

Fairview German Language School was one of the first elementary schools in the United States to be designated as a "Center of Excellence" by the AATG (American Association of Teachers of German). This designation was based upon academic achievement and contributions to the field of foreign language education as evidenced in the long-standing success of our program at Fairview. Each year, the German department submits a report to the AATG for inclusion in the winter newsletter, a publication that is circulated to members both in the United States and abroad. The current report, which highlights the accomplishments of the past year and introduces the upcoming relocation of our program to the new Clifton site, is reprinted here for your information. The piece was written and submitted to the AATG this fall by Herr Donald Hamilton, the 2nd Grade German instructor at Fairview School.

Fairview German Language School

Fairview German Language School, as well as its popular and successful German language program, continues to flourish and grow. As a result of its superior test scores and exceptional educational achievements, Fairview (one of only three schools in this extensive urban district) has been designated a 'School of Excellence' by the Ohio State Department of Education. Thus, decades of dedicated effort and community and parental support are now being rewarded with academic recognition and heightened interest in the school and its German language focus. Enrollment has increased and the waiting list continues to grow.

An appreciation of the critical significance of cultural engagement and language ability for educational and professional success in the twenty-first century remains an integral component of the Fairview philosophy. At the same time, we profit greatly from the richness of our cultural diversity. Our pupils come to us from all parts of the city (indeed, of the world), from a diversity of ethnic and economic backgrounds, and from a great variety of cultural heritages. For many of our children German is a third or fourth language. At our German-American Day celebration in October our immigrant children (representing over 16 nations) will be recognized for their contributions to our culture. And ... they are all learning German!

All of the cultural arts are emphasized at Fairview. Numerous pupils have garnered a variety of extra-mural educational awards in the fine arts. In addition, we are most fortunate to have a dedicated, highly qualified and successful music staff. The performances of Fairview's excellent elementary string orchestra bear comparison with those of high-school, and even professional, ensembles. The school band also performs at numerous German-American festivities, both at Fairview and throughout the city. The talented German Choir is much in demand at local cultural events and ethnic festivals (in Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky). Fairview is pleased to be a significant participant in Cincinnati's German musical heritage.

Many years of committee meetings, intensive discussions and detailed planning are beginning to bear fruit. Finally, the new Fairview German Language School (in Clifton) is actually 'under construction'. The most recent estimated date

of completion is early 2008. No doubt, we shall dearly miss our beautiful old Romanesque 'fortress' (built in 1888 in Fairview Heights), but trust that our new Clifton facility will offer modern amenities, room for expansion and a pleasant venue for the continued success of our award-winning school and its German language program. The designated German classrooms assure the necessary space for critical language instruction. The site of the new structure offers a positive educational setting, surrounded by parks (as well as gas streetlights), architectural monuments and plenty of 'urban green space'.

The planning process has been as complex, as it has been inclusive. The primary theme throughout has been one of 'community engagement'. The input of all interested citizens and organizations in the district was solicited. Then various interest groups were identified and given a mandate to form appropriate committees to achieve the community's requirements. Thus, the new Fairview German Language School (in Clifton) represents a 'grass-roots' effort to integrate the neighborhoods of our city (including Fairview Heights and Clifton, as well as all local communities) into an urban network of educational, social and economic success. To these ends, we cultivate positive and mutually-beneficial relationships with the University of Cincinnati, the local German-American community, and numerous other civic partners. We appreciate the efforts and the support of the American Association of Teachers of German, and trust that our continuing efforts contribute to the achievement of our goal, as stated in the Schiller quotation inscribed above our school entrance, that '*Alle Menschen werden Brüder*'.