

Tartu Raatuse School 2024 in brief

Tartu Raatuse School is a 1-9th grade Estonian compulsory education basic school. Today about 600 students (including 24 Ukrainian students with temporary protected status) are studying and 63 teachers, psychologist, social pedagogue, speech therapist, special education teacher, coordinator of children with special educational needs and a school nurse are working in our school. We also have two educational technologists working at our school who coordinate and support all that is connected with the digital side of education. Both teachers and students are involved.

Not using a traditional grading system in primary classes with the years 1-6, has been well received. Students and their parents get oral and written feedback (formative assessment) on the child's personal development, skills and knowledge in different subjects. In some subjects such as art, music, literature, human sciences, handicraft, cooking, drama, physical education we do not grade students with numbers until the end of 9th grade.

From 2018, pupils have been divided into learning-style based study groups in Math, English, and Estonian. The school provides a variety of after school activities including sport, music, arts, robotics and crafts. Classes are also taken outdoors. Each class from 1-6 grade has one physical activity lesson and each class from 1-8 grade also one drama lesson per week.

Our pupils are continuously successful with academic achievements and representing the school in different contests and events. They have a great chance to participate in international and national projects which give them an opportunity to take part in the events in their own school and also widen their minds and experience while visiting other cultures all over Europe and even further.

The school is continuously working toward finding new opportunities to make studying more challenging through new different projects. The project days in October 2013, which took place for the first time, gave students freedom to choose and participate in almost 100 different workshops within 2 days. Since then, regular city-funded topic based project weeks have been organized each year, involving teachers, other staff members, and people from outside the organization.

We have declared the developing and integrating more and more of topic-based learning into our everyday teaching-learning process as one of the most important goals in our Erasmus plan for accreditation period until 2028. So all the students' group-mobilities inside the accreditation frame will be designed in a topic-based learning way.

Tartu Raatuse School gives a great emphasis on the topics connected with developing 21st century skills and our new school curricula as well as our developmental plan. We want to reach the next level with the help of international collaboration with partner schools from abroad. Over the past 12 years our school has been very active in the world of international projects, so we do have some experience under our belt. Our school family, both students and teachers, have always shown a lot of enthusiasm towards these projects as well as

gained many valuable experiences from them. The interest and motivation for international cooperation is very high.

All the past international projects we have been involved in or coordinating have been a great success for our school. Now international cooperation and partnership has already become our school's trademark. Teachers and students have gained a lot of experiences that have been very great support for their teaching and learning processes. The impact has been seen both in educational level and also in the development of key competences that are needed in nowadays labor market, especially the rise of social skills for example. So we have a lot of experience, knowledge and are still curious, hardworking and eager to get more to develop our school into a better place for our students and teachers.

Besides student engagement, our school aim is also to raise awareness and put into effective practice an Open Space Learning Environment, which has capacity in total more than 1000m² of our school teaching-learning areas and is offering challenges for teachers sustainable preparation in line with 21st century skills. According to this, we are enthusiastic to implement multi-disciplinary approaches in our daily practice.