

Germany-Thuringia

Lobdeburgschule

Students aged 6 to 17 years attend primary school and comprehensive secondary school at Lobdeburgschule. The first three grades of primary school are taught in mixed age groups to allow the flexible transition between grades, depending on students' abilities. A schedule for grades 5 to 13 organizes the school days into phases of autonomous completion of tasks and free creative work, interdisciplinary lessons and projects, professional lessons, and elective lessons in areas of special interest. Learning is self-directed and individualized, and there is differential support. Teachers collaborate in teams per grade.

Main Focus of Innovation: LEARNERS, ORGANISATION

Other Keywords: alternative philosophy

General Information

Name of the ILE: Lobdeburgschule

Location/Address: Unter der Lobdeburg 4, D-07747 Jena Thuringia, Germany

Website: www.lobdeburgschule.de

ILE submitted by: Thuringian Ministry of Culture and Education

Rationale

Why do you suggest that it should be included in the project? How does it respond to 21st century learning challenges?

- Ganzheitliche, nachhaltige Bildung und Erziehung in Vorbereitung auf das Alltags- und Berufsleben
- Holistic, sustainable education and training in preparation for everyday life and work.
- Differenzierte und individuelle Förderung durch freie Arbeit und Wochenplan (eigenverantwortliches Lernen)
- Differential and individual support through self-directed learning (Autonomous work to complete given tasks as well as free creative work on given topics).
- Arbeit im Team
- Teamwork
- Fächerübergreifendes Arbeiten im Epochenunterricht und in Projekten
- Cross-curricular, interdisciplinary lessons and work in projects.
- Interessengebundenes Arbeiten im Wahlpflichtbereich
- Interest tied elective work.

SCHOOL'S PHILOSOPHY/ General Orientation

The multifaceted activities at Lobdeburgschule are focused on the general orientation
“LEARNING TO LIVE WITH EACH OTHER”

- at school
- in the urban district/in the town
- in Europe / in the world
- within and with nature

This holistic approach comprises the One-World-Thought. The objectives of the school's development for students, teachers and partners as well as the concrete steps for the implementation result from the general orientation.

Evidence

Is there any evidence or indications showing that this initiative achieves the outcomes that it is aiming at?

- 1996 Sonderpreis „Innovative Schulen“ im Rahmen des Carl Bertelsmann-Preises
- 1996 Carl-Bertelsmann Special Award “Innovative School“
- 1999 Aussteller auf dem Deutschen Bildungskongress in Bonn
- 1999 Exhibitor at the German Education Congress in Bonn
- 2002 Deutscher Arbeitgeberpreis für Bildung in der Kategorie „Schule“
- 2002 German Employers Award for Education in the category of "school"
- 2006 Nominierung für den deutschen Schulpreis und Erhalt des Qualitätssiegels Berufswahlfreundliche Schule
- 2006 nomination for the German School Award and receipt of the quality label "career-friendly school"
- Im Rahmen des Schulentwicklungsvorhabens „Eigenverantwortliche Schule“ des Freistaates Thüringen besteht eine Zielvereinbarung zur weiteren Entwicklung

- As part of the school development project "Self dependent School" of the Free State of Thuringia a target agreement for the further development has been concluded
- Die Arbeitsergebnisse der Lobdeburgschule wurden in der Schulordnung des Freistaates Thüringen aufgenommen und allen Schulen zugänglich gemacht
- The achievements of the Lobdeburgschule are part of the school regulations of the Free State of Thuringia and thus available to all schools
- Positive Rückmeldungen von ehemaligen Schülern zu Tagen der offenen Tür sowie von Berufsvermittlungsstellen und aufnehmenden Einrichtungen
- Positive feedback from alumni learners during open days as well as from professional agencies and receiving facilities

Learning Aims / Intended Learning Outcomes of the ILE

What are the core learning aims and which knowledge, skills or attitudes are to be acquired? (These may include outcomes related to learners' social, interpersonal, or meta-cognitive development)

Wir erziehen unsere Kinder zu allgemein gebildeten, interessierten, sozial- und methodenkompetenten Menschen, die befähigt sind, eigenverantwortlich zu handeln,

We raise our children to become human beings, that generally educated, interested, soft skilled and self dependent to solve problems.

Learners

Which group(s) of learners is it aiming at? Who is eligible to take part? How many learners are there? What are their ages?

- Alle 600 Schüler zwischen 6 und 17 Jahren (auch alle 60 Lehrer sind Lernende)
- All 600 learners in the age between 6 and 17. (All 60 teachers are "learners" as well)

The Lobdeburgschule comprises the years 1 – 3 as heterogenous age groups, the years 4 – 10 as age-group teams and an upper second area team with a year 11 in the introduction stage and a year 12 in the qualification stage.

The entire school's development is based on the cooperation of various teams which structure the school and work on their own responsibility in a forte oriented way. Space planning is adapted to the structure of the teams.

Facilitators

Who are the teachers/facilitators? Who are the leaders? What are their professional backgrounds? What are their roles?

- Thüringer Kultusministerium
- Thüringen Ministry of Education
- Schulamt Jena
- Education Authority of the city of Jena
- Friedrich-Schiller-Universität
- Friedrich-Schiller-University, Jena
- Wirtschafts- und Gemeinwesen der Stadt Jena
- Local society of the city of Jena

- Andere innovativen Schulen (Hospitationen und Fortbildungsveranstaltungen)
- Other innovative schools (observations and further education events)
- Eigenverantwortlich handelnde Lehrer
- Teachers, who assume responsibility for their own actions

Organization of the ILE

How is learning organised? How do learners and facilitators interact? What kind of pedagogy do they follow? What curriculum is used?

- Basis ist der Lehrplan des Freistaates Thüringen für Grundschule, Regelschule und Gymnasium
- Foundation: curriculum of the Free State of Thuringia for elementary, comprehensive- and secondary school
- Unterrichtsmethoden: offener Unterricht, Frontalunterricht, Einzelarbeit, Partnerarbeit, Gruppenarbeit
- Teaching methods: open, teacher-centred, individual work, partner work, group work
- Stundentafel:

Std	Mo	Die	Mi	Do	Fr
1	MK	Wochenplan und freie Arbeit			
2					
3	Fachunterricht				
4					
5	Epochenunterricht und freie Arbeit				
6					
7	Profilbereich (Kernfach und Wahlpflichtfach)				
8					

• Schedule

hour	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	Morning Circle	Autonomous completion of given tasks and free creative work on given topics ¹			
2					
3	Professional lesson ²				
4					
5	a) Interdisciplinary lessons b) Autonomous and free creative work on a given topic				
6					
7	Specialized elective lessons ³				
8					

¹ In German, English and Mathematics, learners solve task on their own responsibility

² Overarching lessons, where contents and objectives of the subjects are being bundled and treated in the above explained teaching methods

³ Learners of mixed ages are working together on subjects of their mutual special interest, e.g. musicals, computer, chorus, theatre, housekeeping ...
Additionally talents are especially encouraged.

INDIVIDUALISATION of Tuition

Tuition is based on the Thuringian curricula for primary schools, Regelschule [equivalent of secondary modern school], grammar schools and the course of education " support and therapy".

Independent from age, the focus is on:

- autonomous learning (weekly schedule, open learning, individualised learning)
- interdisciplinary learning (topic oriented main lessons block tuition, project tuition)
- special interest learning (obligatory elected subjects, open learning)
- practical learning (core area, obligatory elected subjects)
- social learning (partner work and group work).

All focuses and specified lessons as well as the teaching of sound specialized knowledge and various learning competences are granted a high priority.

At any time during the open lessons the students have classrooms, lounges, the library, the computer cabinets and partly specialist rooms at their disposal. Teachers see themselves as tutors and respond to the individual learning demands of the students.

Week's Schedule

Week's schedule work takes place from the fifth year in German, Mathematics and English, three days of the week at the beginning of a school day. The differentiated tasks (different performance levels, obligatory and elective tasks) are assigned for a period of one up to six weeks. In general, the students decide themselves which tasks they work on, who they work with, when, to what extent and where. The students have the option to use an open start of lessons and work in the rooms from 7.15 a.m.

Open Learning (OL)

In the primary field, the pupils prevailingly work at their learning process in German and Mathematics in sandwich lessons of 90 minutes, using versatile materials. Topics of the main lesson blocks are partly integrated in this learning period.

In the secondary field, Open Learning only gives the topic; the students will work on it independently. There is a differentiation between material focused OL and free OL. Material focused OL guides the way of gaining knowledge by provided material, in case of the free OL the student chooses a focus from a given topic and procures the information himself. Within the field of free OL it is also possible, that a student chooses his own topic, based on his interests.

The weekly timetable provides 90 minutes for Open Learning (years five and six) and 135 minutes (from year 7) in block lessons.

Individualised Learning will be established as a novelty in the timetable from the school year 2010/11. It comprises 90 minutes per week and will be organised integrating the years 4/5/6, 7/8, 9/10.

This time will be particularly provided for talent development, special needs support and individual support.

Main Lessons Blocks take place in all years including year 10. Main lessons blocks you could topic from the point of different subjects and comprises project stages of the pupils / students. In the school year 2010/11, there will be, for the first time, only two main lessons blocks projects. The previous main lessons blocks projects will be integrated in the material focused OL.

The field of obligatory elective subjects supports interest-based learning. Students can choose one of 16 courses. These heterogeneous age courses are offered from years 7 to 10. All the courses are practice oriented.

In the core field all students go through a course system enabling them to obtain practical and social abilities. By this they shall become "fit for everyday life" (in years 7/8) and "fit for living in a family / society" (in years 9/10).

The upper secondary school (grammar school) is being established. Instead of main lessons blocks there is an advanced course "Media and Communication" (135 minutes per week), Open Learning takes place in two project weeks. In the introduction stage the students participate in a media internship of four weeks.

Learning Context

In which context does learning take place? What does the physical learning environment look like? Are community resources used to facilitate learning and how?

- Lernen in Jahrgangsteams
- Fix teams of teachers are dedicated to each grade

- Schule als Lernraum (Bibliothek, Computerräume, offene Arbeitsflächen, gut ausgestattete Fachräume)
- School is not reduced to classrooms, learners use a library, computer rooms, open work areas, well equipped specialist rooms

- Nutzung ausserschulischer Lernorte
- Use of external educational locations, such as museums

- Kooperationsverträge mit unterschiedlichen kommunalen Einrichtungen und Institutionen
- Cooperation agreements with various local bodies and institutions

History of ILE

Who initiated it? For what reasons was it started and with what purpose? Have these changed since?

In Folge der deutschen Wiedervereinigung konnten ab 1989 die Lehrer der Lobdeburgschule mit Unterstützung des Thüringer Kultusministeriums und des Schulamtes der Stadt Jena beginnen, eine ILE zu schaffen, die sich seither zur Erreichung der unter 4. genannten Ziele immer wieder neu erfindet.

In consequence of German reunification in 1989 the teachers of the Lobdeburgschule – supported by the Thuringian Ministry of Education and the Education Authority of the City of Jena – started out to create an ILE which re-invents itself since then, to achieve its goals described in section 4.

Funding of the ILE

How is it funded?

- Schulträger ist die Stadt Jena
- Education Authority of the City of Jena

- Förderverein der Lobdeburgschule
- Sponsoring society of the Lobdeburgschule

- Preis- und Stiftungsgelder
- Prize money and endowments

Learning Outcomes

What are the learning outcomes achieved by the ILE, including academic, social, interpersonal and meta-cognitive outcomes? How is learning assessed?

1. Completions

- a) School leaving certificate (9 years w/o exam)
- b) Qualified school leaving exam (9 years)
- c) Secondary school certificate (10 years)
- d) University-entrance diploma (13 years)

2. Evaluation sheets

Every learner receives an evaluation sheet per term with target agreements for the second term

3. Competency proofs

- a) Competence test in grade 3 (Math's and German), grade 6 and 8 (Math's, German, English)
- b) Analysis from the Thuringian network of innovative schools (ThüNIS)

Documentation describing or evaluating the ILE

Is there documentation on this learning environment? Is there a website? Films? Research reports or evaluations? Other forms of documentation? (please supply references or links)

- 2002: Film Deutscher Arbeitgeberpreis für Bildung
- 2002: Movie of the award ceremony of the German Employers Award for Education

- 2004: Film "Ins Herz der Zukunft – Unterwegs zur Nachhaltigkeit"
- 2004: Movie "Into the heart of the Future - On the way to sustainability"
- www.solarserver.de/buecher/buchtippezember2004.html

- 2004: Neue Zürcher Zeitung: Film "Sind Manieren out?"
- 2004: Zurich Newspaper: "Are manners out?"

http://www.nzz-format-shop.ch/de/detail.php?up_oberKatNr=&up_katNr=16&up_oberArtikelNr=16

· 25.9.2006 : ZDF Morgenmagazin Filmbericht über die Lobdeburgschule

25.9.2006: Nationwide TV report about the Lobdeburgschule

<http://www.heute.de/ZDFheute/inhalt/2/0,3672,3981282,00.html?dr=1>

· Eigene Website der Lobdeburgschule

Website of the Lobdeburgschule <http://www.lobdeburgschule.de>