

Advantages of Learning a Foreign Language at an early Age:

Enhances brain development.

Develops basic skills such as communication, listening, and memory.

Increases achievement in basic skills and improvement in standardized test scores.

Promotes awareness, appreciation, and acceptance of other peoples and cultures, as well as of one's own.

Prepares to participate more fully in the global community and marketplace.



Advantages of Learning German:

1 in 4 Americans is of German descent.

German is the most frequently recommended language by U.S. Universities.

German and English are the primary business languages of European economies.

Every high school in Anchorage has a solid German program and the University of Alaska offers a major in German.

What else is unique about the Rilke Schule German School?

The school is a K-8 program, thus creating the only immersion program in Anchorage spanning elementary and middle school.

Faculty attend cultural and language seminars in Germany on a rotating basis, so that teachers spend time in German-speaking countries.

The Rilke Schule supports an active healthy lifestyle and regular exercise.

The school will implement a recycling program and is committed to "reduce, recycle, reuse."

Cultivating Lifelong Learning Nurturing Natural Curiosity



Who is Rainer Maria Rilke?

Rilke, Rainer Maria (rī nər mārē ä ril'kə), 1875-1926, is considered one of the German language's greatest 20th century poets and writers. His poetic style was rich and supple, varying from the simple to the elaborate and profound. Rilke's poetry is generally characterized by striking visual imagery and musicality. The school's mascot is a panther in reference to Rilke's poem *Der Panther* [The Panther].

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Rilke Schule German School of Arts & Sciences



Freude am Lernen Joy of Learning

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What is a Charter School?

Charter schools are non-sectarian, public schools that operate within the district under contract with the school board. Charter schools offer alternative teaching methods or curricula and more independence than regular public schools.

What is an Immersion Program?

Immersion differs from traditional instructional approaches in which foreign languages are taught as separate subjects. In this program children are "immersed" in the language for half of the school day. English-speaking children learn to understand, speak, read and write German by hearing and using it constantly during normal classroom activities. Care is taken to ease students into the new language and to ensure comprehension. Progress and performance are carefully measured.

Accreditation

The Rilke Schule German School of Arts and Sciences is closely aligned with the Anchorage School District's prescribed curriculum and meets the Alaska State Standards in all subjects except German. The standards for German are based on the National Foreign Language Standards, which include the ASD world language standards. The German government has recognized Rilke Schule as a 'German Immersion School Abroad' and is a sponsor through the 'Schools: Partners for the Future (PASCH)' Initiative and the Goethe Institute.

German Immersion

Students will learn to speak German fluently and will have a deep understanding of heritage, cultural norms and customs of German-speaking countries. The German immersion faculty has native or near-native German language skills and the rest of the faculty and staff has the opportunity of acquiring German skills to support the immersion in all phases of school life.



Semi-immersion encompasses a half-day of instruction in German in the subjects of reading, writing and language arts, math, and a combination of science, health and social studies (Sachkunde). The other half of the day will be subjects taught in English, especially reading, writing and language arts.



During the start-up phase, the school reserves the right to modify the amount of German immersion in

grades 4-8 to accommodate the educational needs of students. Other subjects such as music, arts, library and physical education will be taught on a regular basis. Students will have

pen/ e-mail pals at one or more partner schools in German-speaking countries. Student exchange trips will be offered on a regular basis.



Admission to Rilke Schule is by lottery. The first lottery for the upcoming school year is held the

Admission

middle of March. Siblings of attending students must participate in the lottery process to be admitted but are given preference in the lottery. Lottery Application Forms can be found at www.asdk12.org/forms/uploads/ELE249_Lottery.pdf. A link to the lottery forms I also provided on the school's website at www.rilkeschule.org. An annual \$100 supplemental resource fee is charged for specialized German classroom materials.

After-School Program

Rilke Schule is dedicated to offering a high quality before/after-school program to best serve your child's interest and your family's needs. Possible classes and activities include:

- * Homework Club
- * Running or Sports Club
- * Band, Drama, and Arts Club
- * German Bootcamp for struggling students
- * Robotics or Legos Club

A moderate participation fee will apply.

Family Involvement

At the heart of every vibrant school is a community of involved parents and extended families. To foster a close-knit community, we require families to volunteer 4 hours of their time and expertise per month. Volunteer opportunities are very varied and can take place in the classroom, at school or at home.