

Introduction

Our school, the Egri Pásztorvölgyi Primary and Secondary School, is located in Eger, a small town of 50,000 people in Northern Hungary, which has become famous for its university, grammar schools, wine culture (Egri Bikavér, Egri Leányka) and its thermal water. The city of Eger is located 130 kilometres east of Budapest, at the foot of the Mátra and Bükk mountains.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77zUVqxi94M>

Our school, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2018, is located in the northern part of the city. The location of the institution, the exterior of its building and its surroundings make it unique compared to all other schools in Eger, as it is located in the suburban part of our town, close to nature, in the Pásztorvölgy.

Thanks to this extraordinary environment, the Pásztorvölgyi supports an exceptional and modern way of thinking, while also helping us adhere to our principles (family values, flexibility, understanding and intelligence).

700 students as well as 60 teachers attend this educational institution. More than 300 of those students live in Eger, while others commute from nearby towns and villages. There are two classes in each grade (1-12), which both start with a class size of 30-35 students. The best-performing classes at times can reach a 4.9 grade average in a school year, while the overall grade point average is 4.3 (5 is the best grade in Hungary). In recognition of these achievements, the school ranks 82nd on the list of the 100 best schools in the country. It also ranks 4th in the national ranking of bilingual schools. After graduating from primary school, our students could continue their studies in other secondary schools in Eger, but half of our students still decide to stay here during their high school years.

In our school, students can choose between a bilingual English or a language prep grade, where English is also the main foreign language. Most of our students made the decision to attend our school to learn English at an advanced level. During their stay, they have the opportunity to take part in foreign language collaborations, thematic days and student exchange programmes with foreign partner schools, with the aim of establishing closer relationships with other countries and later possibly studying abroad or working for an international company.

Small language learning groups of eight to twelve students, learning groups according to student's levels of knowledge, a wide range of foreign languages (English, German, French, Russian), many international events involving students, targeted education, lessons with a teacher who is a native speaker,

personal and extracurricular conversations all help to make studying a foreign language a special and unforgettable experience in our school.

*„He who knows no foreign language knows nothing of his mother tongue.”
(Johann Wolfgang Goethe)*

Our students can also learn a second foreign language (German, French or Russian) from year 7 onwards, three hours a week.

"Every language we learn is a door opening up a new world" (Hermann Hesse)

Not only languages, but all subjects are very important to us. Our teachers strive to encourage their students to enrich themselves with unique experiences, to hold their own not only at academic competitions but also at entry exams and later, in life.

At the heart of our institution's pedagogical philosophy is the student, who has to face many complex challenges in our rapidly changing and globalizing world. The spirit of our bilingual education and the methodology for developing language competence provide our students with the complex language skills they need to overcome these challenges.

Our work is supported by our partners, but most of all by the parents' working community and the "Pásztorvölgyi School Foundation". Their work and financial support play a significant role in the development of the institution. The teachers can get to know the parents during parent-teacher evenings, family visits and other joint programmes, which all help to maintain a good teacher-parent relationship.

An important goal of both the school management and the teaching staff is to establish a friendly and relaxed environment in the school, where the students can feel safe to express themselves and their opinions, to make friends and find partners with whom they can share their troubles or insecurities, as well as their achievements and successes.

Both teachers and students are happy to work here, thanks to our student-oriented and democratic views. We have self-organized, varied student programmes, such as freshman camp, student day, team sports, cultural programmes and folk dance. For us, the large main hall provides an exciting environment all day, where all these programmes can be carried out, which we are also incredibly proud of!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmOI5kzFxZ8>

The school puts great emphasis on giving an opportunity to as many students as possible to take part in projects, home and abroad. The most popular one among the students is the exchange programme with our partner school in France. On top of this, our international projects involving foreign students also give great opportunities for language learning. We would also like to mention Comenius and Erasmus, which are frequently attended by our students.

Furthermore, we organise field trips for students and teachers also, to the UK, Germany and Austria every year.

Our school celebrated its 25th birthday in 2018. For this occasion the school organised a huge variety of events, including a gala where all the language groups performed.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSCDfi0RoF8