

# School Life

## School System

Small children can go to **kindergarten** since they are 3 years old. When they are younger, they can also be in **nursery for babies**, but it is not popular and not many of them attend nurseries here in the Czech Republic. Although mothers are allowed to be on maternity leave for 3 years, some of them go to work earlier and they need place where their child can spend time.



Nursery for babies

Children have to go to kindergarten one year before they attend primary school to learn some important abilities for following studies (for example numbers, ect.).



When they are 6 years old they have to go to **primary school** (age 6-15), which lasts for 9 years. When students are talented they can do entrance tests and after 5 years at primary school they continue their

## Kindergarten

studies at **grammar school** (that is where we are studying). Grammar school is for 8 years (age of 11 - 19). In grammar school we study many subjects in details so it is more difficult and it also prepares students for university.



Primary school

The other pupils stay at primary school until they are 15 and then they have lots of chances where to go. Their choices depend on their abilities and interests. They study in the **secondary/high school** is for 4 years. Then if they pass the leaving exam they can carry on studying at **university**. It takes different number of years (according to the type of university – 3 years for the Bachelor degree, 4, 5, 6 years for the Master degree).



Our grammar school



Chemical high school

All types of schools are **state** or **private** (but most schools are state). The difference is that in private school you have to pay school fees, in contrast to state school. But when you study very hard and have the best results you get remission of paying fees. Some people and students say, that studying at private school is easier and have not the same level (they mean lower level) ...

For the ones who are mentally handicapped we have **special schools** where teachers have less pupils in a class and can give them more attention.



Building high school

### Compulsory

Students have to go to school at least for **9 years**.

Teachers evaluate (mark) us during the year so we write tests and do exams.

At primary and secondary schools we have no exam period. After each topic we write a test - so during each week we are write

at least one test. Teachers give us marks.

The **marks** are numbers from **1** to **5**. One is the best and five is the worst. In the

end of high/secondary school we have to sit an important exam called **Maturita exam** (oral and written tests, 4 subjects) and after that we can go to university. Here the school year is divided into 2 terms. Each of them is finished with an exam period. There we get marks from **A** to **E** (A is the best).



University

### Projects

**Our school** participates in lots of projects so students have lots of opportunities to improve knowledge of their interests. We have also chances to go abroad with our teachers and take part in some students' exchanges. There are much more projects which students can choose on their own without organisation at school.

Projects depend on individual school.

## Typical school day

Our school day starts at **8 o'clock**. Most Czech schools start at this time. Each lesson lasts **45 minutes**. We have breaks between lessons. Our normal break lasts **10 minutes** but 1 break in the morning lasts **20 minutes**. We have usually 6 lessons so we end at half past 1 and sometimes we have also afternoon lessons until 4 pm.

Our rules at school are not too strict - so during some lessons we can use notebooks to make notes. Of course, it is forbidden to eat during lessons but we can drink (we cannot be noisy). Also in the Czech Republic we do not wear uniforms at school.

## **Subjects:**

Students at primary schools learn: Maths, Czech, Science, P.E., Music, Art; since 3rd grade it is added English; since 7th grade it is added: Geography, History, Biology, Physics, ICT, another language (German/ French/ Russian...it depends on school). Because of the communism, religion was not prospering here and the same it is now. We have no subject as Religion and there is huge amount of atheists here.

## **Activities after day at school**

After school we have lots of choices what we can do. Some schools (mostly primary schools) have own free time activities (like athletic, sports, music, art, ect.). Higher schools have only some more languages or some sports, but it depends on schools.

Relatively a lot of students play some instrument, because they visit School of art.



School of art