



PIETARSAAREN LUKIO, FINLAND

SOCIAL COMPETENCE AND SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM

Pietarsaari upper secondary school curriculum 2004:

The upper secondary school in Pietarsaari attempts to educate its students by teaching them about human rights, equality, good manners and life in general. The school encourages students to believe in and trust themselves. At the same time the aim is to support students' own thinking and self-evaluation.

Students are taught open and critical common knowledge and this is the way to support the students' lifelong learning process.

CHALLENGES

The general upper secondary school in Finland is based on courses with no specified year-classes. The scope of the syllabus is three years but the studies may be accomplished in two, three or four years. The students may proceed in their studies either as a group or individually. It's very important to create a good team spirit in the school.

The upper secondary school in Pietarsaari is a very small community consisting of only 120 students, 15 teachers and other staff members. Everybody knows each other.

METHODS

- a) The happenings in the school
 - Yearly prom (Students on the second year may dance but their partners can be younger)
 - The Ugly Day (when everybody dresses in as ugly manner as they can)

b) Studying -We practice social skills in every subject and especially in religion, philosophy, psychology and on self-expression classes.

c) Student committee

- The students choose the members to the student committee.

-They run things like a school café and a snack shop, supervise students' rights and organize nice happenings eg Valentine's day event.

d) Group counseling

-The pupils are divided into 20-student groups. The group counselor monitors absences, success with studies and keeps in touch with parents.

-The students can easily reach teachers at school, face to face, or over the internet with the Wilma- system.

e) Student counseling

-The student counselor helps with course choices and future school opportunities.

-The student counselor meets every student face to face several times a year.

f) Schools planning group

-Including principal, vice principal, student counselor, 2 representative from the teachers and 2 students chosen every year.

-The mission is to plan and improve school activities.

CONFLICT MEDIATION

Avoiding conflicts and solving problems belongs to the whole school-community and we try to solve them immediately. We have special persons and a group that works on solving problems.

a) Student care group

-Handles problems, plans and executes solutions when students have problems eg. absences, poor grades, troubles controlling life etc.

-Includes the Principal, student counselor, school nurse, curator, consulted in psychology

b) Curator and school nurse

-Curator and school nurse interview all first graders during their first year in school

-Students can book a time themselves to see the curator and school nurse and if necessary and they can be called to help, for example, because of the teacher's request

c) School psychologist and school doctor

-Curator or school nurse can send a student to a psychologist or a doctor if it's necessary

BULLYING

- The whole school aims at preventing bullying: the teachers, other students, principal, curator, school nurse
- Cases are dealt immediately
- Small community is effective: bullying is easily recognized and things can be solved
- The health survey, which is arranged every other year, is answered anonymously and it reveals possible problems