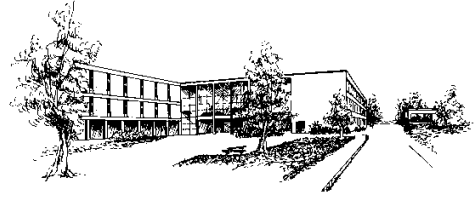


Helmholtz-Gymnasium
Schule der Stadt Bonn



Mission Statement

The Helmholtz Gymnasium welcomes people of all nationalities and belief systems. Thus, in order to foster a sense of trust among the members of our school community (including the student body, faculty, parents, and support staff), we believe that the foundation of our community must be built through mutual understanding, respect, and nonviolence. As a “School with Courage,” we endeavor to promote an open-minded, tolerant atmosphere for development, in which diversity is highly valued.

Teachers play important roles as exemplars for our students, but parents are also highly involved in the education process by supporting the teachers and students as best they can. They are active participants in the shaping of school life, as they identify with the school and its goals.

The welcome celebration and the graduation ceremony are the highlights of our school year, as they consist of acknowledgement and appreciation of the extraordinary school and social achievements of our students. Music, dance, and theater performances as well as sport and art presentations, including participation in various competitions, hold a high significance for us. Our patrons contribute to the success of many such school projects in advisory and financial ways.

At the Helmholtz Gymnasium, students are able to further develop their potential and talents as well as try out new activities. To this end, the “Ganztag” (all-day school) concept is the perfect way to foster study and practice as well as extracurricular activities. Shared breaks and meal times also help to establish a close personal relationship between students and teachers.

Our school also offers a wide variety of classes for its students.

The Helmholtz Gymnasium emphasizes the study of natural science, following in the footsteps of the name-giver of our school, Hermann von Helmholtz. We promote interest in scientific study through interdisciplinary and experimental learning.

We also put a great emphasis on skilled advancement in the study of art and music.

With the option to pursue bilingual study, as well as the development of a global educational background by teaching subjects in English as well as other world languages such as French, Spanish, and Chinese, we encourage our students to adopt an internationally oriented world-view. Our exchange programs with partner schools in the USA, Brazil, China, and other countries thus hold particular meaning for us.

Our views on education are reinforced through emphasis on participation and teamwork and through the facilitation of autonomous learning. We support students in their growth, so that they may develop into independent and mature individuals. This is important so that they are able to assume responsibility for themselves and their surroundings as well as involve themselves in the school community and the larger societal community.

Students are encouraged early and continually in their career and study paths. This is achieved through collaboration with regional and national organizations.

Our goal is for our students as well as colleagues to develop a joy of lifelong learning and knowledge acquisition. Our school works closely with other schools in Bonn in order to ease the transition between primary school and Gymnasium, and to offer the upper level students a wide variety of courses. Cooperation with external institutions of culture, religion, and businesses leads to a diversified school day.

Our generously large school grounds are very suitable for learning and free time, including our own spacious multipurpose sporting facility. The school is currently being expanded to be barrier-free, spatially widened, and to adjust to the needs of the "Ganztag" (all-day school). A mindful relationship with our neighborhood and the environment is an important concern for us.

The shared goal of parents, students, and teachers alike is this: to implement this mission statement, regularly evaluate it, and to continually further its development. It is through our school program that this goal is realized.

The mission statement is introduced in class at the beginning of every school year, and students and teachers discuss how to realize its ideas in everyday life.