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## MECHATRONIKAI SZAKKÖZÉPISKOLA BUDAPEST HUNGARY



### Creativity in the classroom

**Creativity** can be associated with intelligence and individual problem solving capacity.

What is a **creative child** like? Humorous, curious, witty, smart, inventive, original and out of control, asking questions all the time (let's be honest, **disturbing!**).

**Life-long learning** is part of **creative** capacity, influences and develops the individual.

**Traditional school** is based mainly on associations and teaching knowledge, information, data and students are expected to “reproduce” the teacher’s explanations by memorizing, swotting.

**Modern school** is based on the active participation of students; thinking, perception, imagination, feelings, willingness, action.

If we want a teenager to concentrate on his work he must like what he is doing: if the teacher makes learning difficult the students will be frustrated, troubled, anxious, worried and will not enjoy it. If things are too easy the students will become bored and lose interest. So it is our (teachers) task to create a balance between joy and intellectual curiosity.

**Getting marks/grades** causes frustration and strengthens fear, can be even considered a punishment, but of course this is what all educational systems have.

In order to achieve better results and let students reveal their talent we need to create a milieu full of stimuli and use motivating methods like group work, role play, debate, research, project work.

**Creative school = creative teachers + creative students + openness/flexibility + co-operative teaching**

In the **foreign language classes** students can use their fantasy by creating novels from the given vocabulary. They can write poems about the topics given them by the teacher or they can cook at Christmas and Easter time.

In the **music lessons** (in the 9th grade) young students can show their talents, how they can play an instrument, some of them are able to compose some pieces of music.

In the **Hungarian literature classes** students are free to analyze (and even write) poems, novels. Some students are able to play drama. They practice it in the **form teachers' classes** and they perform it to the whole school community.

In **geography and history classes** students can use their global knowledge (music, paintings, objects connected with a given country, traditions) to make maps, drawings.

**ITC lessons** also develop creativity; after learning theory students use their personal ideas and creativity to make web pages, presentations.

During the year we organize trips in the country or abroad, where students take **photos** and create a photo book or make **power point presentations**.

**Sports**, especially team sports and offensive football with its ingenious, unexpected solutions/tricks are based on creativity. In this case creativity means not only an added value to victory (which is undoubtedly important!) but also reveals the evolution of team-work. Talented sportsmen might be bad at art/science subjects, but this does not mean that they are not hard-working. Doing sports and achieving results need persistence and determination.

For the last two years we have been trying new teaching methods, one of which is **project teaching**. We have a project week during which the students can choose among different topics and activities suggested by their teachers. Students work together in different groups, usually 2 teachers and about 15-20 students. There are different and interesting fields/topics to choose from: dances, sport activities, drawing and painting, ceramic workshops, technical workshops, cultural/intercultural workshops. This week is very popular among the students, because they learn

different things but the goal is to show how creative they are. On the 5<sup>th</sup> day they present the results of their works. They make mostly creative and useful things: electric displays, key-cases, posters, presentations, exhibitions, ceramics, wood works, statues, models.