



Parents' Information Promotion to Secondary School

Dear Parents,

After attending primary school, your child's entry to secondary school is now approaching. The question here is, in which secondary school type – in Realschule or in Sekundarschule – can your child be at best supported.

This brochure would like to give you some basic information about the secondary school.

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June 2003

The Secondary School Level

The secondary school level of the public school follows after 6th grade primary school and lasts for three years. It is divided into Realschule and Sekundarschule as well as small class (Kleinklasse). The secondary school level prepares pupils for vocational training or attendance of a school for further education, and for management of one's daily life. The division of the secondary school level helps pupils, with their talents and the educational requirements, to facilitate an appropriate education. The differences of the three school types consist in the demands of intellectual skills, in the manner of fostering elementary education, in learning competence and performance.

Realschule

The Realschule imparts a comprehensive basic education, promotes accessible learning and strengthens the confidence of youth in their performance skill. It gives a broad assisted general education in the linguistic, mathematical, natural scientific and musical field. It prepares a working life for manual, industrial-commercial and service-oriented occupations.

Sekundarschule

The Sekundarschule is suitable for pupils who can show a good school performance, endurance, a strong willingness to learn and some interests. It imparts a basic education with high requirements in linguistic, mathematical, natural scientific and musical orientation. It forms the basis for apprenticeships with or without vocational school-leaving exam (Berufsmaturität) as well as for schools of further education.

Promotion Procedures

The school board of the secondary school level will decide whether a child can enroll in Realschule or Sekundarschule after sixth grade. The following factors are decisive:

- a) the recommendation of the teachers of the sixth primary grade
- b) the marks of the 6th primary grade (report card 1st semester as well as the performance level at the time of enrollment).

As a rule, the appraisal interview with the teacher will take place, by then, in the first semester of the sixth grade. In March/April, in any case, there will be a discussion about the appraisal. The teacher will present to the parents and the legal guardians, respectively, the appraisal proposal.

If the parents do not agree with the appraisal proposal, they will get a chance to make a statement to the appointed school authorities. This statement will be a further basis for the decision to be made by the school board of the secondary school level.

After the appraisal decision, an appeal of which can be brought to the district school board, the child will enter the corresponding class of the secondary school. The local schools can prescribe a probationary period as additional criterion for promotion. This will last for ten weeks.

Aids to Decision-making

The criteria for promotion to Realklasse or Sekundarklasse are, among other things, a grasp of things, capabilities, an attitude to work, a motivation as well as endurance. The marks are, as always, an important indicator. The results and opinions are

discussed in mutual talks between the teacher and the parents. The young people can be included in the discussion.

Change of Secondary School Type

Realschule pupils can attend first year Sekundarschule after one year, when they have a especially good school performance. If an extraordinary good performance is justified, promotion after second year Realklasse to second year Sekundarklasse will also be possible.

If Sekundarschule pupils fail to meet the requirements of the class, they will go to the corresponding Realklasse. The transfer will proceed according to the regulation on transferring to another school and the regulation on promotion of the secondary school level.

Recommendation to a Small Class

In the small class (Kleinklasse) pupils with school problems are especially supported according to their needs.

A special procedure is in force for the transfer to a small class. Parents or the teacher are entitled to apply; besides that a report of the School Psychological Service is to be obtained. The school board is responsible for the decision, the Board of Education for an appeal case. Transferring to the small class can also take place during the school year. The school board will review annually, if returning to the regular class is possible.