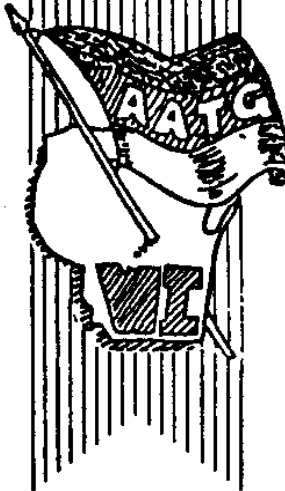


# 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Award Ceremony

Of the German Language and School Society  
53<sup>rd</sup> Annual German Essay Contest  
and the National AATG German Contest

Sunday, May 4, 2008, 3:00 PM  
Marquette University High School Auditorium  
3401 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI

[www.dssvwi.org](http://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 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 of its record to have served the educational needs of our youth for half a century.

The Society has sponsored 53 annual German Essay Contests.

30,837	Students have participated in these contests
7,939	Awards were presented to the students for outstanding achievement in these contests.
79	Study and vacation trips to Germany have been awarded
7,749	Books and cash prizes were presented to qualifying students

Contributions from individuals and German-American Societies raised over \$250,000 to fund this program. The Society did 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 a Four-week Study Trip to Germany:***

Pädagogischer Austauschdienst, Bundesrepublik Deutschland

### ***Contributing Book Awards:***

Goethe Institut, Bonn, Bundesrepublik Deutschland

### ***Scholarship Contributions:***

German Language and School Society, Wisconsin, Inc.

German-American Societies of Milwaukee, Inc.

Goethe Haus Milwaukee

Christel Mildenberg

Wilma Giese

German Fest Milwaukee, Inc.

German Fest also donates complimentary admission tickets to German Fest 2007 to all contest winners attending the Award Ceremony

### ***Special Scholarships:***

Over these past 52 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 three major contributors:

- A very generous bequest from the estate of Eleanor Arneson
- The Theodore and Anna Grollmann Fund
- The Rudolf and Helga Kaden Memorial Fund, created in 2004, has contributed \$1,500 for three special scholarships this year.

Rudolf and Helga Kaden were long-time members of the DSSV who both passed away within a few months of each other last year. 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 also German immigrants who wanted to preserve their heritage. The DSSV sincerely thanks these generous donors.

# German Language and School Society Wisconsin Inc.

## DSSV EXECUTIVE BOARD

Attorney Heiner Giese.....President  
Fritz Keller.....Vice President  
Dorothy Smaglick .....Treasurer  
Fred Keller.....Executive Secretary

### Contest Organization

German Language and School Society, Wisconsin, Inc.

*Heiner Giese*

*Fritz Keller*

*Fred Keller*

*Dorothy Smaglick*

*Lori Keller*

*Jan Beger*

*Katherine Urbanek*

### Selection Committee

*Dr. Brent O. Peterson, Lawrence University - Chairman*

*Dr. Garry Davis, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee*

*Dr. Sy Kreilein, Past President, AATG Wisconsin, Marquette University H. S.*

*Heiner Giese, German Language and School Society*

*Fritz Keller, German Language and School Society*

*Dorothy Smaglick, German Language and School Society*

*Fred Keller, German Language and School Society*

*Jan Beger, 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 and book 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 interviews are held each year 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.

Finalists for the AATG and the DSSV trips to Germany will be invited to participate in personal interviews from which the winners are selected. 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.**

AATG trips are awarded nationally to many students throughout the country and the number of trips available to Wisconsin students may vary from year to year. Only Wisconsin students have a unique opportunity to also participate in the DSSV Essay Contest and compete for the DSSV Award trip to Germany, cash scholarships and book awards.

*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 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual German Essay Contest - 2008 sponsored by the German Language and School Society, Wisconsin Inc.**

- Students Participating: 587
- Schools Participating: 23
- Over 300 Essays were Submitted

**The following awards are presented to qualifying students:**

One four-week study and vacation trip to Germany and cash scholarships totaling over \$8,000 and book awards having a total value of 800 Euros.

*The DSSV's new WEB SITE is now available. 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](http://www.dssvwi.org)**

# PROGRAM

## 53<sup>nd</sup> Annual DSSV German Essay Contest and the National AATG German Contest Award Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies .....Fred Keller

### Presentation

#### *Addresses*

Ed Langer  
President of the Max Kade Institute

#### *Introduction of the AATG Winners*

Dr. John S. Pustovjevsky, PHD  
Interim Dean, Marquette University  
Helen Way Klingler College of Arts and Sciences  
President, AATG Wisconsin Chapter

#### *Presentation of the DSSV Awards:*

*Rudolf and Helga Kaden Awards*  
*Gerhard Rohr Memorial Scholarship*  
*DSSV Grand Prize Winner*

Heiner Giese, President  
Deutscher Sprach- und Schulverein

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

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

*A Reception will follow the Presentation*

# ***CONGRATULATIONS!***

## **DSSV Major Award Winners**

**The winner of the 2008 German Language and School Society sponsored Grand Prize Study Trip to Germany, \$150 and a medal is:**

Derek Buyan, Greenfield High School  
Teacher: Ms. Carley Goodkind

## **Gerhard Rohr Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000 and a medal**

Gretchen Panzer, Appleton East High School  
Teacher: Ms. Margaret Draheim

## **Rudolph and Helga Kaden Awards - \$500 and a medal**

Emily Scher, Divine Savior Holy Angels High School  
Teacher: Ms. Colleen Ayuden

Kirsten Hash, Appleton East High School  
Teacher: Ms. Margaret Draheim

Alexander Stuth, Marquette University High School  
Teacher: Dr. Sy Kreilein

## **Wisconsin A.A.T.G. Winners**

### **Study Trip Winner - \$150 and a medal**

Cameron Botticelli, Marquette University High School  
Teacher: Dr. Sy Kreilein

### **Nominee for Senior Award - \$100 and a medal**

Lili Behm, Slinger High School  
Ms. Erika Guth-Degner

### **Recipient of the Langensheidt Award - \$100 and a medal**

Megan Kress, Homestead High School, Mequon  
Teacher: Ms. Linda Havas

### **Recipient of the Duden Award for the Outstanding Teacher, \$100 and Duden German Grammar Book**

Ms. Karin M. Awve, Wauwatosa West High School





**JIM DOYLE**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF WISCONSIN

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May 7, 2006

Greetings!

On behalf of the State of Wisconsin, I want to congratulate all the students that are being recognized for their achievements by the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual German Language and School Society of Wisconsin.

By studying the German language, you are learning more than words. You are learning about Germany's culture, history, and people. I applaud you for expanding your horizons.

It takes an enormous amount of enthusiasm, discipline, and practice to master a second language. I was pleased that, by learning French and Arabic during my time in Tunisia, Africa in the Peace Corps, I gained a greater understanding of the structure of the English language and a greater appreciation of the history and customs of countries around the world. Your study of a second language will surely benefit you in many of the same ways.

I commend each of you on the time and effort you have devoted to studying the German language, an investment you will find beneficial in whatever future endeavors you pursue.

Congratulations and best wishes for continued success!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Doyle".

Jim Doyle  
Governor

## Der Aufsatz (2008 Essay Topic)

This year's level 3 and 4 students were asked to write an essay in the German language on the theme **“Ich habe Deutsch gewählt und Ihr sollt es auch tun”**, which translates into “I selected German and you should too”.

Over 300 essays from 23 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 Essayists of 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual DSSV German Essay Contest**

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	<b>STUDENT</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>TEACHER</b>
1	Gretchen Panzer	Appleton East	Margaret Draheim
2	Alexander Stuth	Marquette	Dr. Sy Kreilein
3	Kristen Hash	Appleton East	Margaret Draheim
4	Emily Scher	DSHA	Colleen Ayudan
5	Kathlynn Hinkfuss	Rufus King	Sabine Beirold
6	Molly Dobberke	Wauwatosa East	Eva Tuinstra
7	Joseph Liverseed	Wayland Academy	James Borrud
8	Leslie Halverson	Wauwatosa East	Eva Tuinstra
9	Meghan Manvilla	Mukwonago	Mary McKay
10	Jennifer Prill	Greenfield	Carley Goodkind
11	Rose Mueller	Brookfield Academy	Andrew Richardson
12	Edward Jen	Nicolet	Mark Wagner
13	Timothy Elfelt	Brookfield Academy	Andrew Richardson
14	Lili Behm	Slinger	Erika Guth-Degner
15	Ryan Oman	Muskego	Joan Blaha
16	Elizabeth Ozminkowski	DSHA	Colleen Ayudan
17	Maria Strohbusch	Wauwatosa East	Eva Tuinstra
18	Erik Mayer	Appleton East	Margaret Draheim
19	Hugh Miller	Marquette	Dr. Sy Kreilein
20	Michael Levin	Nicolet	Mark Wagner
21	Lauren Thompson	Appleton North	Karen Pfefferle
22	Michael Bolling	Rufus King	Sabine Beirold
23	Michelle Evers	Brookfield Academy	Andrew Richardson
24	Elizabeth Koehler	Rufus King	Sabine Beirold
25	Stephanie Schreiner	Brookfield Academy	Andrew Richardson
26	Kurt Behlmer	Wauwatosa East	Eva Tuinstra
27	Elizabeth Sikorski	Greenfield	Carley Goodkind
28	Jacob Skebba	Mukwonago	Mary McKay
29	Martin Schumacher	Mukwonago	Mary McKay
30	Rachel Steinhaus	Nicolet	Mark Wagner

**Topic of the 53<sup>rd</sup> German Essay Contest:  
“Ich habe Deutsch gewählt und Ihr sollt es auch tun”  
I selected German and you should too.**

Excerpts from some of the top essays:

Ihr dürft Spanisch, Französisch oder eine andere Fremdsprache lernen, aber Deutsch macht mehr Spaß und kann ein Leben verbessern. In der Europäische Union sprechen mehr Bürger Deutsch als irgend eine andere Sprache.

Gretchen Panzer, Appleton East High School

Wir sind die Zukunft der Vereinigten Staaten. Wir müssen der Welt zeigen dass wir nicht verlangen, dass jeder unsere Sprache lernen muss, oder dass jeder unsere Kultur gern haben muss. Wenn man Deutsch lernt, versteht man , dass um eine bessere Welt zu bauen, muss jeder verstehen wie Länder zusammen arbeiten können.

Emily Scher, Divine Savior Holy Angels

Deutsch ist eine wirkliche schöne Sprache, wenn man es fließig spricht. Die deutsche Schriftsteller wie Goethe und Schiller haben wirklich wunderbare Sachen geschrieben. Geschichte die jeder Person lesen soll.

Molly Dobberke, Wauwatosa East High School

Außerdem die Wichtigkeit von der Deutsche Sprache in unserer Welt und die schöne Deutsche Kultur, kann Deutsch dein Englisch und Wissen von Weltgeschichte helfen. Viele Wörter von Deutsch gibt es auch in Englisch, obwohl sie nur ein bisschen verschieden buchstabiert sind. Wenn man dieser Wörter erkennen kann, wird seine Wissen von Englisch auch besser. Die Deutsche Geschichte ist auch sehr interessant gewesen. Die Sprache öffnet eine ganze neue Tür durch den Augen von Deutschland und seine Wichtigkeit in Geschichte.

Joe Liverseed, Wayland Academy

Weil die Deutsche Menschen benutzen große Wörter, die von zwei oder drei kleine Wörter sind, es gibt nicht so viel zu lernen ! Zum Beispiel Sportplatz, Taschentücher und Schauspieler..... Es hilft man, wann er ein Wort , das er nicht kennt, sieht. Er kann das Wort analysieren und der Benutzen entsehen.

Rose Mueller, Brookfield Academy

Wir lernen nicht jeden Tag über Deutsche Grammatik sondern Deutsche Leben und sowas. Es interessiert mich, daß wir so viele Diskussionen über Deutsche Musik und Leben haben.

Edward Jen, Nicolet High School

Deutsch als eine Sprache hat viele Kultur. Liedertitel sind manchmal auf Deutsch und du sollst diese Titel richtig sehen. Ich finde es nett, wenn man Opern von Wagner usw. sieht und versteht. Das kann keine andere Sprache bieten.

Lili Behm, Slinger High School

Wenn man eine Fremdsprache wie Deutsch studiert, denken anderen Klassenkameraden, dass man klug ist. Man kann einen einfacher Satz zu einem Student der keinen Deutsch kennt sagen und er würde denken, dass man ein Genie ist.

Martin Schumacher, Mukwonago High School

## 2008 DSSV Award Winners by High School

### **Appleton East**

#### **Ms. Margaret Draheim**

Kelsey Christensen  
Kristen Hash  
Erik Mayer  
Gretchen Panzer

### **Appleton North**

#### **Ms. Karen Pfefferle**

Alex Bryson  
Kirsten Eggebrecht  
Mariah Sachs  
Lauren Thompson

### **Brookfield Academy**

#### **Mr. Andrew Richardson**

Sarah Anderson  
Meghan Bielinski  
John Davis  
Timothy Elfelt  
Andrew Hinkens  
Anne Kocher  
Mary Langkau  
Rose Mueller  
Seth Rattan  
Michaela Rogers  
Stephanie Schreiner  
Julia Steigerwald  
Erik Wermuth

### **Deutsche Sprachschule der**

#### **Kulturvereinigung**

#### **Frau Oberndorfer**

#### **Frau Cornelia Ille**

#### **Frau Karen Rinaldi**

Erika-Lee Hetzel  
Olivia Knutsen  
Samantha McNaughton  
Gabrielle Ostermann  
Alex Volk

### **Greenfield**

#### **Ms. Carley Goodkind**

Derek Buyan  
Heba Mohammad  
Jennifer Prill  
Elizabeth Sikorski

### **Homestead**

#### **Ms. Lida Havas**

Nikolas Gieske  
Chelsea Karthaus  
Jan Philli Kemmann  
Megan Kress

### **James Madison Memorial**

#### **Ms. Isolde Graebel**

Brian Raab  
Emily Franz

### **Kenosha Tremper**

#### **Ms. Jamie Orth**

Jake Hoey  
Kathryn Klausegger  
Ginta Paskauskaite  
Kirsten Rabenhorst  
David Sater  
Jacob Snell

### **Lakeside Lutheran**

#### **Mr. Gerald Walta**

Andrew Ewings  
Heather Lindert  
Aaron Paschke  
Rachel Rahn  
Julie Rath  
Katherine Rath  
Kristen Reiff

**Divine Savior Holy Angels  
Ms. Colleen Ayudan**

Elizabeth Ozminkowski  
Emily Scher  
Kristin Wolf

**Marquette University High  
Dr. Sy Kreilein**

Tommy Barrett  
John Basich  
Alex Becherer  
Cameron Botticelli  
Cody Buth  
Alex Deguire  
Julian Eberle  
Paul Foy  
Michael Hanley  
Matthew Henkey  
Michael Hoffman  
Brian Krause  
Michael Lindberg  
Hugh Miller  
Mike Monfre  
Caleb Norton  
Max Schaeffer  
Alexander Sloane  
Arthur Sloane  
Alexander Stuth

**Nicolet  
Mr. Mark Wagner**

Michel Adashek  
Emma Buechs  
Michelle Evers  
Nicole Hangsterfer  
Edward Jen  
Michael Levin  
Eric Meinhardt  
Brendan Rickerd  
Katherine Simpson  
Rachel Steinhaus

**Rufus King  
Ms. Sabine Beiroid**

Eric Anderson  
Laura Bolling  
Michael Bolling  
Edward Cullen  
Caroline Froh  
Jacob Fullmer  
Kathlynn Hinkfuss  
Elizabeth Koehler  
Meg Neuenschwander  
Andrew Roemer  
Nathaniel Scharping  
Tyler White

**Slinger  
Ms. Erika Guth-Degner**

Lili Behm  
Christina Lee  
Bobbie Jo Sharon

**Milwaukee School of Languages****Ms. Kathy Lustig**

Lon Abresch  
Joshua Barkstrom  
Cronthamel Beamish  
Charles Butler, Jr.  
Caitlin Cullen  
Anthony Englebert  
Nikolas Englebert  
Mackensie Griffin  
Brianna Hall  
Ronald Harris  
Jasmine Madlock  
Rika McClinton  
Mario Quintero  
Christopher Schweizer  
Alana Skellett  
Chelsea Smith  
Wesley Trippett  
Zachary Woodhouse

**Muskego****Ms. Joan Blaha**

Jamie Gorski  
Zac Hopp  
Amanda Killilea  
Jason Kratzke  
Ryan Oman  
Natalie Stier

**Mukwonago****Ms. Mary McKay**

Molly Dobberke  
Erich Golden  
Elizabeth Hacker  
Daniel Kachelmeyer  
Alexandra Linz  
Dana Macejkovic  
Meghan Manvilla  
Matthew Ross  
Martin Schumacher  
Jacob Skebba  
Anni Sukari

**Wauwatosa East****Ms. Eva Tuinstra**

Kurt Behlmer  
Rachel Elliott  
Leslie Halverson  
Samantha Hanney  
Casey Horn  
James Kane  
Justin Keller  
Emily Kesner  
Seth Mattheis  
Fabre Norwood  
Erik Pintar  
Charles Smith  
Maria Strohbusch  
Vedran Vasic  
Logan Wedel

**Wauwatosa West****Ms. Karen Awve**

Andrea Brett  
Cameron Gaskin  
Austin Kautzer  
Eric Minkley  
Katie Omernick  
Abigail Pratt  
Payton Schnell  
Vanes Winfrey

**Wayland Academy****Mr. James Borrud**

Alejandro De La Rosa  
Tereza Hadravova  
Joseph Liverseed  
Thompson Neumann  
Audrey Rauschert  
Ismet Yesilada

## 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 2008.

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](http://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](http://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 2006, the Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein Celebrated 50 Years of Service to the Community**

Founded in Milwaukee on June 9th, 1956, by German-Americans Werner Behrend, Bernhard Hoffman, Fritz Keller and Gerard Rohr., with the assistance of other dedicated individuals, DSSV has long promoted interest in and an understanding of German society and culture through German language education.

The Hon. Henry W. Maier, late Mayor of Milwaukee, stated in a commendation to the DSSV on the occasion of its 20th anniversary: "So much of a Nation's heritage is embodied in the language and customs of the countries of origin of its peoples that there is no way in which we can separate one from the other. To the degree that we neglect this important part of our culture, so much do we detract from the beauty of our way of life. We are the poorer for every effort we make to erase traces of our rich ancestral origins."

This spirit of improving American life by maintaining the rich heritage of German culture guided the DSSV from its first days. Unlike a social or fraternal ethnic organization, the DSSV focused its attention on the irrevocable link between language and culture. Recognizing the moribund state of German language education in America following the difficult decades of the 20's, 30's, and 40's, the DSSV committed itself from its inception to cultivate the teaching of the German language in all public and private high school in the state of Wisconsin. As stated by our late President Gerhard Rohr, as Americans of German descent we believe that our efforts not only benefit our youth and the community but are also a contribution to the greater task of rebuilding and maintaining a better understanding between the nations."

Without the hard work and dedication of DSSV leaders like Gerhard Rohr, co-founder and chairman from 1956 to 1992, the DSSV would not have enjoyed the opportunity to compliment the education of Wisconsin Students for the past half century. The merits of DSSV's annual event are best described by students who experience it. Reflecting on their time in Germany, one grand prize winner explained, "From all angles it was the best month of my young life. Not only did I learn a great deal about the German people and the country they inhabit, but also I learned a lot about myself and the *American* people." Another grand prize winner noted, "It is gratifying to see the Society's realization of this event as not only a mechanism of providing worthwhile incentive in the study of German, but also as a stimulator of revived cultural interest between the two countries and people of the world in general." The rewards of this annual contest are made possible only through the continued support from several German -American organizations and many generous philanthropists. Membership in the DSSV is open to anyone 18 years of age or older who is interested in the objectives of the organization.

## Help 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)

- Annual Membership \$10.00
- Other Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Please provide the following information so that we may contact you:**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Thank You,

The DSSV Board of Directors

Contact the DSSV:  
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Tel: (262) 797-7982

Mailing Address:  
DSSV c/o Dorothy Smaglick  
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Brookfield, WI 53005





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