

Graf-Münster-Gymnasium presents itself

Graf-Münster-Gymnasium (=GMG) is a secondary grammar school with a long tradition. It started as a commercial school for boys and today is a coeducational institution with about 1250 students, 100 teachers, and 30 student teachers.

Students come to GMG after 4 years of primary school elsewhere at the age of 10 or 11 years. They must have a recommendation from their previous primary school or pass an introductory exam in order to be admitted to GMG. School education takes 8 years (year 5 to 12) and ends with the “Abitur,” the final exam which is required for admission at university.

In their first year (class 5) all pupils take the same subjects. The first foreign language is English. In class 6 the pupils can choose between French and Latin. In class 8 the pupils decide whether they want to focus on technology and natural sciences or languages.

The pupils choosing the language option study a third foreign language: those who have previously chosen Latin as a second foreign language can now take French or Spanish (but mostly opt for Spanish). Those who have been studying French can start with Spanish.

The natural science pupils receive a thorough education in mathematics, chemistry, physics and computer sciences. Those subjects are taught until class 10.

It is in year 11 that Sixth Form starts. All pupils are obliged to attend classes in Maths, German and one foreign language but are also offered a number of optional subjects. All marks attained during these last two years count toward the average mark.

The final graduation exam (“Abitur”) is both a written and an oral exam, the assignments being identical in all Bavarian schools. After passing the “Abitur,” pupils can go on to study at any German university or college of higher education.

GMG gets its name from the Earl George of Munster, who lived in Bayreuth in the 19th century and as a geologist discovered *nothosaurus mirabilis*, the world’s first complete fossilised dinosaur. The school logo symbolizes the huge stone sculpture in our schoolyard called “the dino.”

Our school was founded in 1833; its 175th anniversary celebration took place in 2008.

Apart from the normal curriculum, the school offers a wide variety of extracurricular activities and some very special facilities. The school has, for instance, a swimming pool, two large modern gyms (one with a climbing wall), a football pitch, grounds for track and field, beach ball and beach volleyball. In addition, pupils have the opportunity to take up pentathlon.

GMG regularly has excellent basketball teams. In 2011 our team was the best school team in Bavaria and came third in the national championships.

The school maintains exchanges with two schools in France and one in Australia and has a partner school in Spain.

There are two choirs, an orchestra, a Big Band and a special group which offers a program called "Culture in the Cellar", where pupils present all kinds of artistic performances.

Drama groups exist in both English and German; our "English Drama Group" regularly performs in the town hall.

There is a robotics group which has received a number of prizes for its excellent work and the natural science teachers and pupils cooperate with Siemens and take part in the SINUS programme.