

Mission Statement of GEMM: Together we achieve more!

We are a comprehensive secondary school with around 900 students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds of all abilities in the heart of Münster (a city in the west of Germany with approx. 300 000 inhabitants). Our school welcomes everyone and promotes life-long and shared learning with a view to providing the best possible outcomes for all students. The focus of our pedagogy is to develop our students as open-minded, tolerant, independent and self-reliant individuals with an appreciation for sustainability. Personal development at all levels is important to us, especially with regard to social responsibility, mutual respect, shared learning, inclusion and integration. Concern for others and their well-being is a cornerstone of our mission. We enable every child to learn successfully by working together, to face and overcome challenges in a peaceful and respectful manner. At the same time, we value social justice and aim to cater to the different talents of each child. Our lively school culture is supported by motivated, professional teachers through supportive standardised classroom management, plus engaged parents and a committed student body. We invite students to feel a sense of belonging at the school and we strive for an open, supportive and transparent team culture with flat hierarchies and constructive communication.

At the heart of our concept of self-directed learning is our 'Lernpläne' (study plans). These 'Lernpläne' provide differentiation for a wide range of ability levels matched to topics of study. Students can learn in different contexts and acquire skills at their own pace, supporting all types of learners. In individual study hours (study halls) the students have time to organise their own learning by choosing the subject they would like to learn as well as the individual task and context to achieve competence in that task. They detail their learning progress in a logbook, which serves as self-reflection and also as documentation and communication with their parents. As part of this individual style of learning, not every student sits their exams on the same day. Within a timeframe of two weeks, the students can plan their own exam times depending on their learning process. Our concept of self-directed learning as well as our high level of digitalisation were invaluable during the pandemic, as they allowed us to transfer not only our materials but also the concept of individual learning into remote learning during home schooling. That way we had the capacity to concentrate on engaging with and encouraging our students from the start of remote learning.

Our teams (subject, class and year teams; school management; steering committee; student parliament; school council; working groups with parents, etc.) ensure the quality of student wellbeing and teaching through joint lesson preparation, and exposure to ongoing training and evaluation. The ongoing development of our school concept, our reputation as forward-thinkers, and our focus on a strong feedback culture are important to us and we are excited to continue challenging the norms and providing the best possible educational outcomes for all.