



A collaboration toolbox to build a school for all"
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UNESCO
NMS
Dr. Renner

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Our philosophy: enhancement of diversity among children and teachers

Overview:

NMS Dr. Renner secondary school is situated in the Southern districts of Graz and gathers the children from the surrounding area. We are specialized in teaching children with different cultural background speaking 20 different languages. Integration and inclusion are being lived in our eight classes every day. The mix of teachers having experienced different vocational training, a resulting diversity of skills and team teaching create a human climate in the classroom where each child can learn according to its rhythm. At present 144 pupils attend our school, 38 with specific needs.

The historic school building is surrounded by a park and a big sports ground where needs expressed by girls as well as boys were taken into consideration. This oasis in an urban area is of great value to all our children, especially those with specific needs who can e.g. relax on a special swing.

After the lessons our pupils may profit from an afternoon programme until 5pm including lunch, a study hour and various activities.

Children who immigrate Austria and integrate our school attend specially conceived German lessons (5 hours a week). Otherwise they follow along or do special work in each subject without being marked for two years. Five extra hours of German are proposed twice a week in the afternoon at school. This support is offered by ISOP, an organization which proposes innovative social projects. They may also attend lessons in their mother tongue in their free time.

Projects:

Our two main projects are the involvement of the whole school community in a continual learning process which involves the development of internal and external helping systems, the improvement of pleasant learning areas and regular teacher training. The second main projects concerns learning languages together and from each other (voXmi).

Within a school year each class carries out two projects. Classes of different grades may work together and thus profit from even more diversity. These projects are carried out by teachers specialized in different subjects in order to make connections apparent. Besides technical competence, personal and social competences are strengthened and broadened.

- LEBE: Every day we start with a 10-minute keep fit session, regardless of the curriculum. After the 25-minute break, the children gather their thoughts reading a book chosen from the class library for ten minutes. It may be written in German or one of their mother tongues.

- Interreligious festivities take place at special occasions to sustain tolerance of different religious believes.

- "Coffee afternoons" are organized to improve the relationship and facilitate the exchange between parents and teachers.

- Chess, dance and soccer are being taught in the afternoon on a voluntary basis. The chess players regularly take part in competitions.

- In the 7th and 8th grade the children can choose among different courses like cultural or culinary travel around the world, IT, robotics, Italian, French or German as a 2nd language.

Member of: UNESCO schools since 2005

SPIN (Innovation Network of Languages)

voXmi (Learning languages together and from each other)

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