

THE SESB NEWSLETTER

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FROM MILAN TO BERLIN

This year's Italian exchange student talks about the Berlin school system. Fredi from Milan asked us last year if he could study for one year at SESB Hans-Litten-Schule. He is now in his sixth month at our school and here he reflects upon the differences between his school back home and school here in the capital.

"I have now spent six months studying in Berlin, Germany. During this period, I have noticed various differences between the Italian and German school systems. The main difference is the grading system. To be honest, after five months, I haven't fully understood it yet. In Italy, we have a scale from 1 to 10, with 6 being the passing grade; another difference regarding grades is that in Italy, like in Germany, a year is divided in two semesters. However, the first semester is completely irrelevant to the final grade of the whole year. Speaking of grades, there is a significant difference between the quantity and sort of grades. In Italy, students don't receive stand-alone grades for their in-class participation and homework, these are factored into the final grade in which teachers have a 30% margin. Final grades come from the average of tests and oral exams that take place, much more often than in Germany.

One thing about the German school system I found myself enjoying is the sense of empowerment students have: Students are much more independent and spurred to work on the taught notions instead of taking the received information as the only truth in the so-called frontal teaching style. But not everything is just better or worse. For instance, the use of books. In Germany, they are seldom used, replaced by papers that students keep in their folders. On one hand, this is better because it saves students a lot of money - every Italian student spends circa €350 a year on school books, which they then have to carry around with them. On the other hand, I found it difficult to organise my folders. It has only been five months and I'll need more time to completely reconcile the differences between these two systems, but I'm hopeful that in the future I will embrace them."

Written by Fredi D

How to be successful in E-Phase

1. Revise.

This is your chance at catching up on everything you might have missed in previous years.

Many topics may be retaught.

2. Homework

Always do your homework. Homework has two purposes. Firstly, to help you revise the things that were covered in class and secondly, to add extra information. Doing homework means you are basically starting to study for the upcoming Klausur.

3. Your teachers

Get to know your teachers. In your 5. Pk you need to choose a teacher to supervise your presentation. This will of course be way easier if you know who you like and who you would want to be supervised by.

4. Grading

Know how you are graded. Sometimes grades that teachers will tell you are different from what you would expect. Ask them to explain the grading to you.

5 Communicate

If you have a problem, do not hesitate to email your teacher. Most things (like 99.99% of them) are easily solvable. Make a note of your teachers' email addresses at the beginning of the year.

6. Organisation

Collect notes and make your folders as Abitur-ready as you possibly can. Studying and revising is much easier when everything is in its place.

7. Allgemeiner Teil - small tests

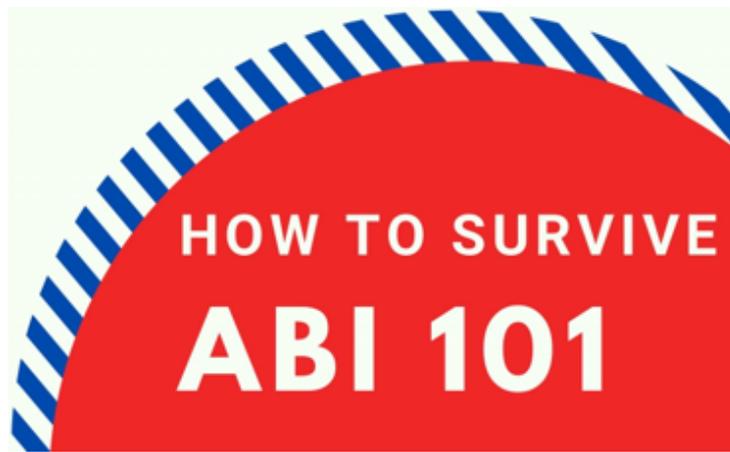
Take smaller tests seriously. They may only be a max. of 10 minutes long but teachers tend to write more than one. Especially when you are in between grades, the tests can really determine if the higher or lower grade is chosen.

8. Allgemeiner Teil - oral participation

If you are terrible at written exams, try to participate as much as you can. It does not cancel out the bad written grade, but certainly pushes your grade up.

9. Attendance

You can't be successful if you miss too many lessons. Unexcused absences will reduce your semester grade.



Hello fellow SESB Abi. students!

Switching from 11th grade to 12th grade was quite a journey and I definitely wouldn't say it was a easy one. I'm sure all of you already know the slight pressure you feel while being in 11th grade, there is always this one thought in the back of your mind. "Starting next year everything I'm going to do will go into my Abi".

Well...I would like to say this thought has vanished since then. But it hasn't. On the contrary, it has gotten louder and the pressure has gotten a lot bigger. Every grade you collect is another grade going into your Abi and everything you do brings you closer to graduating, that is if- Let's stop here.

These were all thoughts I had in the first semester and the pressure I was putting on myself really didn't help me whatsoever, in fact it made it way harder for me to stay motivated. In fact it made it hard even to study and concentrate on the things I was doing.

So please instead of pressuring yourself and making your own life harder than it needs to be, try going into 12th grade with a positive mind set. Think of all the things that you are doing well and if things don't work out, think of ways that make it easier for you. Maybe even create a structured plan in order to stay on track. As being completely honest, you cannot only rely on motivation.

I hope your journey going into 12th grade and starting Abi will be an easy one :)

Written by Shani M

NEW EXTRA-CURRICULAR AT HLS - ACADEMIC WRITING

WEDNESDAYS FROM 15:35 - 17:05 IN 2131

Grade 11 and grade 12 SESB Biology students have been taking advantage of an opportunity to improve their academic writing skills. Many students feel that they lose a lot of marks in tests, as they are unable to write clear and concise answers to the questions. Academic writing lessons focus on understanding exam command words (Operatoren), using subject terminology correctly and understanding Abitur material texts and data tables. Lessons also address writing skills such as good sentence construction, forming paragraphs and correct English spelling and grammar. Students discover that the art of writing academically can be learnt and will help them to achieve better grades.

SESB TEACHER TRAINING

In November 2021, all new teachers from SESB schools participated in an online seminar. The purpose of the training session was to share good practice, share experiences and discuss challenges to teaching in SESB schools. Dr. Stahr opened the session with an overview of the SESB system followed by a question and answer session. The latter half of the training saw teachers divided into breakout rooms to participate in one of four workshops detailed below.

1. Basics of language-sensitive teaching – Dr. Jürgen Laun
2. Differentiation possibilities in the teaching of the partner language German - Dorothea Hinz
3. Dealing with difficult student behaviour positively - Matthias Schneider
4. General discussion and questions concerning the SESB structure – Dr. Stahr

TAG DER OFFENEN TÜR

This will be held online on Friday 25th February 2022.

The online event will begin with an introduction and welcome by the school leadership. Afterwards, visitors will be able to distribute themselves into individual chat rooms where department heads will deliver information sessions about the educational offerings of our institution.

1st round: 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

2nd round: 17:00 to 18:00 hrs.

Further information and links for the event will be announced on the school [website](#).