

## Dainava school in Alytus (Alytaus Dainavos mokykla)

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Grammar school (elementary school preparing for junior high school) Dainava in Alytus is a school with a large tradition, already 50 years old. It has 320 students in grades 1-8. The school employs 36 qualified teachers who constantly work for the success of students. The school teaches Lithuanian, mathematics, foreign languages, information technology, science and others. In Dainava, students can learn many foreign languages - English, German, Russian and French.

Teachers are aware that in the 21st century, not only knowledge, but also skills of critical thinking, creativity, communication and collaboration are important for students. In the Information Technology Era, students are able to find information online very quickly, so it is more important to know how to interpret, understand and choose what is most important.

Learning the strengths of students to help them discover what motivates them to succeed is a very important part of teachers' work. Teachers organize the educational process in a very creative and attractive way, enriching it with project classes, non-traditional lessons and using various spaces for learning both at school and in the city.

The Alytus Dainava Junior High School also offers students attractive informal education programs. Students take part in extracurricular activities: nature, checkers, chess and young journalists. Realizing that students spend a lot of time at computers, the school provides them with the opportunity to spend their free time actively and play sports in the football, tennis and other team games sections. Many members of the Alytus Dainava school community demonstrate to students the importance of lifelong learning.

To interest a modern student in their own topic, it is necessary to constantly update knowledge in the field of information technology, share with both teachers at school and from other countries, best practices to learn about different teaching methods.

Dainava Junior High School has been working on developing students' learning skills for two years. The goal of the school is to teach children to learn, i.e. to set goals, plan time, ask for help, cooperate with teachers and students, identify progress. Teachers have repeatedly deepened their knowledge in this field, used various techniques (reading strategies, mind mapping techniques, etc.), cooperated with parents and shared this experience with colleagues from other countries.

Dainava Junior High School is working on implementing reading habits and has experience in implementing a project whose goal was to encourage students to read books ("Literary Swings"), as well as another one aimed to interest students in global problems (the international project "Global Education Goes Local"), another motivational program for learning foreign languages (CLILiG @ Litauen, eTwinning projects).

The school monitors students' progress and tries to make them stand out for learning and reading books, thus emphasizing the importance of this topic.

Active teachers with experience in project management work at the school. The project will be attended by a school head who has completed educational leadership at ISM and has many years of experience in project management. The German teacher who will be responsible for the implementation of the project also completed her Leadership education at ISM at the University of KTU, where she obtained qualifications for project management and has experience in it. Project participants from school can share their experience with others. Students are also open to communication with colleagues from other countries.

In summary, the Dainava junior high school in Alyus wants to be a modern, innovative school offering students high-quality education, promoting intercultural learning, tolerance and respect for European history. We will bring added value to the project because we have already deepened our students' learning to acquire reading competences and are constantly looking for ways to develop a culture of reading books.