

Bringing up successful, healthy children

The German Section of Taipei European School invites you to experience firsthand how children thrive in international learning environment at annual Open House Event

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More and more professionals are moving abroad with their families, but finding the right school for their children is essential for them to be completely involved in their responsibilities. Growing up in a foreign country for sure doesn't mean that your children have to give up learning their mother tongue or any foreign languages.

Luckily, Taipei has many options to enable your children to learn and progress in a new environment. The Taipei European School (TES, 台北歐洲學校) offers a unique opportunity to fine tune your mother tongue or stimulate interest in a new language and culture. The main strength of school's German Section (Deutschen Sektion) in particular is that the teachers have more time and resources to give much more personal attention to each pupil, and the level of German spoken there is really bilingual.

German School Abroad

The TES German Section is indeed considered an official "German school abroad," meaning that it is designed to cater for the needs of Germans who are working abroad and want their children to have a German education.

"The German schools abroad are considered as the lighthouses of the German education system because they are organized as private schools with a lot of flexibility to organize classes to the best possible and means," Emmanuel Fritzen, head of the German Section, told The China Post.

Supervised by the German Federal Foreign Office, the Central Agency for Schools Abroad (ZfA) promotes and advises German schools abroad, and also organizes programs which second teachers to the state education systems in partner countries with the support of its specialist advisers and coordinators.

"Individual learning is one of our specificities," Fritzen said. "Every single student



gets individual assignments which will be completed on their own, in small or even bigger groups with a lot of fun and a sense of self-exploring."

To those who are not familiar with the German educational system, the biggest asset is really a different approach of teaching and making it possible for

schools abroad to give a lot of supports to students who have particular needs such as special education and language needs.

By providing different assignments, Fritzen explained that teacher can better cater to the needs of every individual depending on their abilities. As for students with different language requirements, the school also has additional resources that meet each requirement.

"We take students to particular training programs and maintain a very close corporation with the student, his or her family and the foreign teacher," he added.

For non-native speakers, the preferred approach is to welcome young students straight from kindergarten when they can pick up a language just by listening to their teacher, learning assistant or others students who come from German speaking families. "After approximately two months, students will start to speak without an accent," he added.

Those who need more language support will have access to a longer German language-learning period during which they can practice the language in everyday classes. Moreover, they will be given less challenging subjects, such as math-

ematics, a typical subject for which Taiwanese students can easily call the requirements. It can be more difficult in subjects like history and geography as there are a lot of tasks bound materials that need to be read, but the head of the German Section remains confident.

"The German Section really strives to prepare students to the German educational standards required for examinations, and maintain an environment in which they can achieve a language level that can fully compete with a German-language examination such as literature," he continued.

International Learning Environment

As a "contact" institution that admits children from Taiwan and other nations, the TES German Section also aims to give children from different cultures the opportunity to meet and engage in dialogue. The section is particularly suited to prepare children from various countries and cultural backgrounds for a shared future.

TES students can not only learn German but also English and Chinese starting from first grade. A typical week at the secondary school also involves sport, music and art lessons with

(Left) Within the TES's friendly campus, the school's German Section aims to give children from different cultures the opportunity to meet and engage in dialogue.

(Right) Mr. Richter, head of Primary School German Section, Mrs. Schluetter, teacher of the joined 1st/2nd and Mrs. Fritzen, a teacher of the preschool, and the students from 1st and 2nd Grade Class welcome you to Taipei European School.

students from other sections together. "These international classes can for sure help children getting into any university in the world," said Dóra Mőpps, a mother of two attending the TES German Section since December 2013.

A school day runs from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the students finish most of their homework at the school, allowing them to have plenty of time for soccer, tennis or music lessons or even go to a gymnastic class, explained Mőpps. "They have the time to relax their mind and train their body, which is very important so that the children enjoy some quality time with her family in the evening," she added.

The school's various language-supporting programs in French, English and Chinese with a limited number of students per classes further allows for teaching kids individually. "This is a very interesting option for parents who want to give their children an international education," she added.

In today's very competitive environment, most parents agree that apart from Chinese and English, German will remain as one of the most important languages in the world so there is little wonder that learning German at the German Section is the best way to understand the German culture and the country's unique way of life. ■

► The Open House Event will be held 2 p.m. on Saturday Jan. 31 at the Taipei European School Primary Campus (727 WenLin Road, ShiLin District, Taipei).

Emmanuel Fritzen, right, head of the German Section, and Dóra Mőpps, a mother of two students, welcome you to Saturday's Open House Event of the Taipei European School's (TES) German Section.

