The German School  
Summer 2015

It is a special privilege for us to welcome you to the 100th year of 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. On behalf of the Director, Bettina Matthias, and the German School faculty and staff, I am delighted to welcome you to this year's session of the Middlebury German School. We are confident that the intensive studies in our summer language program will prove to be personally and academically rewarding.

Please take particular note of:

- **General Information on the Accepted Students website.** Here you will find answers to almost all logistical questions and the following important documents:
  - Welcome letter from Professor Michael Geisler, Vice President for Language Schools, Schools Abroad and Graduate Programs.
  - Language Schools 2015 Handbook: [www.middlebury.edu/ls/policies](http://www.middlebury.edu/ls/policies)
  - Each document that is specific to the German School.

If you have special dietary needs, would like to request kosher meals or will be observing Ramadan, please fill out and follow the instructions of the Dietary Request Form, which can be found on our pre-arrival website under “Campus Logistics”.

Neither the German School nor Middlebury College will be able to provide you with housing should you arrive earlier than Friday, June 26th (if you’re in the 7-week session) or Tuesday, June 30th (if you’re in the 6-week graduate session). If you arrive in Middlebury prior to your arrival date, you will need to find accommodations on your own. Please do not call the School to ask about housing assignments. It is not possible to give out this information prior to arrival. Students are reminded to be particularly security-conscious during the opening and closing days of the session.

**Activities and highlights for 2015:** 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; a couple of evening lectures; our very own theater
production and talent show (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 and volleyball games, and (if there’s enough interest) a tennis tournament, yoga, and ultimate frisbee. 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!

Since this is our Centennial Summer, we will have a few special celebratory events, including a centennial conference and concerts, and a 1915-themed Centennial Ball (for all language schools). If you can, bring an outfit from the period (or something like it) to dance away the night!

Also this summer: we are integrating 3-day **Special Interest Workshops** in six areas of special interest into our German School curriculum this summer, in late July. The special interest workshops will be in **philosophy, environmental sustainability, business communication, art history, journalistic writing, and musicology**. All students, regardless of level, are required to participate as it is part of the curriculum. You will be able to choose and sign up for **one** workshop once you’re on campus. (They will be appropriate for all German students – beginners to advanced, as well as German graduate students.) This will be an exciting opportunity for you to get immersed in real-world applications of German, and learn specific vocabulary used in these areas.

Our **theater workshop** is one of our co-curricular activities, culminating in the performance of a play at the end of the summer. The German School theater group, this year under direction of Carina Bellman, has been putting on wildly successful plays in the last summers. You only need to be interested in participating – no previous experience necessary - to sign up for the German School play!

**If you play an instrument**, feel free to bring it, as you may have an opportunity to be involved in our many musical activities in summer, including some aspects of our German for Singers program. If you play an instrument and are interested in getting involved, please contact the director of the German for Singers and Vocal Coaches program at: bmatthia@middlebury.edu.

**The German for Singers Program** will put on two not-to-be-missed performances, one on July 12 and one towards the end of the session, which will be a modified version of an opera. **German for Singers students**: you will be performing two concerts during the summer on
stage, so bring a set of clothes to perform in. Consult the welcome letter that Prof. Matthias sent out earlier this spring, and contact her if you have any further questions (bmatthia@middlebury.edu).

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), a portable CD player with earphones or an iPod, 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. For a list of what is/is not provided in dorm rooms, incl. mattress size, please read the general information on the pre-arrival website.) Attire at Middlebury tends to be casual, but there will be a couple of formal German School events (concerts, the 1915-themed centennial ball, 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 and thunderstorms.

All of us at Middlebury have been working hard to make your arrival and first days go as smoothly as possible, but if you have questions before you leave for Vermont, please don’t hesitate to call or write by e-mail (cellison@middlebury.edu). I am confident that your summer at the German School will prove to be a rewarding and enriching experience. I hope this information proves to be useful in planning for your summer and I look forward to welcoming you to the German School in June.

Herzliche Grüße,

Tina

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