

Primary school in Gródek

☐ School description

The Primary School is the only public school in Gródek. Gródek Commune is located in Podlaskie Voivodeship, in the eastern part of Białystok District. The territory of the Commune is delimited from the east by the Svisloch River, which forms the border of Poland with the Republic of Belarus and at the same time the external border of the European Union.



Approximately 300 children from the entire municipality attend the Primary School every year in 17 departments (grades 1-8). There are 49 trained teachers working with the students with pedagogical education and additional specialized qualifications. The school employs 17 support staff.

The entire school facility is at the disposal of the students: two gyms, the "Orlik" school field, the "Joyful School" playground, classrooms for specialized activities, the canteen and common rooms, a ping-pong room, a modern computer lab (23 positions) with Internet access, a language room. Classrooms are equipped with teaching aids, multimedia boards with instrumentation for the use of ICT. The school has a counselor's office. Students can use the day care center and the school cafeteria. The common room works from 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eager students enjoy meals cooked in the school kitchen, these are: breakfasts, lunches and afternoon snacks.

The school has rich traditions, the most important of which are:

1. School Day is celebrated in November.
2. Pre-Christmas traditions taking into account the peculiarities of our region (Belarusian minority).
3. Festivals.
4. National holidays.
5. Family meetings.
6. School discos (organized by the student government).

In addition to learning, students can participate in various educational and educational activities organized by teachers. These include, for example, excursions, rallies, activities conducted in the

forest, integration bonfires, sleepovers at school, Polish-German exchanges for eighth graders, preventive and skill- and knowledge-developing workshops, competitions and tournaments, discos and games, integration events organized by the school as well as in cooperation with cooperating institutions (GCK in Gródek, Police, Fire Department, Municipal Office and others).

☐ **Cooperation with many organizations.**

The school is famous for its slogans such as School without Violence, Dream School, School with Class, Humanitarian School. In addition, as part of the "Middle School Academy of Key Competencies" project, it cooperates with the Consolator law firm.

Within the framework of the "Erasmus +" program, we have implemented successful projects since 2014: the school participated in the KA2 project "Action Boomerang" and in the KA3 project, which supported the school and local governments in establishing a local youth council in Grodek.

Since 2014, we have worked with foreign volunteers in the framework of EVS. We are accredited as a host organization and in each school year starting from 2014 until now we have hosted two volunteers - from Belarus, Russia, Italy, Spain, France and Turkey. We are keen to combine these local volunteer activities on a European level. The school sees great benefits of cooperation with foreign volunteers for its students, who - living in the countryside, on the eastern border of the EU is due to little contact with people of other cultures. Also for teachers it is very important to cooperate with foreign volunteers, because it gives them a lot of motivation and new educational ideas.

Since 2018, we also participate annually in Polish-German school exchanges. Our partner school is an institution in Dresden. Every year our 8th grade students go to Dresden for a week-long exchange. We also have the pleasure and host them for a week with us. The exchange is co-financed by funds from the Polish-German Youth Cooperation.

☐ **Primary School as ESC Host organization**

Cooperation with volunteers under the European Solidarity Corps program equalizes educational opportunities for students at our school. They can learn new languages, cultures and traditions of other countries. Through participation there is a visible development of our students, their families and our community. The project awakens interest in otherness, breaks down language and cultural barriers. It shows new methods of spending leisure time. Students learn about different religions, learn tolerance and respect for human rights by learning mutual respect, become more open and understanding of otherness, skin color, language. By combining informal education with formal education, the quality and attractiveness of education is improved.

We want to integrate European volunteers into the daily life of our school. They can participate in all school projects, events and celebrations. Also, they can participate in additional groups, clubs and afternoon workshops, but they can also organize their own workshops for students after school. The main goal will be to motivate students and create opportunities for cross-cultural learning.

- **Volunteer profile:**

The volunteer should be interested in working with children and young people (aged 6 to 14), must be creative and have the ability to take initiative. It is important that the volunteer has his or her own ideas for activities and the motivation to implement them independently. He or she should be open to living in a rural and economically poor region without much comfort. Additionally, should be

highly motivated to learn the Polish language, as there are few residents of Grodek who are fluent in English.

- The main tasks includes:

- 1 Supporting students in the learning process (helping with homework in the school's common room).
- 2 Organizing day-room activities for students in the form of workshops, games and sports activities.
- 3 Supporting teachers during festivities organized on the occasion of holidays and local celebrations.
- 4 Support in language workshops - motivate students to communicate in other languages. Creating new language training, games, activities, etc.
- 5 Support in school clubs (sports, theater, music, volunteer clubs, etc.).
- 6 Organizing workshops, meetings and games about their home countries, cultures and traditions.
- 7 Organizing activities and games for students during breaks between lessons.
- 8 Opportunity to create their own project and offer their own activities while at school (for example, in sports, music, theater, multimedia, literature, languages...).

☐ **Previous volunteer experience:**

Last year we hosted Francisek from Slovenia. He has taken part in many of the activities that have taken place at the school, such as:

1. Environmental workshops prepared by volunteers from different countries.
2. Performance prepared by volunteers in cooperation with Anawoj Association .
3. Assistance at the swimming pool during the implementation of the project "I can swim".
4. Physical activities in the school common room.
5. Sports activities at the school playground.
6. Preparation and presentation of the culture of Slovenia.
7. Learning basic phrases and words in the Slovenian language.



8. Development activities for students in the school common room.
9. Assistance during excursions-preparation of integration games.

If you want to know a little more about our school, what we do, our previous volunteers, visit our facebook: [Wolontariusze w Gródku | Gródek | Facebook](#) or our school website: <https://www.spgrodek.edu.pl/>