edu. I will be happy to assist you.

Atmosphere of the German School: While Vermont is lovely in the summer, and there are many attractions in and around Middlebury, the German School is not a place to come for a vacation. The program of the German School is extremely intensive in character and may well require that you work harder than you ever have done before in an academic setting. Keeping up with the pace will require considerable physical, intellectual, and psychological stamina. In seven weeks (or for our German graduate students, in six weeks) you will have completed the equivalent of a full academic year of language study and this requires one’s full physical, intellectual, and psychological commitment. You will be spending approximately three to four hours in classes, which meet five times per week, and there will be many additional hours of preparation and homework. When relaxing, you will find yourself in the company of students, teachers and staff where German is the only means of communication. The atmosphere of the School is not compatible with family vacations, and we do not recommend that your family be located in the vicinity.

There will be approximately 100 students in the 7-week language program and up to 25 students in the 6-week graduate session. Students of all ages and with a wide spectrum of interests and backgrounds attend the German School. An atmosphere of mutual tolerance and respect is necessary for living in dormitory-style housing and studying together in a cooperative way. The German School encourages, even demands, cooperation. Learning represents a communal effort: you should expect to employ your talents to the benefit of other students, just as you will benefit from their talents. All students live in the German School dormitories and take their meals exclusively with members of the German School. Most faculty and staff also live in the dorms and all of them dine regularly with students. They are a dedicated team and they are available and eager to be of assistance to you both in and out of class. But keep in mind that despite all appearances to the contrary, they are only human and need some sleep, too!
Activities: All students are encouraged to participate in our co-curricular program, which will help you “live” the language and absorb it faster. We will offer several German films every week; the weekly academic lecture series; our very own theater production and choir concert (in either of which you will have a chance to employ your own talents, hidden or otherwise); and our weekly radio show. We will also have soccer, volleyball and frisbee games, and a tennis tournament. The Middlebury campus offers complete athletic facilities, including a fitness center, an indoor pool, a golf course, and jogging trail, so feel free to bring appropriate equipment for any sport you wish to do while here. There are also plenty of beautiful roads to bike, although most roads do not have shoulders!

Also, this summer we will have a three-week co-curricular photography course with a professional photographer from Germany. If you are interested, bring your camera.

If you play an instrument, feel free to bring it, as you may have an opportunity to be an accompanist in this summer’s student performances in the German for Singers Program. The director of the German for Singers and Vocal Coaches Program, Prof. Bettina Matthias, is looking for instrumentalists to participate in the program. If you play an instrument and are interested, please contact her at: bmatthia@middlebury.edu.

The German for Singers Program will put on two not-to-be-missed performances, one on July 10th and one towards the end of the session, which will be a full opera production of Mozart’s La Finta Giardiniera.

You can also join the weekly discussion of philosophical or German-American political issues, contribute to the daily German School newspaper, challenge your professor to a tennis match or to a chess game, or simply meander around the town of Middlebury, which is within walking distance from the college. The college library subscribes to a couple of daily German newspapers and weekly magazines, and you may also watch German satellite TV in one of the German School’s dorm lounges. No matter what your hobbies and interests are, we want you to participate!

A few items you should consider bringing with you to campus are: a fan (!), a laptop (if you have one), light weight/summer clothing, raincoat, swim suit, bug spray, warm sweater or warm fleece top, linens, towels, and a light weight blanket. (One blanket and one pillow will be provided per bed.) There will be a couple of formal German School events (concerts, the final banquet) to which you might want to (but are not required to) wear something more formal. The weather in Vermont during the summer is usually warm and pleasant during the day, cooler in the evening, but there are generally about two weeks of uncomfortable, muggy heat.

German for Singers students: you will be performing two concerts during the summer on stage, so bring a set of clothes to perform in. Contact Prof. Bettina Matthias (bmatthia@middlebury.edu) with specific questions.

New Travel Requirements
All persons traveling by air, land or sea between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and the Caribbean region are required to have a valid passport to enter or re-enter the United States. United States and Canadian citizens traveling by land or sea should check the following website to determine what documents will be required: travel.state.gov/travel

Arrival Information (please also see the document titled “German - Student FAQ’s”)
Because dormitories are occupied by other groups until shortly before the opening of the summer session, early arrivals are not possible, nor are we able to accept luggage sent in advance for storage.
Levels 1-4 (7-week session): Friday, June 24, 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
German graduate (M.A.) students (6-week session): Tuesday, June 28, 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Located in west-central Vermont, Middlebury is a 2 1/2 hour drive from Montreal, about 4 hours from both Boston and Hartford, 5 hours from New York City, and 6 1/2 hours from Philadelphia. If you choose to fly, Burlington International Airport is 50 minutes from campus and is served by American, Jet Blue, Continental, Delta, Northwest, United, and USAirways. Information on transportation to Middlebury from Burlington and elsewhere will be included in the Handbook (the updated version will be posted on our website as soon as it is available), as well as other instructions regarding your arrival: see “German - Student FAQ’s”.

You are permitted to have a car on campus, but you must register it with Public Safety upon your arrival. There is no fee for parking a car on campus (as long as you park in the designated student lots).

**Oral Proficiency Interviews**

7-week students accepted to Levels 1.5, 2, 3 or 4 via the on-line placement exam must complete an oral interview on Saturday, June 25. The time and location of the interviews are posted in the document “German - Student FAQ’s” available as part of the German School Pre-Arrival information on the Language Schools Pre-Arrival Information webpage: http://www.middlebury.edu/ls/students/prearrival

**Registration**

- **7-week students:** Students will be registered automatically based on the results of their placement exam and oral interview. Each level is comprised of three courses, so all students will be taking three courses. Students who place into level 4 may, through consultation with the Director, select one course from the 6-week graduate program in addition to their two level-4 courses.

- **6-week graduate students:** All graduate students will meet with the Director on Wednesday morning, June 29th, in Pearsons Lounge. Advising will take place between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Students in their last two summers of the M.A. program will be given preference to register first, to make sure they meet their graduate requirements.

**Course information** is available on the Web for both the 7-week intensive immersion session (see http://www.middlebury.edu/ls/german/curriculum/courses) and the 6-week graduate session (see http://www.middlebury.edu/ls/grad_programs/german/program_tracks/vermont/courses)
All courses with a dark triangle after the title are offered this summer. Click on the course titles to get a more detailed description.

**Living Facilities**

You will be informed of your housing assignment upon your arrival. Some rooms in the German School are doubles, and you should be prepared for a dormitory situation. I strive to assign roommates of compatible language ability, age, and personal habits. There is no guarantee that students' special housing requests can be met, although we will make every effort to accommodate your needs as identified on the rooming card. Generally, we will give older students and students in the German graduate program single rooms, and the remaining singles will be distributed according to students’ needs.

There is an Ethernet connection in every room, but NO TELEPHONE. Please bring a cellphone if you have one. There WILL be telephones on every floor of each dormitory for local calls or emergencies. You will need a calling card or other long-distance calling alternative in order to
place long-distance calls from campus phones. We encourage you to bring your own laptop computer, if you have one. There are many computers available to students on campus, but with a total of eight language schools on the Middlebury campus the demand for them is high, and you might prefer the convenience of a laptop. When you arrive, we will provide you with an email account and instructions on how to activate it.

**Dining facilities** are designed to accommodate the average tastes and needs of students. All meals are cafeteria and buffet style, and there are many choices at every meal, including vegetarian, salad bar and fresh fruit. If you have special dietary needs, there will be an on-line form available for you to fill out on our website. Also, let me know and I can put you in contact with the Chef of our dining hall, who can work out a menu with you. However, although we make every effort to accommodate special dietary needs, we do not and cannot guarantee that every special dietary need can be met.

**Linen service is not available. Please bring sheets and towels with you.** It is a good idea to also bring with you (or purchase upon arrival) an ELECTRIC FAN (there is no air conditioning in the dormitories), and an extra blanket (all beds are equipped with one blanket and one pillow, but some nights may get cool). Please be advised that no pets of any kind are allowed in the dorms or on campus.

Attire at Middlebury tends to be casual, but you may wish to be prepared for a small number of special events requiring nicer clothing. The German School offers many cultural and social events. Please remember that there can be a good deal of fluctuation in temperature in Vermont. Summer evenings can be quite cool, but we are also likely to experience a week or two of temperatures in the nineties accompanied by high humidity.

Typically, the median age of students in the Language Schools is in the mid-twenties, but there is a broad range of individual ages, as Masters program and Doctorate program students tend to be older. An atmosphere of tolerance and respect helps to facilitate living in close quarters.

**The Language Pledge**
The unifying feature of the "Middlebury Method" has always been the Language Pledge: a firm commitment by each student to use only the language of the School during the entire session, wherever he or she may be. What distinguishes Middlebury’s German School from other German language programs is the opportunity to learn the language by using it on a daily basis with your fellow students and with the faculty and staff. This practice has contributed significantly to the success of the Language Schools, and willingness to maintain the tradition is a measure of each student's motivation. Even in the lower level courses the Language Pledge is taken very seriously. ALL students and most faculty members live in the German language dormitories, and take their meals together in a German language dining hall.

The administration of the School takes the Pledge very seriously, but attempts to be evenhanded and humane in its application. On occasion, when the student must use English to communicate with shop clerks, non-German speaking staff of the College, etc., special permission need not be requested, but on each such occasion there must be a legitimate and demonstrable need. Students who may already know non-German speaking persons in the college community or the Town of Middlebury should avoid their company during the session except for legitimate business reasons. The Director reserves the right to dismiss without credit any student who proves unwilling to abide by the Pledge.
We do not wish to cause friction between students and their families, therefore we ask that you inform your families and friends of the nature of the Pledge, and ask for their cooperation in keeping the frequency of communication as low as possible. This includes communication via cell phone and e-mail. Non-German speaking family and friends should not be brought into the dormitory. You may send and receive essential correspondence in English, however non-German language newspapers, magazines, and recordings are NOT allowed on campus. German TV will be available in the dormitory, and German newspapers and magazines are available in the main library. You should bring a portable CD player for listening to language tapes/CD’s.

**Personal Health Insurance**

In order to be certain that students will be assisted in meeting the unexpected and sometimes heavy expense of an illness or accident, Middlebury College requires all students to have personal health insurance. **If you do not already have health insurance that will provide coverage while at Middlebury, you are required to obtain coverage prior to arrival on campus.** International students, in particular, should ascertain that their health insurance is valid in the U.S.

**End of the Session**

7-week classes end on Thursday, August 11. 6-week graduate session classes end on Wednesday, August 10. Students may leave as soon as their classes and final exams are completed; however, keep in mind that the German School Final Banquet and Dance occurs on that Thursday evening (a fun event you may not want to miss). Many students therefore elect to leave on Friday, August 12. **A student desiring to leave earlier than the schedule above without express permission of the director and his/her professors should be aware that s/he will receive a grade of WD/F.**

All dormitory rooms must be vacated no later than 12:00 noon on Saturday, August 13. The last dining hall meal offered will be brunch on Saturday. When extraordinary circumstances warrant, students may request special permission to stay until noon on Sunday, August 14, but will be required to pay a guest fee. Requests must be submitted in advance in writing to the German School office.

I have enjoyed being of assistance to all of you and I hope you have a productive and enjoyable summer. The German School Directors (Drs. Doris Kirchner and Tin Wegel), Bilingual Assistants (Olivia Claudio, Stefan Crabtree and Patrick Ploschnitzki), and I look forward to welcoming you to the German School soon!

**Tina**

Christina (Tina) Ellison
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