



Accredited by CIS & NEASC

The Franconian International School

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From the Director, Mr. Fred Runkel

It gives me great pleasure to welcome both new and returning families to this, our 12th school year. We opened the school year with the largest number of students ever, 472, from 40 nations. Our enrollment shows a 10% increase from last school year. We open this year with 90 students in the Kindergarten, 160 students in the Elementary School, 130 students in the Middle School, and 92 students in the High School. There are now 63 teachers involved in the teaching of the students during each week. Enrollment has again increased substantially to the point where we now have two sections in every grade except Grades Eight, Ten and Twelve.

We opened the school year with an assembly on Monday morning welcoming our new students and new teachers. Following a half day on Tuesday, the students ventured into full school days for the remainder of the week, complete with lunch and afternoon classes. It has been an excellent first week and start to the school year.

Our four school sections will continue to operate in a connected, yet independent fashion. The Kindergarten and Elementary School are under the direction of Mr. Lawler with a total of fourteen classes. The Middle School is led by Mrs. Marsha Huitt and has seven classes while the High School, under the direction of Dr. Browne, has six classes.

Our highly successful Kindergarten programme has six groups again this year. The K3 homeroom classes are being taught by Miss Rathgeb and Miss Morris. The K4 homeroom classes are taught by Mrs Jäger, and Mr. Lindblad, and the K5 homeroom classes are again being taught by Miss Wild and Mrs. Sperber.

In the Elementary School we again have an experienced FIS homeroom team with a one new face. In Grade One we find Ms Allen and Mr. Thomas while Ms Andrews and Ms Wells return as our Grade Two teachers. In Grade Three Miss King is our new 3K teacher, having come to us from Canada via Honduras where she taught last year. She along with Miss Solheim make up our Grade Three tandem. Grade Four returns Mrs. Larsen in 4KL with Mrs. Lindblad in 4BL.

There are many teachers who support our K/ES homeroom teachers during the course of the school day. In German, Mrs. Hempel, Ms Bruening and Mrs. Pontones are joined by Ms Stickforth who returns to us after three years of maternity leave. Mrs. Harrison teaches German, as well as PE in the Kindergarten. Ms LaRose who is new to the FIS from Brooklyn, NY in the USA teaches Music in the Kindergarten. IT is taught by Mr. Manning and Mr.

Lawler, Music is taught by Mrs. Bruening and Ms Panagakis, and PE is taught by Mr. Newton. Rounding out the specialist teachers in the ES are Mrs. Collins who teaches art in the Kindergarten and Grade 1T. More introductions for the Middle School will follow in next week's newsletter.

We are at the end of a successful first week. A warm welcome to our 100 new students and 15 new teachers with the wish that you may all be a part of our FIS family for a long time.

In order to introduce the teachers and the school's programme to you, we have planned four Parent Info Evenings. The first two are coming up on Monday 7th September for all Middle School parents, and Thursday, 10th September for parents of students in Grades Nine and Ten. Both evenings will begin at 7:00 (19:00) in the Aula. We look forward to seeing you there.

Middle School Parent Information Night – 7th September 2009

The Middle School Parent Information Night: is scheduled for Monday, 7th September to give parents of students in Grades 5 to 8 the opportunity of meeting their child's teachers as well as giving all of the teachers the opportunity of presenting their programs and expectations for the school year. The Middle School Parent Info Night will be held at the FIS beginning at 7:00 pm (19:00) in the auditorium and should be finished before 9:30 (21:30). If possible, we ask that children be left at home. The PTO will provide refreshments. The evening is scheduled as follows:

- 7:00 Opening remarks and introductions by Marsha Huitt
- 7:10 Student Support and Counseling—Deb Obermann & Judy Bradley
- 7:15 Information Technology (IT) – Rene Löhnert & Doug Manning
- 7:20 Art – Slawa Wrzesniewska & Cristel Collins
- 7:25 Music- Andrea La Rose
- 7:30 Drama—Connie Panagakis
- 7:35 PE – Adrian Haug
- 7:40 Break – refreshments in the foyer provided by the PTO
- 7:50 Parents attend presentations by various subject teachers in their child's homeroom class. Room numbers will be announced on the evening.

The following schedule will take effect after the coffee break:

Time	Grade 5 Parents	Grade 6 Parents	Grade 7 Parents	Grade 8 Parents
7:50	Homeroom Jeanne Bouvier Fiona Whiting	Homeroom Franco Manna Doug Manning	Homeroom William Field Christy Luukkonen	Homeroom Terry Rotherham
7:55	Grade 5 English/ESL Fiona Whiting Jennifer Michalsky Sabine Lang	Grade 6 Spanish Laura Pontones Franco Manna	Grade 7 Mathematics /Science William Field Ian Armstrong	Grade 8 Science Terry Rotherham (261)
8:10	Grade 5 Social Studies Alice Astorino	Grade 6 English/ESL Fiona Whiting Jennifer Michalsky	Grade 7 English/Social Studies ESL	Grade 8 German Bettina Müller Beatrix Lux

			Christy Luukkonen Franco Manna	Alexandra McGettigan
8:25	Grade 5 Math & Science Jeanne Bouvier	Grade 6 Social Studies Alice Astorino	Grade 7 German Bettina Müller Alexandra McGettigan Corina Stickforth	Grade 8 English/Social Studies ESL Christy Luukkonen Steven Fogarty
8:40	Grade 5 German Laura Pontones Constanze Brüning Bettina Müller	Grade 6 Science Jeanne Bouvier	Grade 7 Spanish Laura Pontones Tabita Sandoval Franco Manna	Grade 8 Math Andreas Sayer
8:55	Grade 5 Programme Finished	Grade 6 Mathematics William Field	Grade 7 Programme Finished	Grade 8 Spanish Laura Pontones Corina Stickforth Franco Manna Tabita Sandoval
9:10		Grade 6 German Bettina Müller Beatrix Lux Corina Stickforth		Spanish 8 Field Trip Info Laura Pontones Tabita Sandoval Terry Rotherham
9:25		Programme Finished		Programme Finished
9:45	Building Closed			

Grade 9 & 10 Parent Information Night - 10th September 2009

The Grade 9 and 10 Parent Information Night is scheduled for Thursday 10th September to give the parents of students in Grades 9 and 10 the opportunity to meet their child's teachers as well as give all of these teachers the opportunity to present the programme and expectations for the school year. The programme will begin at 7:00 pm (19:00) and should be finished at 10:00 (22:00). The PTO will also provide refreshments. The evening is scheduled as follows:

- 7:00 Opening remarks and introductions by Liam Browne
- 7:10 Counseling - Judy Bradley
- 7:15 Information Technology (IT)- Rene Löhnert
- 7:20 PE – Eric Newton
- 7:25 CAS & Student Support –Deb Obermanns
- 7:30 International General Certificate in Secondary Education(IGCSE) -
Martina Thomas

Break – refreshments in the foyer provided by the PTO

- 8:00 The programme will continue with parents visiting the classrooms.

The following schedule will take effect after the coffee break:

Time	All Grade 9 parents in Room 133		Grade 10 Room 132 Mrs. Thomas
8:00	The G9 Year – Liam Browne		Martina Thomas (Grade 10 homeroom teacher)
8:05	Foreign Languages Spanish - Tabita Sandoval Steve Fogarty Teresa Carballes German - Bettina Müller Beatrix Lux Alexandra McGettigan		Coordinated Science Ian Armstrong Tara Bay Michael Reid Terry Rotherham
8:25	Coordinated Science Ian Armstrong Tara Bay Michael Reid Terry Rotherham		Music Connie Panagakis
8:35	History Kim Sonderborg		Foreign Languages Spanish - Tabita Sandoval Steve Fogarty Teresa Carballes German: Bettina Müller Martina Thomas
8:50	Move to respective homerooms		
8:55	Grade 9 C Room 134	Grade S Room 133	
9:00	Andrew Collins (Grade 9C homeroom teacher)	Kim Sonderborg (Grade 9S homeroom teacher)	Mathematics Andreas Sayer
9:05	English Andrew Collins	English Phillip Bird	
9:20	Mathematics Andreas Sayer	Mathematics Bryan Landmann	History Kim Sonderborg
9:35	Move to respective homerooms		
9:40	Music Connie Panagakis	Art Slawa Wrzniewska	English Andrew Collins
10:00	Evening Concluded		

Sport @ FIS

This year, the FIS PE department is going to once again be offering students the opportunity to participate in school sports teams which will run in accordance with the FIS After School Activity Program. These teams might even have the opportunity of competing in the German JTFO (*Jugend Trainiert für Olympia*). This is a school sports team tournament programme which starts at the most local level but goes all the way to a German national finale in June. However, there is a knock-out system where teams will exit the competition if they do not win their initial local tournaments. This means that a team may be out of competition after only one match or tournament. Tournaments for this competition occur almost always in the afternoon and during our FIS school time. Dates and times have not yet been organized, but will be communicated to team members when known. Like last year, we will also try to organize competitions against other German gymnasium schools and International schools. The PE department continues to work at having the FIS accepted into the German International School Sports Teams organization (GISST), where international schools around Germany participate in planned tournaments. Although this organization is not currently accepting new

schools into membership, we might be able to schedule some 'friendly' competitions with other international schools this year. The PE department is excited to once again offer the opportunity for the students to get a team experience, to grow as athletes, and to develop a greater sense of school pride.

The FIS PE department would like to thank you in advance for your support!

If your son or daughter is interested in the following teams, see Mr. H in the PE office for sign-up forms. It is important to note that these are teams running in the Fall/Autumn with ASAP training times, which means they may conclude at winter break. If a team of interest is not offered below, it may be one of the teams offered in the Spring (see Mr. H for details).

2009-10 FIS Sports Teams (Fall/Autumn)

Age restrictions apply for teams as per the regulations of the JTFO.

Junior Girls Basketball (*1995-1998) – Wednesdays, starting September 30th – Jeanne Bouvier

Junior Boys Basketball (*95-98) – Mondays, starting September 28th – Eric Newton

Junior Girls Volleyball (*95-98) – Mr. H & Jennifer Michalsky (start date to be advised)

Junior Boys Soccer (*96-98) – Thursdays, starting October 1st – Mr. H & Bill Field

Senior Girls Volleyball (*93-96) – Mr. H & Jennifer Michalsky (start date to be advised)

Senior Boys Basketball (*93-96) – Mondays, starting September 28th – Terry Rotherham

Senior Boys Soccer (*94-96) – Thursdays, starting October 1st – Ian Armstrong

Note: Volleyball will not run every Tuesday. A schedule of training dates and times will be given to team members.

Adrian Haug A/g HOD PE

Bus @ FIS

We trust that all of our bus riders are settling into the new bus routines. From the school's perspective, things have gradually become smoother over the course of the week. Thank you for your patience and support as the new system beds down. May we take this opportunity to remind you of a few important points:

- Please **advise** bus@the-fis.de or phone 09131 940 390 every day that your child/ren will **not** be on the bus. This should be done before 13:00 Monday to Thursday and before 11:00 on Fridays.
- Please **contact** the Taxi Zwingel hotline on **0179/ 68 46 822** or the bus driver directly if family members will not be using the bus to school in the morning.
- Please remind your child/ren that it is **not possible to travel** home with a friend on **another bus line**.
- Please take the time to **confirm with your child/ren** each morning whether or not they will be using the bus that day.

New bus lines to reflect a more streamlined operation will be effective as of Tuesday 1st September. We will be sending this information to the families of affected bus riders.

Lunch@ FIS

As mentioned at the end of the last school year, in addition to our hot lunch programme, we are offering salads and bagels. Please purchase your vouchers (€4 and €2.50 respectively) at the Reception desk. If you are not in the hot lunch programme, but would like to start, or if you no longer wish to participate, please let us know by 15th of the month, by completing a form at Reception or sending an email to lunch@the-fis.de. Thank you and Guten Appetit.

FIS Student Planners have arrived!

Our FIS Student Planners have arrived at school and can be purchased from the Reception for €12. We have personalized these Planners for the FIS, and as you will have seen from the Materials Lists, FIS Student Planners are a required purchase for MS and HS students. We would welcome your comments about the usefulness of our pilot edition – feedback from you will tell us how we can make it better next time. Congratulations once more to our two cover designers Martina Manna (MS) and Evie and Luisa Smith (HS).

Signing in

For the safety and security of the whole FIS community, we would like to remind families of the need for **all adults in the building to sign in at the Reception Desk and wear a visitor's badge**. The only exception to this is if they are briefly entering the school at drop off or pick-up time to drop off or pick up a child. Thank you for helping to keep our children safe.

Pick ups

Elementary School parents who are **picking their children up at the end of the school day** are asked to do so **at 15:40** from the duty staff member **in the Cafeteria**. They need to be signed off so that we can be sure we know where your children are. Please also remind your children that they need to wait for you in the cafeteria. If parents or carers cannot avoid being early, please **wait for your child/ren in the Cafeteria**. Younger children of waiting parents are most welcome to play outside in the playground, with appropriate parental supervision. Children are not allowed to run or play in the Aula while waiting – their noise disturbs other students still working, and they could hurt themselves or damage expensive equipment there.

We are sure your thoughtfulness is appreciated by the whole community, especially those students still studying elsewhere in the school.

Higher Education Advice

On Thursday, 27th August, Frau Vogt-Sittl of the Agentur für Arbeit Erlangen, made a presentation to students in Grades 11 and 12 regarding opportunities for Higher Education in Germany. During the month of August, students will receive books detailing the courses offered by Universities in Germany.

Appointments can be made with Frau Vogt-Sittl at 09131 711 255

Music @ FIS

Do you love to sing? If your answer is “yes”, please come and join the **FIS Adult Vocal Ensemble**. Contact Ms Panagakis (Connie.Panagakis@the-fis-de) if you would like to be a member of this group. Details of the day and time of rehearsals will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

Private MUSIC tuition at the FIS

The FIS Music department will offer private instrumental tuition again this year on a fee for service basis. Tuition is available after school in the FIS Music Rooms on a range of

instruments including Piano, Woodwind, Brass and Percussion. If you are interested, please contact Ms Panagakis (Connie.Panagakis@the-fis.de) and she will provide you with name and contact details of the relevant teachers.

Erlanger Nachtlauf – Calling all Runners!

Sporty members of the FIS Community will be interested to know that the seventh Erlangen Nachtlauf (night run) will be held on 11th September beginning at 8:30 (Right by our school!) in Roethelheimpark). The course is 4,3 km long – please check out the run online at www.nachtlauf-erlangen.de.

Keen to learn German? For German tutoring please call Petra Kampmann on 09135/211268 or 015153724855.

For Sale

There are still some moving sale bargains to be had from families who will be leaving us – please check the attachments for details.

PTO

Come and meet new parents at the PTO Welcome Coffee Morning for the parents of new students on **Wednesday 2nd September from 8:30am** in the **Cafeteria**. For any queries please email fis.socialactivities@gmx.de. Also attached for your information, information on next year's PTO Ski Trip. Please feel free to contact the PTO anytime at pto@the-fis.de.

Message for all **returning parents**: It is once again time for the new PTO PARENTS CONTACT LIST. If you would like your name to be included in the list, kindly fill out the attached Contact List form and return it by email to roohee@t-online.de or hand in a printout to the school office no later than Friday, 11th September, 2009. Thank you. The PTO BOARD

FIS School Newsletter The FIS newsletter is published on a weekly basis and is emailed home each Friday. The newsletter contains items of information relating to school operations, PTO News, for-sale items placed by members of our community, and much more. Contributions to the newsletter can be emailed to the school at info@the-fis.de. The editor reserves the right to... edit... This newsletter, and other important school information, can also be found on the school's web page. Newsletters are usually placed on the web site (www.the-fis.de) a day or two after publication and will remain there until the end of the school year.

Next Week @ THE FIS

Monday	31 st Aug	
Tuesday	1 st Sep	
Wednesday	2 nd Sep	➤ 8:30 PTO New Parents' Coffee Morning, Cafeteria
Thursday	3 rd Sep	➤ 09:00 - 10:45 Toddler Group, ES Music Room (1.59)
Friday	4 th Sep	