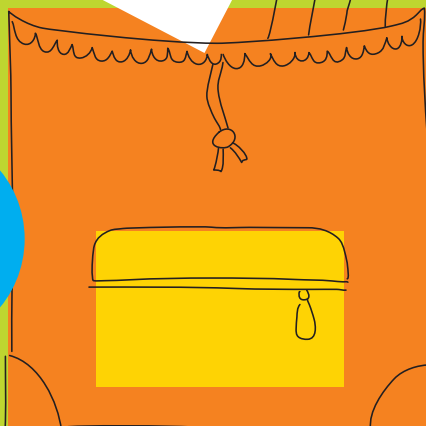
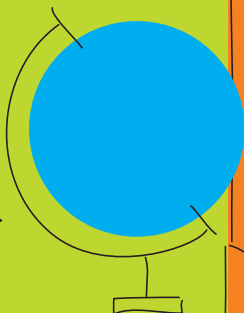
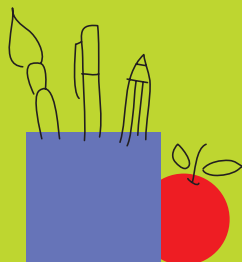
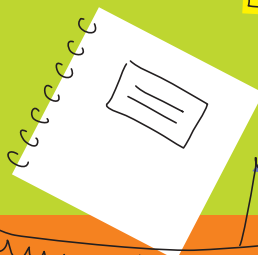
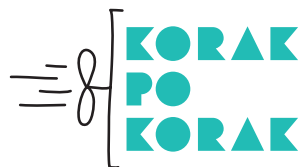


**KORAK
PO
KORAK**
pučka otvoreno učilište





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ARTICLE 28

OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

'Every child has the right to compulsory
and free of charge elementary education.'

USEFUL INFORMATION:

School web site:

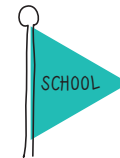
Name of the teacher assigned to your child's class:

School contact:

All children have the right to education. This refers to all children who are residing in the Republic of Croatia, regardless of their citizenship.

All children have the right to attend elementary and high school, have the right to preparatory teaching lessons in the Croatian language and to supplementary classes aimed at mastering particular subjects.

DO CHILDREN HAVE TO ATTEND SCHOOL?



YES. All children who have turned six years of age by 1 April of the current year have to start attending school in September that year. All children have to go to school until the age of 15. Children's parents or guardians are responsible for making sure that children attend school.

If my child is older than six and has never attended school

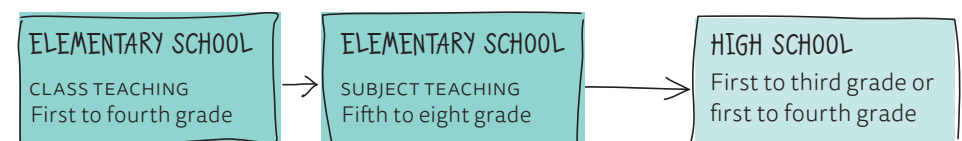
Before enrolment, the child needs to have an exam so that an expert committee can determine the child's psychophysical condition and give you a confirmation on the child's readiness for school. You do not need to collect documents for the child's enrolment into first grade (you can provide a birth certificate in case you have one, or social security number, in case you have been awarded one). In the case your child has certain difficulties and needs special help or special forms of teaching, you need to collect medical documentation.

If my child has already attended school in some other country

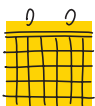
If your child has already attended school, it would be useful to provide, at the school enrolment, school certificates, if you have them, information about vaccination and most recent information about the child's health.

If my child is older than 15 and has not finished elementary school

Children who are older than 15 and have not finished elementary school can attend school for adults. Elementary school for adults is free of charge.

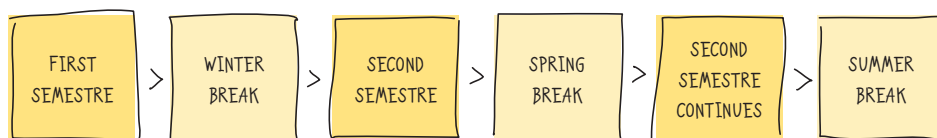


IN WHAT WAY IS THE SCHOOL YEAR ORGANIZED?



Classes start at the beginning of September and finish in mid-June. Children attend school for 175 days.

The school year is divided into two semesters. During one school year, there are three school breaks when children do not go to school (in winter, spring and during summer). Moreover, schools are closed for state and religious holidays. Duration of a semester, i.e. school break, is announced before the start of that school year.



HOLIDAYS



1 Jan	New Year	5 Aug	Day of Victory and Homeland Thanksgiving
6 Jan	Epiphany	15 Aug	Assumption of Mary
CHANGEABLE	Easter	8 Oct	Independence Day
CHANGEABLE	Easter Monday	1 Nov	All Saints Day
1 May	Labour Day	25 Dec	Christmas
CHANGEABLE	Corpus Christi	26 Dec	Saint Stephen's Day
22 Jun	Day of Antifascist Struggle		
25 Jun	Statehood Day		

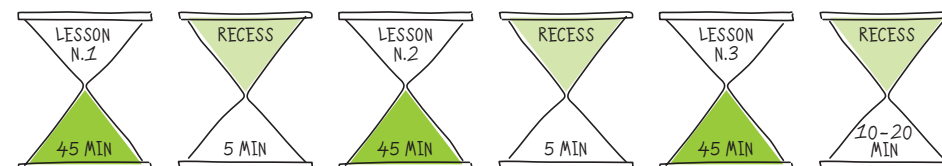
IN WHAT WAY ARE CLASSES ORGANIZED IN SCHOOL?



Classes are organized in school from Monday to Friday. In some schools, children go to school only in the morning, and in other schools they go to school in the morning one week and in the afternoon the next week.



In school, the child will receive a timetable showing when the classes start and finish for each day of the week. The duration of one teaching lesson is 45 minutes. After each teaching lesson, children have a 5-minute break, and once during the day they have a 10 – 20 minute recess.

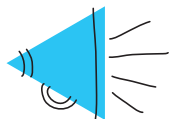


WHAT IF MY CHILD LIVES FAR AWAY FROM SCHOOL?



Children are usually enrolled into the school that is closest to their place of living. Transportation is organized for those students attending the first to the fourth grade who live more than three kilometres away from school and for students attending the fifth to the eighth grade who live more than five kilometres away.

HOW WILL MY CHILD LEARN THE CROATIAN LANGUAGE?



When the child is enrolled into school, school employees will talk to him/her to determine if the child has a sufficient knowledge of the Croatian language.

If the child does not know Croatian, he/she will be included into Croatian language learning lessons.

Croatian language learning lessons are called PREPARATORY CLASSES AND ARE FREE OF CHARGE.

How long does learning of the Croatian language last?

Preparatory classes of the Croatian language last for 70 hours. In case the child does not master the Croatian language at a satisfactory level after these 70 hours, learning of the Croatian language will be prolonged for another 70 hours. Children are NOT BEING GRADED while attending the preparatory classes.

How is learning of the Croatian language organized?

Language learning is differently organized in different schools. The child usually learns the Croatian language for 1-2 hours every day.

What happens when my child has learned the Croatian language?

When the child has learned the Croatian language, he/she has the right to attend classes during which he/she will still receive help in learning the language. Such help in learning is called supplementary teaching. Supplementary teaching is organized in all subjects and for all students who need help in learning. After the overall number of 140 hours of Croatian language learning, children will, the same as all other children, receive grades during and at the end of the school year.

WHAT WILL MY CHILDREN LEARN IN SCHOOL?



FIRST TO EIGHT GRADE:

- ☐ Croatian language
- ☐ art
- ☐ music
- ☐ mathematics
- ☐ biology
- ☐ physical education
- ☐ foreign language

+

FIFTH TO EIGHT GRADE:

- ☐ history
- ☐ geography
- ☐ technical education

+

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES:

- ☐ chemistry
- ☐ physics

+

- ☐ computer science
- ☐ foreign language
- ☐ religious instruction

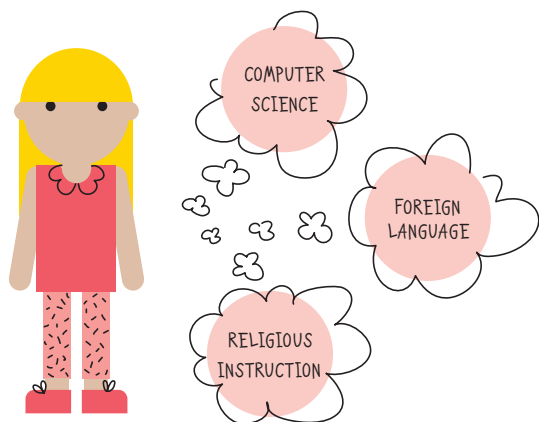
COMPULSORY
SUBJECTS

ELECTIVE
SUBJECTS



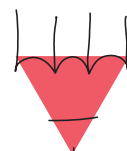
Elective subjects

Next to compulsory, your child can also choose in school some elective subjects. These are usually computer science, foreign languages and religious instruction. Students choose elective subjects by themselves, but you can help them in that. Students from the fifth to the eight grade can choose the maximum of three electives per school year. If a student chooses an elective subject at the beginning of the school year, he/she must attend classes until the end of the year. **Elective subjects are graded**, just like compulsory subjects.



Religious instruction

As already written above, religious instruction is also offered in schools as an elective subject. Due to a large number of Catholics in Croatia, this is almost exclusively education in Catholicism. However, every parent or guardian of a child who is younger than 15 has the right to express interest in organizing religious instruction in line with their religious denomination, in a written statement to the school principal. If within one generation of students, seven or more children, i.e. parents, express such a need, the school is obliged to organize for them religious instruction in line with their religious denomination.



Extracurricular activities

Every school organizes extracurricular activities. They take place in school, but after regular classes. Every child can freely choose extracurricular activities they are most interested in. For example, there are drama groups, literary groups, journalism groups, gymnastics, different sports, etc. **Extracurricular activities are not graded.**



Supplementary lessons

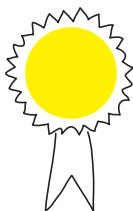
It sometimes happens that some children, during regular classes, have difficulties in acquiring certain knowledge. They need additional help in order to make successful progress. For this reason, every school organizes supplementary lessons in particular subjects. A student can attend supplementary lessons only once, occasionally or continually throughout an extended period of time. The child's class-teacher, together with the child, will decide whether, when, for how long and in what subjects the child should be included in supplementary lessons. Parents can also suggest for a child to attend supplementary lessons if they believe that the child needs this kind of support.



Additional lessons

Additional lessons are organized for those students who are particularly interested in a certain subject. During these lessons, children can learn more than during regular classes held in that subject. During additional lessons, students can also prepare for competitions, for example school or city-level competitions in mathematics.

HOW ARE STUDENTS GRADED?



Since the beginning until the end of school education, students are graded with numbers from 1 (fail) to 5 (excellent). Except for numerical grading, teachers also make written notes, i.e. comments, for each child on the child's learning abilities, his/her strengths and challenges. Grades are entered into e-journals that you and your child can access at any moment via Internet and with the use of a username and password. At the end of each semester and school year, final grades are given for every subject and students receive final certificates.

SHOULD MY CHILD BRING FOOD TO SCHOOL?



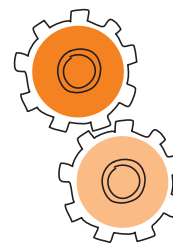
In every school in Croatia, meals are organized for children. In some schools, children only eat snacks (cold meals), while in some they also eat lunch (warm meals). The rights of asylum-seeking and asylum-granted children differ from school to school and from city to city. In some schools, your child has the right to a free meal, while in other schools parents pay one part of the meal costs and the state or the city pay the other part of your child's meal costs.

WHAT IF MY CHILD DOES NOT EAT SOME FOODS?



If your child is allergic to some foods or does not eat that food for religious or other reasons, feel free to inform the teacher about this who will make sure your child is provided with adequate food.

WHO WORKS IN THE SCHOOL?



TEACHER – from first to fourth grade of elementary school, all subjects except for foreign languages and religious instruction (and music in fourth grade) are taught by class teachers, while in higher grades each subject is taught by a separate teacher.

TEACHER ASSIGNED TO THE CLASS – each class from the fifth to the eighth grade is assigned a teacher who takes care of students in his/her class. The teacher cooperates with parents (calls parent-teacher meetings, holds individual consultations with parents, gives information on the progress and success of children).

EMPLOYEES OF THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE – schools also have their professional service employees. These are usually pedagogues, psychologists, special needs teachers and speech and language therapists. They provide support to and cooperate with all other school employees, but also work directly with children and parents.

PRINCIPAL – manages the school.

OTHER STAFF – cleaners, handymen, cooks.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE PROBLEMS WITH MY CHILD?



If you have any problem, question or dilemma, feel free to speak to the teacher assigned to your child's class. There are also other professionals in school whose duty is to be at parents' and students' disposal.

HIGH-SCHOOL



After finishing elementary school, your child can enrol into high-school.

High-schools can be:

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS – the program lasts for four years and ends by taking final exams. Grammar schools are usually attended by children who wish to continue their education at the University.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS – the program lasts for three to five years and ends with writing and defending the final thesis.

ART SCHOOLS – the program lasts for three to five years and ends with writing/making and defending the final thesis.

After finishing the vocational or art school, students gain a certain vocation and enter the labour market.

In certain grammar schools, it is possible to attend a part of school subjects in one of the three languages: English, German or French. In these schools, textbooks in Croatian as well as in foreign languages are used. Moreover, a part of the classes are held in the foreign language.

WHAT IS MY ROLE IN MY CHILD'S SCHOOLING?



In case your child is attending class teaching (from first to fourth grade), it is important that you accompany the child to school and that you wait for him/her in front of the school after the classes end. If you are not able to come, make sure some other ADULT person whom you trust does this and inform the teacher about it.

ATTEND PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS

Parents are obliged to attend parent-teacher meetings organized by your child's class teacher. If you do not attend at least one parent-teacher meeting per semester, the school has the right and obligation to call social services.

ENCOURAGE CURIOSITY

Use the time that you spend with your child to encourage, through everyday activities, the child's curiosity for the new language, mathematics, etc. For example, comment on newspaper articles, TV shows, commercials, go together to the store, etc.

HELP YOUR CHILD TO GET ORGANIZED

Help your child to get organized, regardless of the fact that he/she sometimes will not have his/her own space for studying. Particularly at the beginning, make sure your child has all necessary materials at hand, help him/her set the time for writing homework or studying, and make sure he/she does this on time and regularly.

DO NOT
WRITE YOUR
CHILD'S
HOMEWORK

SHOW INTEREST

BEATING
IS NOT AN
EDUCATIONAL
METHOD

Parents are expected to help children in learning, and the child is expected to develop independence and responsibility for his/her obligations. For this reason, do not write, for example, homework instead of your child, but you can ask him/her questions that would lead him/her to the possible answer and better understanding.

Show interest in what your child does in school, ask him/her what he/she had learned, what was interesting and why. This will help him/her feel more confident and motivated.

It is also important to know that every form of physical punishment of children is forbidden in Croatia by law, and that beating is neither considered an educational method nor is tolerated.