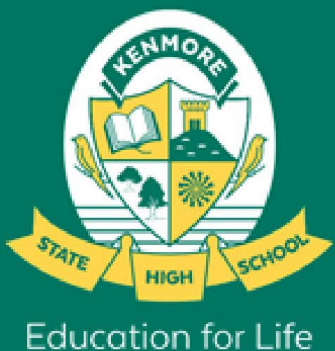


# German Immersion and Extension Program



## Kenmore State High School

# WHAT IS THE GERMAN IMMERSION AND EXTENSION PROGRAM?

The German Immersion and Extension Program (GIEP) is a program of academic excellence offering students in the broader school community a unique opportunity to become highly proficient in German. It is designed for students who have little or no previous speaking background in German. The program involves teaching a number of subjects (Maths, Science, History, Geography and HPE) using German as an educational language that bridges the love of learning with the beautiful German language. Students are able to choose and combine the German Immersion program with the Music Extension program.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Challenge and motivate students to develop effective learning habits.

- Enable students to develop proficiency in German by the end of Year 10 and to extend this competency by the end of Year 12.
- Prepare students for a place in global society. Create a place of academic excellence in languages at Kenmore State High School to serve the wider community.

## BACKGROUND

The idea of teaching languages by immersion began in Canada in 1965 where English speaking children were taught in French. The concept gathered phenomenal momentum with over 200, 000 Canadian students being enrolled by the end of the 1980's.

The German Immersion Program at Kenmore State High School commenced in 1992 with one class and two teachers. It has now grown to two classes per year level, and 11 teachers. Our school was the first in Australia to become a partner school of the International PASCH network in 2009. This is something that we are very proud of.

Our classes offer a supportive working environment whilst building relationships with like-minded students.

## BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

Immersion programs in many different locations have been studied in great detail. Research consistently reports these three findings:

- Immersion students acquire a great deal of the second language
- It enhances flexibility of the individuals thinking, problem solving and critical thinking skills through learning the curriculum in the German language.
- They achieve a higher level of skills and outperform students who are educated solely in English in a variety of subject matters.





## HOW DOES IT WORK?

**German Immersion: Year 7 to 10** – The application process begins in Year 5. In Year 7, students study German and are taught core subjects in the German language which include Maths, Science, History, Geography and HPE. The remaining subjects are studied in English. Students joining the program in Year 7 are expected to make a four- year commitment.

**German Extension in Year 11 & 12** – After Year 10, Immersion students join regular Year 11 classes with subjects of their choice. In Year 11, they complete the Senior German course started in Year 10. Students then study the two-semester German Extension subject in Year 12. Note: Year 12 results have shown graduates of the program consistently achieve well above the school and state averages.

## EXCHANGE PROGRAM

In Year 10, German Immersion students have the opportunity to apply to participate in our exchange program with the Engelsburg Gymnasium in Kassel, Germany. Selected students spend several weeks in Germany where they experience life at a German school. The exchange provides students with the opportunity to share and interact whilst enabling important future connections. Kenmore families host Engelsburg students the following year.

## STAFF

The Department of Education has made a commitment to support Kenmore State High School in order to implement this program and make it work successfully. All teachers are native speakers of German, or Australian teachers with a significant background in German. They all successfully teach immersion subjects in Years 7 to 12.

## PARENT GROUP

The German Immersion Support Group (GIESG) takes a keen interest in the German Immersion program at Kenmore State High School. This important parent group supports and organises social activities for families and students of the program.

## A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

“I believe that being a part of the GIEP program has made my high-school experience so much more fulfilling. Immersion posed a substantial challenge which I believe prepared me better for the level of work in my senior years. Apart from this, the friendships I have made through the program have been amazing. Completing the exchange in Kassel brought us all very close together and was by far the most exciting and memorable experience of my life. I will always be grateful that I was able to participate in this great program and believe that I have become a more capable and tolerant person because of it.” - Year 12 student.

### For further information please contact:

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