

# Mauritius- Gymnasium



Büren - Germany





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The aim of education is to encourage every individual to use their talents for personal learning and helping others.

Mauritius-Gymnasium is a private school with a Jesuit tradition that feels obliged to teach the Jesuit understanding of education.

We are delighted to introduce our school to you on the following pages.



*Friedhelm Henke*

*Headmaster*

*Franz-Josef Drüppel*

*Deputy Headmaster*





Mauritius-Gymnasium is a voluntary aided Catholic school. It is funded by a donation of the noble gentleman Moritz von Büren.

Moritz von Büren (1604-1661) was the last baron of Büren and benefactor of a college and a church: today's Mauritius-Gymnasium and Jesuit church. He was enthusiastic about Jesuit belief and their dedication to God.

In 1640, Moritz von Büren bequeathed his money to establish a college with an associated church. He spent the last 20 years of his life as a Jesuit in Büren.





Between 1719-1728 Johann C. Schlaun built the Jesuit College designed by Gottfried Laurenz Pictorius. In 1754, the Jesuits carried out the will of the founder Moritz von Büren and built the church.

After World War II, the Mauritius-Gymnasium of today was founded. It was headed by the Jesuits until 1981.

Today the Mauritius-Gymnasium still follows the Jesuit tradition, whose main features are:

- Responsibility for people and the environment
- Guidance on Christian Life
- Cultural openness
- Ability and motivation
- Creativity



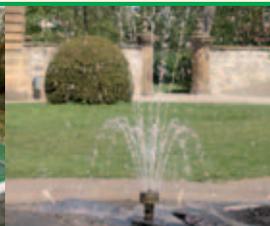


## ***Year 5 – Starting Mauritius-Gymnasium***

Our main concern is that the new students settle quickly, feel good at our school and cope with the transition from primary school to grammar school.

We offer:

- Small classes
- An afternoon to meet the new class mates before the summer holidays
- A class trip at the beginning of the school year
- Form teacher teams / pastoral system
- Year 10 tutors are responsible for looking after new pupils
- Social learning for one lesson per week
- Intensive learning of English in one extra lesson per week
- Basic education in Information Technology





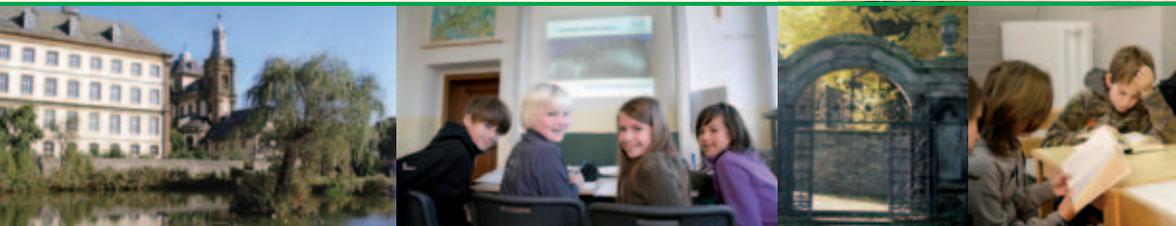
## ***Year 6 – Elective I***

The first decision has to be made in Year 6: “Which foreign language is the right one for me?”

We offer the chance to learn Latin or French.

We help to make the decision with:

- Taster lessons in Year 5
- Information for parents and students
- Individual advice at parent-teacher meetings





## ***Year 7 – Promotion of Interests***

Students' personal interests and strengths are important. We promote artistic talents and media skills through these groups:

- Music class
- Laptop class

A special highlight in Year 7 is building the sense of community of a class through sports and games on a skiing trip to South Tyrol.



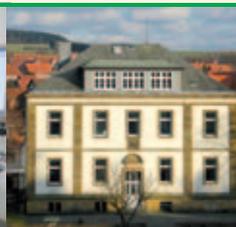


## ***Year 8 – Elective II***

What are you interested in? – In languages, science or social sciences?

In Years 8 and 9, individual decisions on subjects to study are made again.  
Subject choices are:

- French
- Technology
- Computer Science
- Contemporary History





## ***Year 9 – Preparation for the Upper Level***

We intensify the preparation for the future on the way to the upper level by:

- Revising „how-to-learn“ strategies
- Study and careers advice

We promote social responsibility through possible participation in:

- Peer mentor training
- Bus monitor training
- First aid course





### ***Individual Support***

We have systems in place to promote and support personal learning and achievement.

Individual learning is more than functional knowledge. Important components for us are:

- Promotion of social skills
- Systematic training of strategies
- Additional tutor lessons
- Additional offers by *magis*
- Study and careers advice





### *Interpersonal Skills*

“Mauritius” – this means more cooperation.

*Accepting responsibility for oneself and for classmates.*

Successful learning only happens when there is a positive atmosphere. This is already supported in Year 5 by a school trip, social learning and an extra PE lesson.

*Responsibility does not end at the classroom door.*

Our students can become peer mentors, bus monitors, first aiders or tutors.

*Responsibility beyond Mauritius-Gymnasium*

The students experience responsibility through their commitment to social facilities in Büren, project work for a hospital in Zambia or through “Aktion Tagwerk”.





## ***Strategies and Information Technology (IT) skills***

First of all our students learn these core skills in class.

To revise them, we offer our students:

- Systematic training “how to learn” from Year 5 onwards
- Basic education in computer knowledge and skills in Years 5 and 6
- Classes using laptops from Year 7 onwards
- Use of IT in all subjects





### **MINT**

The “MINT” subjects that we study closely at Mauritius-Gymnasium are **M**athematics, **I**nformation Technology, **N**atural Sciences and **T**echnology. We want to arouse curiosity for mathematical questions and phenomena of natural sciences, and we want to help them develop their own interest and talents concerning MINT subjects:

- Basic education in Computer Sciences (Years 5 and 6)
- Offer of specialisation: laptop class (Years 7-9)
- Mandatory elective subjects:  
Computer Science and Technology (Years 8 and 9)
- Competitions in Mathematics
- Advanced courses: Mathematics, Physics and Biology (Years 11 and 12)
- University courses in Physics and Chemistry





### ***Music Class***

Many children who attend Mauritius-Gymnasium learn an instrument in their free time. These students have the opportunity to specialise from Year 7 onwards by participating in a music class. This enables us to realise:

- Support of artistically talented students
- Strengthening of the development of their personality

### ***Laptop class***

From Year 7 onwards, interested pupils have the possibility of working in a laptop class that has the following goals:

- Development of IT skills
- Independent learning
- Project work in teams





### ***Religious orientation***

Mauritius-Gymnasium has its origin in the testament of Moritz von Büren. So it follows the Jesuit tradition.

We put this tradition into practice by:

- Regular church services
- Religious focus during Advent and Easter time
- Realizing Christian responsibility through "Aktion Tagwerk" and "Project Zambia"

At the same time, basic questions of one's own life and of living in a community are dealt with in Catholic and Protestant Religious Education.





## ***Study and Occupational Guidance***

Who am I? Where shall I go? What should I do after school? Students are encouraged to make decisions and think about their interests and develop these in different subjects. A personal exploration and career-finding folder keeps records of their development until A-levels.

Main focuses are:

- My strengths and weaknesses
- Self-assessment and external assessment
- What will I do after the lower and medium level of school?
- Which is the right profession for me and what do I need to study to get there?
- How can I find an internship?
- How do I apply for a job?

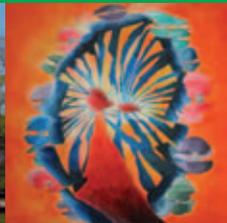




### *European School Mauritius-Gymnasium*

As a European school we prepare our students for living and working in a united Europe. Apart from the acquisition of foreign languages (English, French, Spanish and Latin), European issues play a vital role in regular classes. In addition, intercultural learning takes place within the framework of COMENIUS, such as:

- The chance to deal with linguistic and cultural diversity in Europe
- Preparation for the international employment market





### ***International Exchange***

Every year a lot of students of Mauritius-Gymnasium have the opportunity to get to know the wide world in the framework of school partnerships. During these exchanges, they are able to gain experiences in foreign culture by living with host families.

Our partner schools are in:

- Clermont-Ferrand in France (Year 8)
- Skwierzyna in Poland (Year 10)
- Girona in Spain (Year 10)
- Ignalina in Lithuania (Years 9 and 10)
- Montevideo in Uruguay (Year 10)





### **Organisation**

On the upper level (Years 11 and 12), pupils can choose between core (three lessons/week) and advanced courses (five lessons/ week). In core courses, basic knowledge is taught, whereas advanced courses teach in-depth knowledge.

The following areas are covered:

- Functional skills
- Independent learning and working
- Ability to evaluate and to solve problems
- Interpersonal skills and communication

In the first year of the upper level (Year 10) only core courses are given. Pupils choose two advanced courses from the first year for the following two years.





## ***Subjects offered***

The following subjects are offered at Mauritius-Gymnasium on the upper level:

- German, English, Mathematics
- French
- Spanish (new foreign language, 4 lessons/ week)
- Arts, Music
- Geography, History, Social Science, Philosophy, Pedagogy
- Religious Education, Physical Education
- Physics, Computer Science, Chemistry, Biology
- Extra lessons in English, German, Mathematics
- An alternative Music course, Literature





### ***Study and Career Guidance***

On the upper level the future becomes more and more important. Our school helps the students in numerous ways to decide which path to take in life:

- Two weeks work experience in the first year of the upper level
- Physics and Chemistry courses during at Paderborn University during school time
- Careers advice from the employment agency
- Job finding test
- Links with regional businesses
- Training in application / CV training
- Case studies and investigation into business
- Workshop "My life – My future"





### ***Aspirations and Hopes "My Life – My Future"***

In the second year of the upper level, one's own personality, the forthcoming decision about a future career and changes in life are the central points in the workshop "My Life – My Future: Communication and Key Qualifications".

Aspects of the workshop:

- Rhetoric
- Academic subjects, decisions and finances
- Preparation, realisation and evaluation of employment tests
- Preparations for job interviews
- Assessment centre





### *Individual Support*

Students are set individual targets to enhance their performance and learning is therefore personalised.

We support individual learning by:

- Encouraging participation in national competitions
- Promoting social skills (e.g. as first-aider)
- Offering musical activities (Big Band, String Orchestra, Brass Band)
- Offering language certificates (DELFL – French, TOEIC – English)
- Encouraging work in the web team





### **Project COMENIUS**

COMENIUS is a programme supported by the EU that promotes the cooperation of countries and schools in Europe. Mauritius-Gymnasium has been taking part in these projects since 2002.

Organisation of the project:

- Schools from 3-5 European countries
- Common, interlocked work on a self-chosen topic, e.g. "Developing an internet newspaper"
- Intensive communication via mail or digital working-platforms
- Student exchanges
- Previous / current partner countries: Spain, Ireland, Lithuania, France, Poland, United Kingdom
- Date of the exchange: first year of the upper level





### *International Exchange*

Exchange with the German school in Montevideo/ Uruguay Organisation:

- 2-3 students from Germany and Uruguay
- Stay in Montevideo for 8 weeks (July and August), stay in Büren for 8 weeks (January and February)
- Accomodation with host families
- Date of the exchange: first year of the upper level

Exchange with Instituto Sobrequés in Girona/ Spain:

- 20-25 students from Germany and Spain
- One week stay in Büren and Girona
- Accommodation with host families
- Collective project work
- Date of the exchange: first year of the upper level





### ***Study-Tours***

A trip which is associated to certain subjects of the upper level regularly takes place in the week before the autumn holidays.

Destinations in the past were for example:

- London
- Barcelona
- Prague
- Rome
- Munich
- Krakow

Geography and language as well as history, architecture and culture are the main focus of these week-long trips.





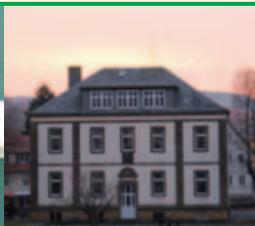
## *Advice and Aid*

Stress and worries are possible in everyday school life and pupils, parents and teachers will find support from our school psychologist. She offers free professional aid in order to avoid crises. She provides conversations and, if required, targeted intervention, as well as help for overcoming stress and for relaxation.

Reasons for her work could be:

- Stress with school marks
- Fears of failing
- Bullying

Another contact for our students is Martin Friemel, who is responsible for social welfare (he is based in the school cafeteria). He is a good listener and offers good advice whether your problem is trivial or serious.





The school cafeteria is a meeting point for our students.

In comfortable accommodation, we offer

- A kiosk with drinks, foods and goods for daily use at school
- Lunch with a variety of choices
- Different games (football, board games, etc.)

In the newly designed canteen, the students can have a hot lunch.

Both rooms are available for:

- One-off lessons
- Parent-teacher conferences
- Class reunions
- Screenings





## *Kolleg Independent Learning Centre/ Library*

The Kolleg includes the independent learning centre and the library. In the independent learning centre, pupils have the chance to research, prepare and learn things for school and competitions on their own. The resources available are:

- Group and individual working zones
- Computers with internet access and learning software
- Textbooks and encyclopaedias
- Printers and copier

In the school library, students can relax and browse. Children's books, books for young people and specialised books from our stock can also be read here as well as books from the official Catholic library and the mobile library.





The foundation MAGIS, founded in 2005, says in its foundation document that its purpose is to support the pupils of Mauritius-Gymnasium. To achieve this aim there is a range of opportunities for pupils:



- Pastoral support
- Challenging gifted and talented pupils beyond their normal lessons, for example, drama clubs or introduction to architecture

More detailed information about the courses can be found in the Kolleg and on the school homepage.





## Supervision during midday / CurA

Due to the reduction of time at grammar school to eight years, and the increased number of lessons because of this, there are extra lessons in the afternoon on the medium level. The newly founded club CURA has developed a system to accommodate the demand for supervision during midday and afternoon.



Organisation:

- Possibility of lunch between 12.15 and 2 pm
- Supervision from 2 pm to 3 pm or 4 pm
- Choice between different types of supervision, e.g. homework supervision, creative activities, relaxation / yoga, or sports

Each of these sessions lasts for one hour.





### Alumni – „Verein ehem. Mauritaner in Büren e.V.“



The Alumni club was founded in 1991 and has about 1,200 members today. The club's aim is to help former students to keep in contact with former classmates and other students and to strengthen this relationship. Twice a year, the club publishes the newsletter "Context", which is about alumni, teachers and students. Furthermore, an alumni database is kept so that class reunions can be arranged easily. The club also supports the school and offers financial support to students.

For further information you can visit the website [www.mauritaner.de](http://www.mauritaner.de)





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