

Mission Statement of *Literargymnasium Rämibühl*

The “Literargymnasium” has a long-standing tradition on which, looking ahead and taking up the social opportunities and challenges of the present, we build the future. In doing so, we place the personal development of our students at the centre of our acting.

Education

We provide a sound general education and promote interlaced, analytical, critical, and creative thinking.

To us, the term “education” has a comprehensive meaning, and we support a holistic human image. Education means acquiring knowledge, understanding correlations, gaining new perspectives, and developing one’s personality.

As a “Gymnasium”, we see our mission in awakening the students’ curiosity and love of learning, familiarizing them with a variety of scientific methods and learning techniques, and facilitating a successful learning experience.

Learning is a social process interacting between guidance and individual activity. Inspiring, courageous as well as professionally and pedagogically committed teachers are the pillars of educational quality. Our teachers accompany their students in their learning process and guide them step by step towards self-organized, independent learning. Working in teams and encountering extracurricular reality, students can develop their intellectual, emotional, and social potential.

Cooperating with external institutions and using interdisciplinary methods, we meet the technological and social challenges of our time. This is how we enable our students to gain a comprehensive view of complex issues, analytical and critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

The comprehensive general education that students are given at our “Gymnasium” prepares them to be successful at university and to accept responsibility in society.

Balance

We strive for a sound balance between challenge and support, performance orientation and recreation.

Physical and mental health are fundamental for successful teaching and learning. We address issues of mental and physical health, create a benevolent environment, and thereby support the health of all school members.

We share the same pedagogical values and encourage personal opportunities within the community.

Performance and achievement include so much more than just acquiring knowledge. They also mean taking risks and chances and creating something new. We create spaces for learning as an individual and in teams.

Our daily timetables and the academic year are structured to allow for focused, project-oriented, and self-organized working. A wide variety of assessment tools and methods corresponds to this comprehensive notion of learning and education.

Community

We interact with appreciation and trust, shape our school together and nurture individual responsibility.

Community is based on trust and reliable relationships. We treat each other with respect and empathy and thus create an atmosphere of appreciation and commitment. We have confidence in each other. We consider the freedom to make mistakes to be part of working together.

We are a personal and familiar “Gymnasium” and see school as a social space which is shaped and accounted for by all school members together. We encourage our students to be co-players and co-shapers, and not just spectators of school and social reality. The school community is made tangible through shared experience. We celebrate important events during the academic year with rituals and thus strengthen the spirit of community and the school members’ commitment and identification with the “Literargymnasium”.

Openness

We see diversity as an opportunity and engage in dialogue with other ways of thinking and cultures.

We perceive people in their uniqueness and give them space for their personal development. We consider engaging with other cultures and values to be part of an education preparing for university. Based on the knowledge of our own cultural roots, we encourage and call for openness to the world and a willingness to engage in dialogue.

We are interested in pedagogical developments. We reflect on our educational mission and adapt it to meet today's social and scientific conditions and requirements. We regularly assess the quality of our education. We learn from success and failure.

We stand up for intellectual openness. Truth is not a possession. We encourage our students' curiosity and their delight in the world as a diverse space for exploration. We respond to questions with an inquiring and reflective attitude.

We work with partner schools both nationally and internationally and with local institutions. In doing so, we provide our students with regular opportunities to get to know and engage with other lifestyles, professional worlds, and cultures. We maintain close contact with educational institutions at primary and tertiary level, with parents, the authorities, and other secondary schools. We open our school to the public in cultural events (exhibitions, plays, concerts etc.) that are a regular of our educational program.