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To whom it may concern

This letter is to give some background information about the German School of San Francisco (GSSF).

As the official representative of the Central Agency for Schools Abroad (Germany), it is part of my job to do a quality review by visiting German schools and by observing classes. I have visited the German School of San Francisco on various occasions, last in the spring of 2009.

The school has been in existence since 1935. It is the only school in San Francisco that offers German language instruction to children beginning at 1 1/2 years and continuing through 16. The school also offers adult courses that are frequented by the parents of the young students as well as by other interested working professionals.

The GSSF offers classes on Saturday mornings during the regular school year. The rigorous curriculum includes teaching the German language, customs, history and culture of the German-speaking countries to students of all ages. The graduates have a broad understanding of the world and are very successful in an international context.

German schools that teach German as a second language administer various examinations sponsored by the Central Agency for Schools Abroad (Germany) as well as all the relevant American tests, such as the national AATG tests (American Association of Teachers of German). GSSF students usually do well on these tests even though they are younger than the national average.

As a non-profit institution, the school is administered entirely through the work of volunteer parents and financed in the most part through tuition and fundraising events.

In addition, the German School of San Francisco receives some funding from the German Government, based on the test results and the overall recommendation by the government representative. The GSSF has been a very successful school and has also been awarded the prestigious title of PASCH-Schule (Partner School of the Future) by the German Government in June 2009.

The GSSF is a non-profit educational foundation, tax id# 941675734, 501 (c) (3) letter issued in February 1962.

Sincerely yours,

Elke Rühl
Central Agency for Schools Abroad (Germany)