



Important information of the Pinneberg grammar schools for admission to the fifth year in summer 2025

Dear parents of fourth year pupils,

These days you are faced with the question of which secondary school your child should attend from the next school year.

Various factors play a role in the decision-making process. As a parent, it is important to you that your child feels comfortable at the new school and that they learn and are supported according to their talents and abilities.

There are two types of school to choose from in Pinneberg, each with a different educational mission and pedagogical concept:

A die Gemeinschaftsschulen

- die Grund- und Gemeinschaftsschule im Quellental (GuGs)
- die Johann-Comenius-Schule mit Oberstufe (JCS)
- das Schulzentrum Nord (SZN)

B die Gymnasien

- die Johannes-Brahms-Schule (JBS)
- die Theodor-Heuss-Schule (THS)

While the grammar schools (Gymnasien) prepare pupils in nine years for the highest school-leaving qualification, the Abitur, and thus for an academic education or university studies, pupils at the comprehensive schools (Gemeinschaftsschulen) achieve their educational qualifications in stages. The first school leaving certificate (ESA) is achieved in year 9 at the comprehensive school, the intermediate school leaving certificate (MSA) in year 10 and the general higher education entrance qualification (the Abitur) after a successful transition to the upper school after year 13. Going through these stages strengthens many pupils on their path to higher qualifications. Many continue their schooling after the intermediate school leaving certificate. The vocational grammar school is also an attractive option for many pupils who have obtained the intermediate school leaving certificate to obtain the Abitur.

In principle and regardless of the type of school initially chosen, the path to the highest educational qualification, the Abitur, is open to every pupil with the appropriate performance. The transfer from one type of school to another is ensured at the secondary schools in Pinneberg through close co-operation between the schools, subject to appropriate performance.

With the school transfer recommendation and a counselling session at the primary school, you as parents will be supported over the next few weeks in making the right choice of school for your child's learning and performance requirements. The secondary schools will introduce themselves promptly and invite you and your children to their respective information events.

You can also receive support in choosing a school in the brochure 'Welche Schule für mein Kind' on the website of the Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of Education, which you can find using the following QR code:



Limitation of admission capacities at the Pinneberg Gymnasien in the coming school year 2025/2026

Following the enrolment of seven classes at Johannes-Brahms-Schule and five classes at Theodor-Heuss-Schule last summer, both schools will reach their capacity limits in the coming school year. With this information letter, we would like to inform you in good time and as comprehensively as possible about the effects of the capacity limitation at the Gymnasien.

The admission process cannot be anticipated, but the following information should help you to assess how the capacity limitation comes about and what it means.

The forecast for the number of pupils to be admitted to secondary schools in the town of Pinneberg in the coming school year indicates that the grammar schools are likely to be overcrowded. For this reason, the school supervisory authority at the Ministry of Education, in consultation with the town, has set a capacity limit for both grammar schools for the coming school year of five parallel classes with 29 pupils each, so that 144 pupils can be admitted to each of the two schools in the coming school year. If the capacity limit is reached, this means that the five classes will be very large with at least 29 children.

As Pinneberg has two Gymnasien, Pinneberg pupils and pupils from the surrounding communities are considered equally in the three registration rounds on the basis of the admission criteria.

All Pinneberg pupils who do not have a school place after the third enrolment round are allocated to a school corresponding to the desired type of Gymnasium by the school authority, in this case the town of Pinneberg, in accordance with the German Education Act. For pupils from the neighbouring municipalities, this is done by the school inspectorate at the ministry.

The criteria for admission to the secondary school in the event of a capacity restriction have been agreed and defined by the schools in their school conferences in accordance with the Schools Act.

The admission criteria for the Johannes Brahms Schule and the Theodor Heuss Schule can be found on the school's homepage and in the appendix to this letter.

Capacity restrictions at schools not only pose major challenges for school systems, but also cause parents and children to worry that their child will not get a place at their preferred school, that they may not go to school with their closest friends, that they may have a long journey to school, etc.

These days, it is more important than ever that you as parents and teachers strengthen and encourage your children. Talk to your children about different options for further schooling. This will help your child to be able to react openly to paths that may initially be difficult to imagine.

In the interests of your children, we wish all parents constructive counselling sessions at the primary schools, informative, encouraging and positive encounters with the wide range of secondary schools in Pinneberg and the surrounding area at the upcoming information events and, last but not least, the confidence with which you can support your child during the time when school places are being allocated.

As we can only allocate places once the first round of registrations has been completed, we would ask you to refrain from making enquiries in advance.

We will be happy to answer any questions about the admission criteria during the information sessions.

Best regards from the Pinneberger Gymnasien

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