

56th Annual Award Ceremony

Of the German Language and School Society
56th Annual German Essay Contest
and the National AATG German Contest

Sunday, May 1, 2011, 3:00 PM
Marquette University High School Auditorium
3401 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI

www.dssvwi.org

The German Language and School Society

The German Language and School Society, Wisconsin, Inc. (DSSV) was founded in Milwaukee on June 9, 1956. It was chartered as a non-political, non-religious, and non-profit educational organization under the laws of the state of Wisconsin.

The goals of the Society have been stated as “promoting and stimulating interest in and understanding of the German language and culture” by means of an annual German Essay Contest.

This contest is open to students of all public and private high schools in the state of Wisconsin who are presently enrolled in a German class. Study and vacation trips to Germany, scholarships and valuable book prizes are awarded to those who qualify in these contests. The German Language and School Society conducts its annual contest in conjunction with the comprehensive German language test sponsored by the AATG.

The German Language and School Society is proud to have served the educational needs of our youth for over half a century.

The Society has sponsored 56 annual German Essay Contests.

32,850	Students have participated in these contests
8,282	Awards were presented to the students for outstanding achievement in these contests.
84	Study and vacation trips to Germany have been awarded

Contributions from individuals and German-American Societies raised over \$250,000 to fund this program. The German Language and School Society does not receive any governmental monetary grants.

The German Language and School Society wishes to express their sincere gratitude to the students and teachers who participated, as well as to our members and the many organizations, here and in Germany, who contributed so much to the success of this highly idealistic program.

We Gratefully Acknowledge the Financial Support and Other Assistance Received from the Following Organizations:

Contributing Four-week Study Trips to Germany:

Pädagogischer Austauschdienst,
Bundesrepublik Deutschland

Book Awards and Medals Furnished by:

AATG

Scholarship Contributions:

- German Language and School Society, Wisconsin, Inc.
- Wilma Giese
- German Fest Milwaukee, Inc.
German Fest donates complimentary admission tickets to German Fest 2011 to all contest winners attending the Award Ceremony

Special Scholarships:

Over these past 56 years the German Language and School Society has had many friends, donors and volunteers. Other German-American organizations in the community have generously provided financial support. Numerous individuals have contributed funds for scholarships.

We continue to provide scholarships thanks to the support of these major contributors:

- A very generous bequest from the Estate of Eleanor Arneson
- Greater Milwaukee Foundation;
The Rudolf and Helga Kaden Memorial Fund
- The Theodore and Anna Grollmann Fund
- The Maria Keller Memorial Scholarship

Rudolf and Helga Kaden were long-time members of the DSSV who both passed away within a few months of each other in 2003. They were immigrants from Germany in the mid 1950's and met each other at the former Militzer's Bakery. The annual award ceremonies were held at Whitefish Bay High School for a number of years, where Rudi was the custodian. The Kadens assisted Fritz Keller for many years with the award presentations. They had no children and established a memorial fund with a substantial portion of their estate in order to "promote German language, culture and customs in the State of Wisconsin".

Eleanor Arneson and Theodore and Anna Grollman were German immigrants who wanted to preserve their heritage.

Maria Keller was a longtime member of the DSSV who recently passed away on March 14, 2011. She was the wife of DSSV Vice President Fritz Keller and a supporter of the DSSV essay contest since its inception. For many years she was active in hosting the award ceremony receptions. Thanks to many generous memorial donations, we are able to provide a special memorial scholarship in her name.

The DSSV sincerely thanks these generous donors.

The DSSV welcomes your tax exempt contributions.

It is through the generosity of our donors that we are able to fund scholarship awards year after year for these outstanding students of German.

We also encourage donors to consider planning a gift to the DSSV through your estate.

For information regarding tax exempt contributions or bequests, please see page 24 of this program or visit our website www.dssvwi.org. Inquiries can also be sent to: donors@dssvwi.org

German Language and School Society Wisconsin Inc.

DSSV EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Fritz Keller.....Vice President

Dorothy SmaglickTreasurer

Fred Keller.....Executive Secretary

Contest Organization

German Language and School Society, Wisconsin, Inc.

Heiner Giese

Fritz Keller

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AATG

National German Language Test Administration

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Stephanie Draheim, German Language and School Society

German Language Contest Description and Awards

AATG Test and Awards

Each year, German students from Wisconsin high schools are eligible to participate in the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) sponsored comprehensive National German Language Test administered at high schools throughout Wisconsin by the German teachers at their schools. The Level 2 test is taken by students who have two years of high school German. The Level 3 test requires three years of study, and level 4 requires 4 or more years of study. The Wisconsin AATG sponsors cash awards and medals and also invites students achieving the highest scores to participate in a selection committee interview held in Wisconsin during March of each year. Based on students' test scores and interview results, the AATG will nominate one or two students for four week summer study trips to Germany. The national AATG office evaluates the nominations from each state and determines the final winners of the Pädagogischer Austauschdienst, (PAD - German Student Exchange Program) sponsored 4 week summer study trips to Germany. The number of study trips sponsored by PAD as well as the number of these trips allocated by the national AATG office to German students in Wisconsin may vary from year to year.

DSSV Essay Contest and Awards

The DSSV sponsors over one hundred cash awards annually for students with excellent performance on the AATG test. In addition, students taking the level 3 or level 4 AATG test are eligible to participate in the DSSV-sponsored German Essay contest. The essays written by these students are evaluated by a German Department faculty member from a Wisconsin university and students who have taken both the AATG test and have written a DSSV essay are eligible to compete for a separate DSSV-sponsored four week study trip to Germany as well as additional cash and book prizes. This trip is provided by PAD through its long-standing relationship with the DSSV.

Students with the top AATG test scores combined with the best DSSV essay performance will be invited to participate in selection committee interviews from which the DSSV grand prize winner and a runner-up will be determined.

These personal interviews are conducted every year in March by a panel of University of Wisconsin faculty members, AATG members, and representatives of the DSSV. **Students must register for and participate in a personal interview in order to be selected as a trip winner.**

These interviews are held in conjunction with the selection committee interviews for the AATG trip(s) on the same date and at the same Wisconsin location. While all students participating in the AATG test are eligible for medals, books and cash awards, only students who have written a qualifying DSSV essay and taken the AATG test are eligible for the DSSV sponsored trip to Germany.

German students throughout the state are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this unique opportunity to compete for the DSSV study trip to Germany. Wisconsin's high school German teachers are asked to encourage their students to participate in the DSSV Essay Contest. These teachers are also requested to facilitate their students' participation by disseminating contest information and administering the essay contest at their respective schools.

Facts and figures regarding the 56th Annual German Essay Contest 2010 - 2011 sponsored by the German Language and School Society, Wisconsin Inc.

- Students Participating: 850
- Schools Participating:
 - Taking AATG Test: 26
 - Writing Essays: 20
- Over 440 Essays were Submitted

The following awards are presented to qualifying students:

- Two four-week study and vacation trips to Germany
 - DSSV Trip Award
 - AATG Trip Award
- Cash scholarships totaling over \$8,600
- Book awards and medals

We invite you to visit the DSSV's WEB SITE. This site provides DSSV contest information for Wisconsin German students, teachers and parents. It also provides information related to the study of German in Wisconsin High Schools.

www.dssvwi.org

PROGRAM

56th Annual DSSV German Essay Contest and the National AATG German Contest Award Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies.....Fred Keller

Presentations

Presentations by Last Year's DSSV and AATG Trip Winners

Sarah Grond, Brookfield Academy)
Michael Pampuch, Mukwonago High School

Special Guest Speaker

Dr. Hermann Viets, President
Milwaukee School of Engineering

Presentation of the DSSV Grand Prize – Study Trip Award

Dorothy Smaglick, Treasurer
Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein

Presentation of the Grand Prizes and Special Awards

Dr. John S. Pustejovsky, Marquette University
Professor of German
Past President and Former Testing Chairman,
AATG Wisconsin Chapter

Dr. Michael Koch, Lecturer at Carroll College
Wisconsin AATG Chapter Testing Chair

Presentation of Awards to the Winners in the DSSV German Essay Contest and the AATG National German Test

Presented by Katie Urbanek and Lori Keller
Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein

A Reception will follow the Presentations

CONGRATULATIONS!

2011 Major Award Winners

The winner of the 2011 German Language and School Society sponsored Grand Prize Study Trip to Germany and a \$200 Kaden Fund Award is:

Gina Richter, Wauwatosa West High School
Teacher: Ms. Karin Awve

AATG Study Trip Winner and a \$200 Kaden Fund Award

Alexander Feuling, Muskego High School
Teacher: Ms. Joan Blaha

Senior Trip Nominee - \$750 Maria Keller Memorial Scholarship

Dylan Braun, Muskego High School
Teacher: Ms. Joan Blaha

Top Essay - Langenscheidt Award and a \$400 Kaden Fund Award

Samuel Norton, Marquette University High School
Teacher: Dr. Sy Kreilein

Second Place Essay – \$250

Mitchell Gieske, Homestead High School
Teachers: Linda Havas & Eric Schultz

Third Place Essay - \$250

Rachel Stoebe, Tremper High School
Teacher: Jammie Orth

Other Major Prize Winners

Kevin Sawall, Brookfield Academy - \$250
Teacher: Andrew Richardson

Danielle Ross, Homestead High School - \$200
Teachers: Linda Havas & Eric Schultz

Recipient of the Duden Award for the Outstanding Teacher and \$50

Andrew Richardson
Brookfield Academy



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

May 1, 2011

GREETINGS!

On behalf of the City of Milwaukee, I would like to extend my support for The Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein for promoting and stimulating interest in and understanding of the German language and culture. Please accept my best wishes and appreciation for your service on behalf of the City of Milwaukee.

I commend The Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein for sponsoring the annual essay contest for over 54 years to students throughout the State of Wisconsin. The Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein tradition of honoring the academic accomplishments of students that are studying German is admirable. You are an asset to the City of Milwaukee and a fine example of an organization that is committed to preserving history and culture amongst our diverse community. Along with the rest of the City, I want to show my full support for The Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein as you continue to celebrate German language and further enrich the youth in our City.

Once again, congratulations to all participants of The Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein's Annual Essay Contest. Best wishes for continued success and a joyous event!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Barrett".

Tom Barrett
Mayor

Der Aufsatz (2011 Essay Topic)

This year's Level 3 and 4 students were asked to write an essay in the German language on the theme **“Ein Perfektes Wochenende.”** Students described **“A Perfect Weekend”** in detail.

Over 440 essays from 20 schools throughout the state were submitted. They were evaluated and graded by Professor Garry Davis of the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. In addition to the Grand Prize winner, we would like to recognize the following students for writing the best essays and recognize their schools and German teachers.

Top 30 Essays of 56th Annual DSSV German Essay Contest

Essay Rank	Student	School & City	Teacher
1	Samuel Norton	Marquette University HS	Dr. Sy Kreilein
2	Mitchell Gieske	Homestead HS	Ms. Linda Havas / Mr. Eric Schultz
3	Edgar Garcia	Wayland Academy	Mr. Gerald Walta
4	Gina Richter	Wauwatosa West HS	Mrs. Karin Awve
5	Kassandra Rauch	Mukwonago HS	Ms. Stephanie Krenz
6	Rachel Stoebe	Tremper HS, Kenosha	Ms. Jammie Orth
7	Kevin Sawall	Brookfield Academy	Mr. Andrew Richardson
8	Danielle Ross	Homestead HS	Ms. Linda Havas / Mr. Eric Schultz
9	Ilijana Halimi	South Milwaukee HS	Ms. Patricia Carson
10	John Hammel	Wauwatosa East HS	Ms. Eva Tuinstra
11	Kendall Edwards	Milw School of Languages	Ms. Janelle Morgan
12	Alexander Bruderer	Wayland Academy	Mr. Gerald Walta
13	Christian Blank	Appleton North HS	Mrs. Karen Pfefferle
14	Alana Skellett	Milw School of Languages	Ms. Janelle Morgan
15	Brandon Nickel	Greenfield HS	Ms. Carley Goodkind
16	Erin Lilly	Homestead HS	Ms. Linda Havas / Mr. Eric Schultz
17	Michelle Krueger	Wayland Academy	Mr. Gerald Walta
18	Seth Johnson	Nicolet HS	Mr. Mark Wagner
19	Ryan Jehly	Brookfield Central HS	Ms. Elke Sommers-Johnson
20	Kaitlin Cullen	Rufus King HS	Ms. Sabine Beiroid
21	Jessica Dietzler	Greenfield HS	Ms. Carley Goodkind
22	Rose Spice Kopischke	Wauwatosa East HS	Ms. Eva Tuinstra
23	Emma Strub	Assumption HS	Ms. Bobbette Leu-Timmermann
24	Erich Mosley	Marquette University HS	Dr. Sy Kreilein
25	Alexys Zipter	Nicolet HS	Mr. Mark Wagner
26	Abigail Zabronsky	Appleton North HS	Mrs. Karen Pfefferle
27	Phillip Wang	Brookfield Central HS	Ms. Elke Sommers-Johnson
28	Peter Wohlgemuth	Rufus King HS	Ms. Sabine Beiroid
29	Lauren Wedel	Wauwatosa East HS	Ms. Eva Tuinstra
30	Lindsey Weber	Arrowhead HS	Ms. Elizabeth Schueth

Topic of the 56th Annual German Essay Contest:
“Ein Perfektes Wochenende”
“A Perfect Weekend”

Excerpts from some of the top essays:

Jede Person möchte ein perfektes Wochenende. Manchmal sind wir glücklich und es passiert, aber normalerweise müssen wir nur träumen. *Gina Richter, Wauwatosa West HS*

Wenn ich gehe rollschuhlaufen, spielen alle Leute ein Spiel. Es heißt “Red Light – Green Light.” Ich bin nicht so gut mit diesen Spiel, so ich gewinne nicht viel. *Kendall Edwards, Milwaukee School of Languages*

Zuerst, Freitag nach der Schule wurde ich meinen Hausaufgaben schnell, aber gut machen. *Mitchell Gieske, Homestead HS*

Dafür in ein perfektes Wochenende für mich, mache ich kein Sport, Hausaufgabe, und Arbeit, nur chillen mit Freunde, schlafen, Filme gucken, und Videospiele spielen. *Edgar Garcia, Wayland Academy*

Und nie werde ich Joghurt sehen, weil es gefällt mir überhaupt nicht. *Kassandra Rauch, Mukwonago HS*

...schlage ich vor einkaufen zu gehen. Ich wurde so viel Geld ausgegeben wie ich will und auch meine Freundinnen frei ins Spa einladen. *Danielle Ross, Homestead HS*

Dannach gehen wir zu Eiskafe für Eis. Es ist kalt und schmeckt sehr lecker. *John Hammel, Wauwatosa East HS*

...würde ich bei dem Milwaukee Rowing Club gehen. Dort würde ich ruddern auf dem Milwaukee Fluß gehen. *Sam Norton, Marquette University HS*

Es macht Spaß wenn ich bei meinen Freunde übernachten kann. Wir schauen mehr Fernsehen und reden über alles ins Leben. *Erin Mosley, Marquette University HS*

Die letzte Aktivität für Freitag wäre Basketball mit Dirk Nowitski, meine Lieblings Basketballspieler, zu spielen. Mensch wäre das ein perfektes Tag! *Christian Blank, Appleton North HS*

Wir können ins Café gehen, zur party oder Disko! Wir tanzen für viele Stunden in der Disko. Wir gehen zu hause nicht, bis der Sonne scheint am Morgen! *Ilijana Halimi, South Milwaukee HS*

Meine Freunde, meine Lieblingssachen und ich, es würde einen Traum sein!
Michelle Krueger, Wayland Academy

Es muss auch Sommer sein, weil winter kalt und unfreundlich ist. Mann kann die vogel nicht hören, weil sie nach Mexico gehen, oder Afrika. *Seth Johnson, Nicolet HS*

Ich gehe nach Draußen gern, weil ich Fußball gern spiele. Ich bin nicht sehr gut, aber ich spiele viel und bin besser als bevor. *Ryan Jehly, Brookfield Central HS*

Am Sonntag Abend sag ich öfter “es ist schon Sonntag?!” als “das war ein gutes Wochenende.” Wenn ich eine perfektes Wochen ende haben will, muss ich viele Dinge ändern. *Kaitlin Cullen, Rufus King HS*

Meine Austauschpartnerin, Freddy, würde mich be idem Flughafen treffen. Danach würden wir mit dem Zug nach Landshut fahren. *Emma Strub, Assumption HS*

Nach der Schultag gehe ich mit meine beste Freundin zur Noodles. Sie haben das beste Essen. Alles da ist immer perfekt. *Erin Lilly, Homestead HS*

Dann ich werde am Fluss gehen, so dass ich schwimmen kann und vermeide die Sonne nicht, weil es gut für mein Gesundheit ist. *Alexys Zipter, Nicolet HS*

Das Wochenende kommt und bringt glückliche Gesichte. Am Wochenende können wir Abendessen zusammen essen, und Spaß machen. *Abigail Zabronsky, Appleton North HS*

Wir werden über die letzte Woche nicht denken und wir werden nur Spass haben. *Peter Wohlgemuth, Rufus King HS*

Ich bin Kellner bei unser Restaurant Wenn die Wochenende perfekt wäre, könnte ich früher nach Hause gehen, weil niemand zu essen kommt. Die Menschen die kommen wären auch alle hübsche Frauen sein. *Wayne Sheu, Appleton North HS*

2011 DSSV Award Winners and their Teachers by School

Appleton East HS

Byron Despres-Berry

Sophia Angst

Appleton North HS

Karen Pfefferle

Christian Blank

Abigail Zabronsky

Wayne Scheu

Steven Walsh

Whitney Shapiro

Arrowhead HS, Hartland

Elizabeth Schueth

Helene Altmann

Ryan Eggert

Melissa Kelley

Lindsey Weber

Assumption HS, Wis. Rapids

Bobbette Leu-Timmermann

Emma Strub

Brookfield Academy

Andrew Richardson

Kevin Sawall

Michael Sportiello

Jack Boatman

Maximilia Drescher

Sarah Grond

Sondra Wozniak

Abby Marino

Anna Drescher

Arek Kashian

Brookfield Academy, cont'd

Peter Gardner

James Mueller

Brookfield Central HS

Elke Sommers-Johnson

Ryan Jehly

Katie Grudnowski

Trinity Robinson

Phillip Wang

Brookfield East HS

Liz Marsack

Hayley Griffin

Edward Oakes

Ryan Hoaglund

Shawn McCall

Greenfield HS

Carley Goodkind

Natalia Coralic

Jessica Dietzler

Brandon Nickel

Homestead HS

Linda Havas / Eric Schultz

Mitchell Gieske

Danielle Ross

Erin Lilly

Michael Kress

Marquette University HS

Dr. Sy Kreilein

Samuel Norton
Ernst Arnhold
Erich Mosley
Michael Hoffman
Paul Gray
Andrew Puck
Evan Treacy
Jesse Goryl
William Pierson

Milw School of Languages

Janelle Morgan

Alana Skellett
Carly Floyd
Chelsea Mattheis
Kendall Edwards
Ashanti Rogers
Cassandra Berres
Darby Jones, Jr.
Forrest Fink
Ingrid Mueller
Kyle Piwek
Madeleine Carroll
Madeline Griffith
Maya Her
Pauline Sharping
Shannon Kuechenmeister

Muskego HS

Joan Blaha

Dylan Braun
Alexander Feuling
Aaron Rehwald

Mukwonago HS

Stephanie Krenz

Kassandra Rauch
Laurel Tieman
Michael Pampuch
Rachel Bugenhagen
Zachary Zamzow

Nicolet HS

Mark Wagner

Seth Johnson
Jeremiah Hearon
Natalie Muenster
Alexys Zipter

Rufus King HS

Sabine Beirold

Kaitlin Cullen
Briana Hall
Caroline Froh
Eric Anderson
Mackenzie Griffin
Nathaniel Sharping
Fiona Beamish-Crouthamel
Marika McClinton
Nicholas Sharping
Peter Wohlgemuth

South Milwaukee HS

Patricia Carson

Ilijana Halimi

Tremper HS, Kenosha

Jammie Orth

Rachel Stoebe
Carly Fuhrman

Verona HS

Karen Diemer-Toney

Andrew Craine
Mariele Ver Voort

Wauwatosa East HS

Eva Tuinstra

Rose Spice Kopischke
H. Dion Kirschner
Molly Nellen
Trevor Howard
Christian Siebert
Evan Howard
John Hammel
Julia Beil
Sara Armstrong
Sarah Spanjar
Lauren Wedel

Wauwatosa West HS

Karin Awve

Gina Richter
Alexander Figueroa
Andrew Awve
Benjamin Hajdarevic
Kaitlyn Hembrook
Christopher Trojan
Sullivan Boyd
Vanessa Winfrey

Wayland Academy, Beaver Dam

Gerald Walta

Edgar Garcia
Alexander Bruderer
Michelle Krueger
Megan Petersen
Samuel Coley
Cole Ware

Is the Study of German Still Relevant in Today's American Culture and Society?

In this age of globalization, the study of a foreign language is more important for our students than ever. With cost constrained education budgets, many school districts are unfortunately cutting their foreign language programs. One question sometimes posed is whether the study of German is still relevant in Wisconsin in 2009.

Many Wisconsin high schools have excellent German programs, outstanding teachers and strong enrollments that deserve to be continued. Yet, even some of the schools from which today's prize winners come are considering reductions in their German programs.

If we want to see the study of the German language continue in Wisconsin, it will take a concerted effort on the part of students, parents, teachers and organizations such as the DSSV and the AATG. We all need to do our part to successfully retain the German programs in our schools. What can we as individuals do? Stay informed as to the programs your school is planning to retain and which are being considered for reduction. Don't wait until after a decision is announced. Talk to your students' German teacher. Get involved and make your voice heard with your school principals and school boards.

The DSSV is committed to furthering the study of German in Wisconsin, as it has been since 1954. But it will require local action from concerned students, prospective German students, parents, teachers, and community members. This has made the difference in numerous communities and schools throughout the state.

Please watch the DSSV's website www.dssvwi.org for more information on this topic. Parents and teachers, please keep the DSSV apprised of what's happening at your schools by emailing us through the web site. We will share information, access to resources, and success stories related to keeping the study of German alive in Wisconsin.

The following article entitled "Why Should I Learn German" is from a foreign language study web site www.vistawide.com called **VistaWide World Languages and Cultures**. We thought we should share it with you here as just one of many fine examples as to why the German language is still so very interesting, fun and advantageous to those who can speak it.

Why Learn German?

12 great reasons why you should start learning German today

So you already have some perfectly good reasons for learning German ... Maybe you want to be able to communicate with relatives, or to travel to Germany during your summer break, or prepare yourself for study in a German-speaking country. Maybe a German exchange student sparked your interest, or you have a friend who recommended it, or you just like the way the language sounds. Just in case you need some reassurance in your decision or the final push toward taking the plunge, here are 12 more solid reasons why learning German may be a good choice for you.

1. German is the most widely spoken language in Europe.

More people speak German as their native language than any other language in Europe. It's no wonder, since Germany's 83 million inhabitants make it the most populous European nation. But not only the residents of Germany speak German. It is also an official language of Austria, Switzerland, Luxembourg, and Liechtenstein. And it is the native language of a significant portion of the population in northern Italy, eastern Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, eastern France, parts of Poland, the Czech Republic, Russia, and Romania, as well as in other parts of Europe.

While learning German can connect you to 120 million native speakers around the globe, remember that many people also learn German as a second language. It is the 3rd most popular foreign language taught worldwide and the second most popular in Europe and Japan, after English.

2. Germany has the 3rd strongest economy and is the #1 export nation in the world.

Germany has the third largest economy in the world and is the economic powerhouse of the European Union. In 2007 -- for the 5th year in a row and despite the strength of the Euro currency -- the Germans were world champions in exports. The country exported 940 billion US dollars worth of goods, just ahead of the US exports. From cars to machinery and industrial equipment, from pharmaceuticals to household goods, German businesses earn 1 in 3 euros through export, and 1 in 4 jobs depends on exports. The competitiveness and desirability of German products on the market are indicated by the country's substantial trade surplus, which reached 162 billion euros (209 billion dollars) in 2006 and continues to grow every year.

And don't forget that Switzerland, another German-speaking country, has one of the highest standards of living in the world.

3. Knowing German creates business opportunities.

Germany's economic strength equals business opportunities. Multinational business opportunities exist throughout the European Union and in the Eastern European countries, where German is the second most spoken language after Russian. Companies like BMW, Daimler, Siemens, Lufthansa, SAP, Bosch, Infineon, BASF, and many others need international partners. The Japanese, who have the 2nd most powerful economy in the world, understand the business advantages that a knowledge of German will bring them: 68% of Japanese students study German.

If you're looking for employment in the United States, knowing German can give you great advantages. German companies account for 700,000 jobs in the United States, and US companies have created approximately the same number of jobs in Germany. All other things being equal, the job candidate with German skills will trump the one without such skills every time. Most surveyed companies in the United States would choose someone with German literacy over an equally qualified candidate.

4. Germans are innovators.

From Gutenberg's printing press to Hertz' discovery of electromagnetic waves, from Ehrlich's development of chemotherapy to Einstein's theory of relativity, to Brandenburg's creation of the MP3 digital music format, throughout history Germans have proven themselves time and again to be great innovators. That trend continues today. 4 of the world's 10 most innovative companies are located in Germany and at 12.7% of the world's patent applications, the country ranks 3rd in the world. Consequently, 200,000 businesses introduce new products on the market each year.

As a nation committed to research and development, Germans are on the frontline of new technologies.



The German Daniel Fahrenheit developed the mercury thermometer in 1714.

Germany exports more high-tech products than any other country except the U.S. and more than 600 firms are active in the cutting-edge field of biotechnology. 115 of these are located in Munich alone. The east German city of Dresden has become Europe's microchip center with its more than 765 semiconductor firms.

Given the Germans' commitment to innovation, it is perhaps not surprising that two-thirds of the world's leading international trade fairs take place in Germany. These include CeBIT, the world's largest trade fair for information and communications technology, and the IFA consumer electronics trade fair.

5. Germans are the biggest spenders of tourist dollars in the world.

While German workers are highly productive, it is clear that they know how to play just as hard as they work. With ample disposable income and an average of 6 weeks of vacation a year, Germans have the time and the means to travel, ... and they do! If you are a world traveler, you are certain to encounter Germans wherever you go since nearly 3 out of every 4 vacations by Germans are spent in other countries. In 2007, they spent a record 91 billion euros on international travel. Year after year, the residents of Germany spend more on foreign travel than those of any other nation. Germans especially favor travel to warm Mediterranean climates, such as can be found in Spain, Italy, Turkey, and Greece, and travel to Eastern European countries is increasing in popularity. Germans also readily travel to Africa, the Far East, and the Americas. 1.2 million German tourists visited the U.S. in 2003, making Germans the third largest nationality of tourists to the United States (after the British and Japanese). The most popular U.S. destinations are California, Florida, and New York. Travel agencies, tour companies, hotels, airlines, and car rental agencies that can communicate with Germans in their own language will win their business. Floridians know this: In that state there are at least two travel magazines published in German: *Florida Journal* and *Florida Sun Magazin*.

6. The German presence on the Internet supersedes most others.

Considering what great innovators the Germans are, it's not at all surprising that they maintain a dominant Internet presence. With 8 million Internet domains, Germany's top-level country domain .de is second only to the extension .com. That makes German domain names even more popular than those with .net, .org, .info, and .biz extensions. Even the second-place country extension .uk trails far behind at 3.7 million domain names.

7. Germans form the largest single heritage group in the U.S.

If you're American or are interested in American culture, learning German can expand your appreciation and knowledge of U.S. history and culture. In the year 2000 census, 42.8 million or 15.2% of Americans reported having German ancestry, making German Americans the largest single heritage group in the U.S. In waves of immigration that span nearly 4 centuries, Germans brought with them many customs and traditions that have become so ingrained in American ways that their origin is often forgotten. Family names and names of thousands of towns and cities indicate the German heritage of their ancestors or founders.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

German ancestry in the United States



The light blue areas on the map represent the states in which German ancestry ranks ahead of all other ethnic groups.

See the [county-by-county breakdown](#) for a more accurate distribution

Such cultural mainstays as kindergarten, the Christmas tree, and hot dogs and hamburgers were introduced by German immigrants to America. They founded multiple breweries, created Levi's jeans, invented ketchup, and created Hershey's chocolate. Germans had such a fundamental presence at the time of the founding of the United States that a German language version of the Declaration of Independence was printed only a few days after it was adopted.

8. One in 10 books in the world is published in German

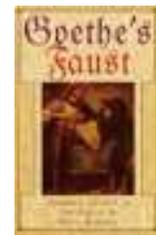


Customers browsing in a German bookstore. 80,000+ new titles appear in German each year.

German is not only a language of the past. As prolific researchers and scholars, German speakers produce nearly 80,000 new book titles each year. The only language markets that produce more books annually are the Chinese and English publishing industries. In number of books published, Munich is second in the world only to New York. Since only a small percentage of German books are translated into other languages (for instance, approximately 10% into Korean and Chinese, just over 5% into English), only a knowledge of German will give you access to a vast majority of these titles.

9. German-speaking countries have a rich cultural heritage.

Apart from their many contributions to American culture, the German speakers have a rich cultural heritage in their own right. Germany is often referred to as the land of "Dichter und Denker" -- of poets and thinkers. And rightly so, because German contributions to the arts and human thought have been nothing short of profound. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Thomas Mann, Franz Kafka, and Hermann Hesse are just a few authors whose names and works are well-known internationally. 10 Nobel prizes for literature have been awarded to German, Austrian, and Swiss German authors.



Goethe's *Faust* is one of the world's great literary masterpieces.

The world of classical music is inseparable from the names of Mozart, Bach, Beethoven, Strauss, and Wagner to name only a few renowned German-speaking composers.

Vienna remains an international center of music today. From the magnificent architecture of medieval buildings to the avant garde Bauhaus movement, from Dürer's woodcuts to the expressionist masterpieces of Nolde, Kirchner, and Kokoschka, Germans have made substantial contributions to world art and architecture.

Philosophy and the sciences would also be unthinkable without the contributions of German speakers. The philosophies of Kant, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, and numerous others have had lasting influences on modern society. The psychologists Freud and Jung forever changed the way we think about human behavior. Scientists from the three major German-speaking countries have won dozens of Nobel prizes in physics, chemistry, and medicine.

Knowing German allows you to access the works of these people in their original language and to fully understand the culture whence they derived. Anyone interested in these fields automatically expands her knowledge and skill by knowing German.

10. German is not as hard as you think.

If English is your native language, or if you already know English, then you already have an advantage when it comes to learning German. Because modern German and modern English both evolved from the common ancestor language Germanic, the two languages share many similarities in both vocabulary and grammar. If you understand any of this ...

Meine Schwester hat braunes Haar. Sie ist intelligent. Sie studiert Medizin in Berlin. Sie kann gut singen.

... then you already know some German!

In addition, German is spelled phonetically. Once you learn the system of sounds, it is easy to predict how the spoken word is written and how the written word is pronounced.

11. German is required or recommended by many undergraduate and graduate programs.

German speakers' strong contributions in such a broad array of fields makes the language an important asset in many disciplines. At the University of California, for instance, more majors recommend a knowledge of German as an important supplement than any other language (German: 56 majors, French: 43 majors, Spanish: 21 majors, Japanese: 7 majors). These majors include a wide range of subjects -- from biology, physics, and chemistry to linguistics, religious studies, and art history.

Considering the importance of the German language in the fields of publishing and research, it's not surprising that many graduate schools want their graduates to have at least a reading knowledge of German. Knowing German gives graduates access to important research published in German books and professional journals.

12. Germany financially sponsors over 60,000 international exchanges each year.

While promoting innovation and supporting research within Germany, the Germans also recognize that international cooperation and experience is essential to its continued success as a world leader. In the year 2001 alone, the German Academic Exchange Service supported 67,000 scholars, scientists, educators, and students in periods of international research and study. 43% of these were foreigners who were awarded financial assistance to participate in an exchange in Germany. In addition, like German students, foreign students directly enrolled in German universities pay no tuition fees. You can find a list of some of their aid programs at our [pages on grants and scholarships](#) for study abroad.

In this Period of Tight Education Budgets Some School Districts are Considering Reducing their Foreign Language Programs

There are many compelling reasons to retain German study at the middle school and high school level in our Wisconsin schools.

German Language Usage and Study

1. The EU Language with the largest number of native speakers is German.
2. 18% of the world's books are published in German.
3. German is the second-most commonly used scientific language.
4. As of 2006, German remained the third most taught language at U.S. colleges and universities, with a 3.5% increase between 2002 and 2006.
5. UW Madison's German department was established in 1890 and is one of the oldest, largest, and most highly ranked in the U.S. Chancellor Dr. Biddy Martin is an alumna of the UW German Department.
6. MSOE has a very successful study abroad program in Luebeck, Germany.

German – U.S. Business Relationships/Jobs (see handouts)

1. Germany is our 5th largest trading partner, and the largest in the EU.
2. Every state exports to Germany
3. Germany is the largest supplier of U.S. imports from the EU (> \$97 billion in 2008).
4. German investment exceeds \$210 billion in the U.S.
5. As of 2006, German companies employed 664,000 U.S. workers, including 240,000 manufacturing workers.
6. German was named Europe's most favorable manufacturing location for the foreseeable future by the firm of Healy and Bake, and in a recent issue of Newsweek, listed as the second most powerful country in the world after the U.S., based on many criteria, esp. economic.
7. As of 2007, German-owned affiliates accounted for 11,000 jobs in Wisconsin.
8. \$661 million of Wisconsin exports were sent to Germany, including nearly \$400 million in machinery and computers and electronic products.
9. German companies and U.S. companies with German connections include Aldi, Trader Joe's, Huf, Siemens, Harley Davidson, Wacker, Kronos, Robert Baird, and numerous printing equipment companies.

German Ancestry in US, Wisconsin and Waukesha

1. German is the largest ancestry in the U.S. at 15.2%
2. Wisconsin is 35%.
3. Waukesha is 39%.
4. Milwaukee's history is that it was referred to as the German Athens.

Help Us Promote the Study of German in Wisconsin!

The German language and School Society (Deutscher Sprach und Schulverein) is looking for people interested in promoting Study of the German Language in Wisconsin. Are you interested in helping in the planning, organization and administration of the annual contest and award ceremony? Not only teachers are needed. Your particular skill or talent is welcome and needed. You don't need to be a German expert to help!

Please let us know where you would like to help:

- Communications and Publicity
- Fund Raising or Award Sponsorship
- Coordination and Distribution of Awards
- Award Ceremony

Other Special Interests _____

I am unable to help, but I would like to lend my financial support. (My Check Is Enclosed). Our scholarships and awards are funded totally by memberships, donations and bequests. **We encourage families of award winners to join and support our organization so that we may continue our work for other students.**

- Annual Membership Individual \$15, Family \$25, Students and Seniors \$10
- Other Contribution \$ _____ .

The DSSV welcomes your tax exempt donations or please consider planning a contribution to the DSSV through your estate. For information about tax exempt contributions or sponsorships, please email: donors@dssvwi.org

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