

WILLKOMMEN ZURÜCK IM DEUTSCHUNTERRICHT!

Homestead High School German Newsletter: September 2009

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<http://teacherweb.com/wi/hhs/havas>

Dear Parent,

Welcome back to you and your child for another year of learning about the German language and culture! I hope that you and your family had a restful and enjoyable summer. One of my summer highlights was visiting Paris with my sisters – but since none of us speak a word of French, it was certainly a challenge! I'm happy to be back speaking German every day. ☺

Preparations are already well underway for our visitors from Germany next spring. Approximately 12 students will be visiting the area in the week preceding spring break. If you'd like to learn more about hosting one of these visitors, please contact me immediately so that we can discuss it further.

Our annual excursion to Chicago for students and parents is set for Saturday, December 5. Please mark your calendars – we'd love to have you join us!

There are two important changes to note this year:

- I am teaching both German and Spanish here at Homestead this year and thus may be found in either room 303 (German) or 304 (Spanish), depending on the time of day.
- My voice mail number has changed. I can now be reached at (262) 238-5855.

If you have not already supplied your email address for regular Homestead Deutsch updates, or if your email address has changed, please send me an email with the subject line "Parent Mailing List" at Lhavas@mtsd.k12.wi.us. Be assured that your email address will be kept confidential; all updates are sent as blind copies.

A positive educational experience is achieved only through the cooperative efforts of students, parents and teachers. Thank you for your contribution to this important process. Your questions and concerns on these (or any other) topics are always welcome! Please contact me either via e-mail or by leaving a voice mail message at (262) 238-5855. I look forward to working with you this year!

Most sincerely,

Linda Havas
German Teacher



(Kino = German for “cinema”)

During this year in our German courses, we will screen a number of authentic films. Generally, the subtitled versions of these films earn their American ratings because of language (often mistranslated, making a milder German curse word into a more severe

English one) and occasional nudity. It is important to note that the German rating system is different from that of the United States. European films are generally more conservative with regard to onscreen violence and more liberal with nudity, whereas American films generally tend to be the opposite.

Films slated for inclusion in this year’s curriculum are as follows:

Deutsch IV: The White Rose, Rosenstrasse, Emil and the Detectives

AP Deutsch: The Nasty Girl, Goodbye Lenin, Nowhere in Africa, Das Versprechen

While each of these films features some adult language and situations, these concerns are in my professional opinion secondary to the questions they raise, as well as the opportunity for students to enhance their study of German through an authentic spoken and visual context. However, if you would prefer that your child not screen any or all of the films in his/her class, I will arrange an alternate activity for him or her during that time with no adverse effects to his or her grade.

For your convenience, I have included MPAA ratings and descriptions for each of these films on the next page. Please read these descriptions carefully and then indicate your preferences on the signature sheet on the back page of this packet. Danke! ☺

The White Rose (PG-13)

Lena Stolze stars in this acclaimed feature based on the true story of five German students and their professor who formed a secret society dedicated to protesting the Nazi regime. Known collectively as the "White Rose", the Munich-based group distributed anti-Hitler literature in a resistance effort which cost them their lives. Initially, the German government refused to allow the film to be shown abroad due to an epilogue which pointedly observed that the legal judgment condemning the White Rose society had never been rescinded.

Rosenstrasse (PG-13)

In the cold Berlin winter of 1943, hundreds of women stood, and waited, in defiance of the Nazis. While countless Jews were being sent to concentration camps for execution, Jewish husbands of Aryan wives suffered a different fate; they were separated from their families and imprisoned in a factory on a street named Rosenstrasse. On that street these women stood in protest, in the name of love until they were reunited with their men. This is the striking story of Rosenstrasse: where the power of the human will stands unconquerable - for hope, dignity and love.

Emil and the Detectives (PG)

Director/screenwriter Franziska Buch has updated Erich Kästner's 1929 tale and set it in 21st century Berlin. Young Emil Tischbein gets robbed on the train as he travels to the big city for a visit with relatives. In Berlin he enlists the help of a band of young "detectives" to track down the evil Max Grundeis (Jürgen Vogel), the man who relieved him of his money.

The Nasty Girl (PG-13)

Filmmaker Michael Verhoeven made one of the best films of the '80s with this bold, 1989 German production about an adolescent girl, Sonja, who researches the history of her hometown's involvement in the Holocaust. The "nasty" of the title doesn't refer to provocative behavior on the heroine's part but rather Sonja's sudden reputation as a busybody, stirring up dirt about her neighbors' sundry crimes against

humanity and being rebuffed or punished at every turn.

Nowhere In Africa (R)

Nowhere in Africa begins with a Jewish woman named Jettel Redlich fleeing Nazi Germany with her daughter Regina, to join her husband, Walter, on a farm in Kenya. At first, Jettel refuses to adjust to her new circumstances, while Regina adapts readily to this new world, forming a strong bond with her father's cook, an African named Owuor. With incredible skill and passion, *Nowhere in Africa* manages to bring you fully into every change in this family's life; it richly deserves the Academy Award it received in 2002. A powerful, deeply moving film.

Goodbye Lenin (R)

The movie starts in East Germany before the fall of communism; our hero, Alex (Daniel Bruhl), describes how his mother (Katrin Sass), a true believer in the communist cause, has a heart attack when she sees him being clubbed by police at a protest. She falls into a coma for eight months--during which the Berlin Wall comes down. When she awakens, her fragile health must avoid any shocks, so Alex creates an illusive reality around his bedridden mother to convince her that communism is still alive. Funny, moving, and highly recommended.

Das Versprechen (The Promise) (R)

East-Berlin, 1961, shortly after the erection of the Wall. Konrad, Sophie and three of their friends plan a daring escape to Western Germany. The attempt is successful, except for Konrad, who remains behind. From then on, and for the next 28 years, Konrad and Sophie will attempt to meet again, in spite of the Iron Curtain. But in a country where the political police, the Stasi, monitors the moves of all suspicious people (such as Konrad's sister Barbara and her husband Harald), preserving one's privacy, ideals and self-respect becomes an exhausting fight, even as the Eastern block begins its long process of disintegration.

**Deutsch IV/AP
Parent Homework Assignment**

Please check off each task as you complete it and have your child return this entire page to me by the due date. Danke!

- I give my permission for my child to view films in his or her German class EXCEPT for those titles I have checked below.**

Deutsch IV

- The White Rose
- Rosenstrasse
- Emil and the Detectives

AP Deutsch

- The Nasty Girl
- Goodbye Lenin
- Nowhere in Africa
- Das Versprechen

Please check the ONE statement that best applies to you:

- I am already on the Homestead Deutsch email list and my address has not changed since last year.
- I have sent (or will very soon send) an email to you at **Lhavas@mtsd.k12.wi.us** with the subject line “Parent Mailing List” so that I am included in the regular mailing list of upcoming events and projects.
- I don’t have an email address, but would appreciate it if you’d keep me posted on these events and projects. Please send home copies of the newsletter with my child.

(Optional) Please indicate any questions / comments / concerns on the back of this sheet. Danke! ☺

Student Name _____ Hour _____

Parent Signature _____