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*TMS & THS German Students host a community  
“Evening of Fun” at Spassabend ‘22*

Spassabend, which translates to “an evening of fun” is a TASD tradition started in 2001 by Tom and Verona Chambers. Mr. Michael Bartz (THS) and Ms. Amy Pedretti (TMS) have been directing the program together for the last 15 years with the help of Verona Chambers and Manuela Coffey

Hruska. Spassabend has evolved dramatically over the years. It began with students performing mostly skits without music and has developed into a nearly full music program. This is a graded performance for the German students where they demonstrate their knowledge of the German language. The show has run each year (except ‘20 and ‘21 due to COVID) since it’s start in 2001.



German IV, V, and III students perform  
“Anton aus Tirol”

This year’s show featured over 130 German students grades 8th-12th. Per tradition, the program starts with “Anton aus Tirol” performed by German IV students. Anton aus Tirol is a hit in Southern Germany and Austria; it’s a high-energy song about a (humorously) arrogant man, Anton, from the state of Tirol, Austria. The program concludes with this same song, but adding in German V and German III students.

The song “Danke Schön” is performed at the end of each program as well, to thank the community for their support and attention. Danke Schön literally means “thank you”. The refrain sums it up best: “We say thank you to all of you, who are our friends. We sing our songs for you, and it will be nice to see you again.”

Preparations for the program begin two weeks prior where students select their songs from a lengthy list kept by teachers or choose one of their own. Once they select their song, they must translate the song to English as to understand the story within the song. Based on the translation, students work together to decide how the song can be portrayed through dance, props, and acting. The students work together both in and out of class to plan their performance. The goal for the students is to keep it “low budget, but high fun”!

The project wraps up the week after with cleaning the auditorium, resetting the classroom, and completing grades for song memorization amongst other factors. The final (and best) part is their classroom celebration when the students watch their show, thanks to Mr. Hagen of Hagen Sports Network who records the program in its entirety.

**watch the highlights [\[here\]](#).**



Mr. Bartz speaks to students prior to their performance.