

MHG NEWSLETTER

ÕA 24/25

3. SEPT 2024

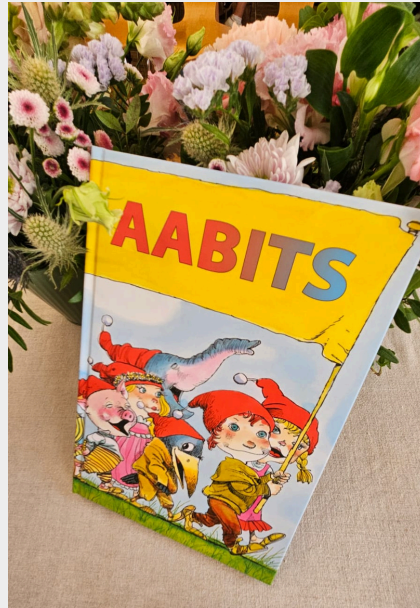
NO. 1



BIRTHDAYS

7. 09 Erika Puusemp
7. 09 Eva Ingerpuu-
Rümmel
11. 09 Kaia-Maria Ellik

HEAD OF SCHOOL'S WELCOME ON 1. SEPTEMBER



With a sunny, warm summer, we have rested and gathered energy for the new school year. Today is the day of happy reunions!

The keywords of the school peace agreement signed today in Rakvere are:

- we notice and listen, acknowledge;
- let's stick together, help each other;
- we are involved in school life, we cooperate;
- we value learning and teaching;
- we support mental and physical health;
- we create and maintain a safe school environment.

Our school is doing quite well with these goals. This is proven, for example, by the results of the satisfaction survey conducted by the Ministry of Education and Research in spring and winter.

HEAD OF SCHOOL'S WELCOME ON 1. SEPTEMBER

The surveyed 4th, 8th and 11th-grade students, parents and teachers are satisfied with our school and the school's reputation; the answers emphasized good relations with both classmates and teachers. Our students dare to ask questions, they are self-directed and achievers, they love sports activities. Study discipline, study environment and study methods were also highlighted as positive. Areas of development are teaching digital skills and making sense of teaching. Satisfaction with school meals and facilities, i.e., the physical learning environment, is lower than the Estonian average.

The lack of space is an eternal issue at our school because when teaching began in our current school building in 1922, the school was cramped, and students studied in several shifts. There have been times when we studied in as many as three shifts.

Solving the lack of space with an extension has been a topic of discussion in our school's development documents for decades. Unfortunately, the school's owner has had to repair the school buildings, which are in even worse condition. Fixing the physical environment of Tartu schools needs millions and will take decades at the current pace. However, the good news is that the city government has initiated a detailed plan for the additional building of Kooli 14 in our school garden.

If, in the last two academic years, we could use the premises rented from the university, Näituse 13a, now the university itself needs these premises, and our school's teaching will take place partly in the school building at Puiestee 62. How can the school's unity be maintained when some students and teachers work several kilometres away? How can we still be in the same value space? This is one of our biggest challenges in the new academic year.

The topic of school culture was an important point of discussion when formulating the goals for the beginning academic year: maintaining the unity of the school, the opportunity and courage to express one's opinion, and tolerating different opinions. I want our freedom of thought and speech to be dignified. School culture is also how we behave, dress, speak, and stick to agreements, and what our traditions are.

HEAD OF SCHOOL'S WELCOME ON 1. SEPTEMBER

In a recent interview, educational psychologist Grete Arro emphasizes that a calm environment is best for keeping attention and solving learning tasks because stimuli unrelated to the learning task do not allow the brain to focus. He emphasizes that the best tasks require persistence because the brain only learns to be clever by solving, not by copying. So before you look at the guide, try to find the solution yourself.

Persistence in bringing efforts into learning! Happy new school year!

Ene Tannberg



NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

On 29 August, the new 10th-grade students met in the school building to get to know each other, their homeroom teachers and the support team. Thank you, homeroom teachers: Laura Ermel, Irina Guljavina, Jörgen Metsik, Stiina Lõhmus and Aile Einola! Our support team members, Regita Saksing, Gerli Puis, Sirli Heil, Pille Markov, and Kaija Juhkam, carried out inspiring bonding activities. Our Physical Education teachers, Age Raimets and Jannar Tähepõld, conducted sports activities. This time, the 11th-graders had a significant role in introducing hobby groups, conducting ice-breaker games and organizing competitions. Thank you, Alide Kristine Alba, Lisett Pullerits, Oskar Soomre, Rando Jaaksoo, Joosep Lumi, Uku Märt Raasik, Uku Nael and the debate instructor Andreas Põšnograjev!



10a



10b



10c

NOTICED IN SUMMER

- , Miina Härma Gümnaasium was recognized **as the best school in the Estonian Middle School Debate Championships** in the 2023/2024 academic year. Andreas Pyšnograjev supervised the debate round.
- **Sherkhan Torekhanov** (11DP) participated in the International Mathematics Olympiad as part of the Estonian team.
- **Bamdad Khoshkhah** (9e) participated in the European Junior Informatics Olympiad as a member of the Estonian team.
- **Kaia Oder** (8b) participated in the competition "Eesti otsib astronauti" held in southern France, where a weightless parabolic flight was tried.
- **Mart Väljamäe** (11b) became the world champion in model flying with free flight models at the junior world championship held in North Macedonia.
- **Adele Mikelsaar** (9b) participated in the discussion at Paide Arvamusfestival "Influencer or engineer? ABC of career choice".
- **Oliver Mäesalu** (9a) won the gold medal in the 100m run at the U16 Baltic Championships in Lithuania with a time of 11:32.
- **Erin Dunaway** (12DP) and **Katariina Pöder** (12b) brought silver medals to Estonia from the Agility Junior World Championships from Belgium. The team leaders were MHG alumni **Eliise Pöder** and **Karen Dunaway**.
- Härma students brought home several medals from the international children's games. **Edith Eelmäe** (9b) won a bronze medal in the 80m hurdles and a silver medal in the 4x100m relay. **Gregor Laht** (9a) won a silver medal in the youth relay.
- **Taniel Mehine** (5b) became the junior world champion in disc golf.
- At the opening ceremony of the University of Tartu, the 1st year student of the Faculty of Law, **Maret Hallik** (graduate of 2024), gave a speech on behalf of the students.
- Twenty young Estonians received the **Young Student Scholarship of the President of the Republic** to study abroad, including MHG alumni **Joosep Toom** (graduate of 2023) and **Ats Johannes Kaup** (graduate of 2024). Joosep is going to Denmark to study engineering, and Ats Amsterdam will study human geography and urban planning.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 13 September – **hobby clubs information day.**
- 17 September - at 18:00, whole-school parents meeting in Aula (held in Estonian), class meetings; 7a NET climbing in the sports hall.
- 18–19 September – 6a in Meenikunno borg.
- 18 September – 12th-grade study trip to Tammsaare-lands.
- 20 September - Fox Day.
- 24 September – 5a and 5b on a study program in Taevaskoja.
- **26 September - Tamme Relay Race.**
- 27 September– 4. October - visit of the Bielefeld school.



GOALS OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR

2024/2025. goals of the academic year:

1. SCHOOL CULTURE

- 1.1 Maintaining the unity of the school family.
- 1.2 Activities that develop school culture.
- 1.3 Adaptation to the new spatial arrangement.

2. TEACHER'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2.1 Study circles for teaching approaches to learning and providing effective student feedback.
- 2.2 Development discussions with the immediate manager.

3. CONSCIOUSLY LEARNING STUDENT

- 3.1 Development of approaches to learning in subject classes (including digital competencies).
- 3.2 Development of approaches to learning feedback questionnaires and impact analysis.



EDUCATIONAL COUNSELLORS

Regita Saksing

Support team leader, student advisor and
SEN coordinator (10th-12th grade),
UPT coordinator,
career counsellor

Room 110A

Phone: 521 9119

Stuudium: Regita Saksing

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The student counsellor supports the mental well-being of secondary school students, communication and adjustment difficulties, preventing and helping to solve learning difficulties, and assisting in making future plans. The counsellor also advises parents, homeroom teachers, and subject teachers and, if necessary, guides them in establishing contacts with specialists outside the school.

Contact a student counsellor if:

- you feel excessive anxiety, tension or low mood;
- you are worried about your thoughts, feelings or health;
- you find it difficult to fit in or make friends;
- you have difficult relationships with some of your loved ones;
- you are worried about your family member, friend or fellow student;
- you feel that your wishes, needs and activities are not valued;
- you are stuck behind your fears or low self-esteem;
- you can't find enough motivation;
- it is difficult for you to plan your time;
- you worry about coping with your studies;
- you want to develop or improve your study, collaboration or communication skills;
- you want guidance in making plans for your future;
- you need help coping with the crisis.

EDUCATIONAL COUNSELLORS

Kaija Juhkam

Social pedagogue and SEN coordinator
(grades 1–4),

member of the KiVa team

Room: next to the school nurse's office

Phone: 736 1924

Stuudium: Kaija Juhkam

e-mail: kaija.juhkam@mhg.tartu.ee



A social pedagogue deals with social problems at school (coping in different social environments/situations, failure at school, conflicts with peers and adults, etc.) and their prevention. The social pedagogue also develops students' communication skills and social competence. The tasks of the social pedagogue also include individual work with the student, the student's family members, collaboration with the school's educational support staff, and members of the student's network outside the school to support the student's mental and physical development.

Contact a social pedagogue if:

- you have difficulties creating and maintaining friendships;
- you need help developing social skills;
- if you have concerns related to your studies;
- you have got into a conflict, and you need help finding a solution;
- as a parent or teacher, you want advice or support in supporting a student;
- As a teacher, you want to conduct social skills classes for your class.

EDUCATIONAL COUNSELLORS

Gerli Puis

Social pedagogue and SEN coordinator

5th-9th grade,

KiVa team leader

Room: by the school lockers

Phone: 5426 0520

Stuudium: Gerli Puis

E-mail: gerli.puis@mhg.tartu.ee



A social pedagogue deals with social problems at school (coping in different social environments/situations, failure at school, conflicts with peers and adults, etc.) and their prevention. The tasks of the social pedagogue include individual work with the student, the student's family members, cooperation with the school's support network and members of the student's network outside the school to support the student's mental and physical development.

Contact a social pedagogue if:

- you have concerns about your mental health (thoughts, feelings, behavior);
- you have difficulty creating and maintaining friendships;
- need help teaching social skills;
- you have study-related concerns;
- you have got into a conflict and you need help finding a solution;
- you feel like you need help finding motivation.

The head of the Kiva team is involved in the development and coordination of the work of the KiVa program in the elementary school.

Contact the KiVa team if you suspect that your child is being bullied or if you have reason to believe that he is bullying others. Please contact the Kiva team so that what is happening can be dealt with as early and efficiently as possible! The KiVa team is trained to solve bullying cases using effective intervention models.

EDUCATIONAL COUNSELLORS

Pille Markov

School psychologist

Room: next to the school nurse's office

Phone: 736 1924

Stuudium: Pille Markov

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A school psychologist is a mental health professional who helps students, parents, and teachers. Her duties include assessing the student's psychological development, advising the student on coping with problems related to personal life, studies, and mental health, and preventing mental health problems at school.

Contact a school psychologist if:

- you feel anxious, depressed;
- you need support regarding self-esteem or self-image;
- would you like help in forming study motivation and study habits;
- you have difficulties with stress, time or self-management;
- you have difficulty dealing with your emotions;
- you have problems or conflicts related to relationships;
- you need help getting out of a crisis situation.

EDUCATIONAL COUNSELLORS

Sirli Heil

Special education teacher

Room 210

Stuudium: Sirli Heil

E-mail: sirli.heil@mhg.tartu.ee



The special pedagogue's task is to assess the student's level of development and learning skills, find factors affecting the student's development, and offer individual support based on them. A special education teacher focuses on individuality and adapts his work to the specific student. The special education teacher works closely with other members of the support team in the school, as well as class and subject teachers, to ensure that the student has affordable learning opportunities.

Contact a special educator if:

- you feel that the study is not up to you (too easy or too difficult);
- you need adaptations to study;
- absent for a longer period;
- you need an individual study plan;
- you want counseling or support as a parent.