



# Goetheschule Essen

## School Mission & Vision

At Goetheschule Essen, we are dedicated to providing a well-rounded, holistic education that empowers our students to become confident and compassionate global citizens in an increasingly interconnected world. We prioritize “Creative Education”, “Intercultural Education”, “Sustainability Education” and “Holistic Personality Development”. Therefore, it is important to us to provide students with diverse cultural experiences, stimulate scientific curiosity, and foster critical thinking skills. Our core values are democratic and aim at non-violence and a genuine appreciation of the inherent dignity of all people. We want our students to feel the cultural wealth of the present, value shared traditions of the past, and develop into open-minded, future-oriented learners with global and environmental consciousness. With past, present and future in mind, we offer an education which we hope to be the corner stone for building a peaceful and just tomorrow.

### 1. Creative Education

Creative education helps our students to build a diverse set of skills such as communication, collaboration and emotional intelligence. It encourages self-expression and allows students to approach subjects from different perspectives. Additionally, creative education can foster a sense of curiosity, which can lead to a lifetime of continuous learning and personal growth. In today's fast-paced and constantly changing world, creativity teaches our students how to think outside of the box, come up with unique ideas and find innovative solutions to problems.

#### 1.1 Choirs and Orchestra

Musical activities at Goetheschule Essen have a long tradition. They shape the artistic-musical profile of our school in a special way. More than half of all students participate in our school's choirs and orchestras. Children in Year 5 and 6 sing in the choir of the 'Goethespatzen', and students in Year 7-12 in the large choir. In the preliminary orchestra, young instrumentalists are introduced to playing music together, and in the main orchestra, already advanced musicians practise demanding pieces together. The goal of the intensive rehearsals are winter, summer and special soloist concerts. Many pieces of music can now also be enjoyed online on the orchestra's own YouTube channel. Choir and orchestra trips as well as joint concert and opera visits complement the regular afternoon rehearsals and promote team spirit and cohesion.

## **I.2 Art**

The aim of the artistic work at Goetheschule Essen is to develop aesthetic perception and artistic sensibility, to develop one's own means of expression, to process experience creatively and thereby to promote understanding and comprehension. The annual art competition, the student studio in the school's tower, exhibitions in the school building, as well as the art club offer students a wide range of opportunities to engage artistically with the world and to present their work to the public.

## **I.3 Theatre**

The English-language theatre group "No Fear!", under the professional direction of an external, native-speaking theatre teacher, in which students from all grades work together on a play and put it on stage every school year, is another integral part of our artistic profile. Stage performance and multimedia productions offer all actors a variety of opportunities to strengthen their creative expressiveness.

# **2. Intercultural Education**

We believe that it is important for our students to have a deep understanding and appreciation of different cultures. Intercultural education can help to prepare individuals for living and working in a globalized and diverse society. It also helps people to develop cross-cultural skills, which are essential for effective communication and collaboration in diverse settings.

We therefore offer classes in world history and cultural studies, as well as language classes in a variety of languages (German, Latin, Spanish, French, Italian). We also organize cultural events, field trips and Erasmus Plus projects to help students learn about and experience different cultures first-hand.

## **2.1 Learning in European and Global Contexts**

Goetheschule Essen has a comprehensive programme for learning in European and global contexts. The activities and offerings, such as participating in Erasmus Plus projects, Model United Nations, and an inter-grade poetry competition, all provide opportunities for students to engage with other cultures and gain new perspectives. The presence of foreign language assistants also helps students to improve their language skills and understand other cultures.

## **2.2 The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme**

Our school is an authorized IB World School, and we offer the IB Diploma Programme in English to Upper School students in Year 12 and 13. The IB Diploma Programme is a rigorous, internationally recognized programme that prepares students for success in higher education and beyond.

## **2.3 Multilingualism**

We believe that the ability to speak more than one language is an essential skill in today's world. In addition to our core language classes in German and English, we offer language classes in a variety of languages, including Latin, Spanish, French and Italian.

### 3. Sustainability Education

Sustainability education involves teaching students about environmental, social, and economic sustainability, as well as empowering them to take action to create a more sustainable future. Through sustainability education, students learn about topics such as renewable energy, resource conservation, human rights and justice. They can also develop skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration, which are important for addressing complex global challenges.

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#### 3.1 Sustainability Across the Curriculum

Our school has integrated sustainability into a wide range of subjects across the curriculum. Science lessons, for example, teach about renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind power, or explore environmental issues, such as climate change or biodiversity loss. Social studies explore topics such as environmental justice, sustainable development, and global citizenship. In Maths students may analyse data on resource use and waste or use mathematical models to predict the impact of different sustainability practices. In Art classes students are encouraged to create projects using recycled materials, or to explore how art can be used to raise awareness about environmental issues.

We are partnering with local organizations such as the Alfried Krupp Student Laboratory, Duisburg-Essen University and the Gruga Park's "School of Nature" to bring in guest speakers, plan field trips, or participate in service learning projects related to sustainability.

#### 3.2 STEM

Goetheschule Essen has been certified as a "STEM-friendly school" since 2016 and offers a STEM programme focused on sustainability.

**Science:** We offer a variety of science classes, including Biology, Chemistry and Physics, and encourage our students to participate in science fairs and other science-related competitions. Our elective courses in Year 9 and 10 offer the opportunity for project-oriented work and deepening scientific understanding.

**Technology:** We believe that technology is an integral part of modern life, and we offer a range of computer science and coding classes to help our students develop important skills in this area. Information Technology (IT) opens interesting areas of study, like Cryptology, and fascinating, future-oriented after-school activities, such as creating Minecraft Worlds in our Robotics Club. Excursions, for example to the Heinz Nixdorf Museum Forum, the world's biggest computer museum, help our students to gain an understanding of the development of electronic data processing and the operation of computers.

**Engineering:** We have incorporated engineering design and problem-solving activities into the curriculum. Students use engineering principles to develop software and hardware systems and design

or build simple machines or structures to demonstrate physical concepts, analyse the structural properties of materials or study living systems.

**Mathematics:** We offer a range of Maths classes, focusing on algebra, geometry, calculus, and more. Every year our youngest students in Year 5 spend time in the "Magic Maths Circus", where they can actively experience and discover mathematics in numerous experiments. Our students also participate annually in local and international Maths competitions like the "Essen Maths Olympics" and the "Maastricht Mathematical Modelling Competition".

### 3.3 After-School Initiatives

We also encourage our students to start their own sustainability initiatives at school, participate in 'School of the Future' workshops about the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2023 Agenda or join teacher-led after-school clubs like our School Garden Club or our Environmental Club.

## 4. Holistic Personality Development

We believe that every student has unique talents and interests, and we strive to help our students to discover and develop their talents. Therefore, we focus on the overall development of our students, rather than just their academic knowledge. We aim to develop our students' intellectual, emotional, physical and social strengths and encourages them to find their passions.

### 4.1 Taking responsibility for oneself and others

Our students learn to assume personal responsibility for their class community as early as Year 5 and 6 through the Lions Quest programme. Later, the focus is broadened to include the assumption of responsibility in society, with our students participating in KESS projects (Creativity, Sports and Social Activities) and CAS projects (Creativity, Activity, Service).

Additionally, they can take on leadership roles within the school and community, such as being a member of a student council or volunteering for student-led projects. By taking these steps, students can develop a sense of ownership over their own learning and well-being, as well as contribute positively to the school and community.

### 4.2. Promoting diversity and talent

Developing responsibility for one's own learning is the goal of individual support. Our curriculum ensures that students are introduced to different learning and working methods in all subjects from Year 5 onwards, so that they can develop their individual learning paths.

At the beginning of Upper School, intensive workshops on "Learning Methods" and "Dealing with Digital Media" are held, which are supplemented by a "Methods Book".

We also promote independent learning through project-oriented learning, experiential learning and self-reflection, through independent learning tasks in Upper School and through our Erasmus+ and Model United Nations projects.

Individual support also means taking into account the different talents of our students. Subject-specific remedial instruction is offered to students who need help in revising learning content and developing motivation.

A wide range of after-school clubs with offerings ranging from competitive sports to music, chess, theatre and socioeconomic issues is aimed at all those who want to discover topics and interests and develop skills for which there is little room in regular classes.

Events on the subject of study and career orientation are also designed to help our students to develop strong personalities and a sense of self-worth, purpose and direction in life.

Last but not least, we have a variety of programmes and initiatives in place to support inclusion, including cultural exchanges and diversity training for faculty and staff. This allows students with varied abilities, interests and backgrounds to experience diversity as an enrichment to school life.

## 5. Outlook

In accordance with our motto "We talk to each other & care for each other", transparent, comprehensive and appreciative communication plays a key role in our joint work. Analog and digital structures offer a wide range of opportunities for exchange. These include established communication channels and media as well as sensible modern feedback systems.

We see ourselves as a school in which all members of the school community participate actively and help to shape school life. We are therefore continuously developing as a school. The school development group of Goetheschule, which consists of the school administration and interested members of the teaching staff, manages this process and works closely with all members of the school community. Intensive cooperation with the student council and feedback from parents, discussion rounds and joint working groups are important and will determine the future path of our school development.

Essen, 1.2.2023