

Profile of “Johannes-Althusius Gymnasium”

Our guiding principle is “LEARNING TO LIVE THE FUTURE”.

We, the school community of Johannes-Althusius-Gymnasium, create and shape our future: *We are a contributory member of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network and a certified “Europaschule”¹⁾ committed to European and global thinking.*

We are a certified “Umweltschule in Europa/ Internationale Agenda 21 School”²⁾ committed to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). We cherish intercultural exchange, intercultural learning, as well as international cooperation and take responsibility for the future of our planet. These practices are an essential part of our school life.
As a school of about 1080 students, we are able to offer our students a huge variety of opportunities in a wide range of subjects.

We cooperate with a large number of partners outside of our school, e. g. the local University of Applied Science Emden/Leer and other leading universities, research centers and companies in our region and beyond. This enables our students to gain an exciting insight into the world of work and future career opportunities through learning and experience.

We offer a wide range of languages and special opportunities to study sciences. Students get a fantastic insight into the world of science in research groups like “Henri-Nannen-Forschungsklassen”³⁾ or by participating in projects like “Formel X”⁴⁾, an annual applied science

¹ Our school has been “Europaschule”(School in Europe) since 2015 and is a very active partner in European Comenius and Erasmus+ projects and cultural exchanges.

² “Umweltschule in Europa/ Internationale Agenda 21 Schule” is an award we have consecutively received since 2007.

³ “Henri-Nannen-Forschungsklasse” is not only part of our regular Science classes in Grade 5, but also taught in two extra classes from Grade 5 onwards where students deal with interesting scientific questions and experiments.

workshop in cooperation with Volkswagen and University of Applied Science Emden/ Leer, or by joining our “Emder Forschungstage”⁵), an annual series of lectures given by leading scientists. Some of our students can benefit from our scholarship programme⁶) every year.

Our brass band classes “JAG-Youngsters” and “JAG Big Band”, as well as many courses in Drama and Arts, support musical and artistic learning.

Additionally, we offer our students the opportunity to experience Europe’s cultural richness and gain experiences in international teamwork, with the help of exchange programmes and European educational projects.

We at JAG live together: In our community we strengthen cooperation and mutual respect. Our all-day school also offers a large variety of activities beyond classroom learning.

We support our students in developing their personalities and meeting their full potential in both school classes and beyond classes. Our students can engage in many extracurricular activities and clubs, ranging from: playing basketball, taking care of our school rabbits or learning Chinese. We meet with tolerance and respect in our tutor groups and in our school community. In class we enable students to deal with criticism constructively and to think critically.

We at JAG learn: High-level education as our focus. We consider supportive teaching practices and challenging learning environments as being equally important for our students.

We pay attention to the advancement of our students’ personalities and their learning progress. We offer extra tutorials and additional support with homework at our school, for students requiring additional help. We provide additional challenges for achieving and outstanding students in extracurricular classes, e. g. “Forschungsklasse”.

It is our aim to lead our students to the successful graduation with Abitur, the final certificate of our higher and secondary education. We want our students to leave school with excellent knowledge and accomplished abilities to succeed in life.

Our guiding principle LEARNING TO LIVE THE FUTURE implies that academic learning and personal development coordinate together. We thus enable our students to take responsibility for both themselves and others in their future lives. This leading aim guides us in developing school life and the school community at JAG.

⁴ “Formel X“: students obtain the chance to experience physics and chemistry in action at University of Applied Science and at the coaching centre of VW factory Emden.

⁵ “Emder Forschungstage“ is a series of lectures given by well-known scientists, experts and journalists in the 2nd term, invited by our school and open to the public. The topics vary in the field of science and culture.

⁶ Our scholarship programme supports a two-week internship at a variety of (research) institutions, e. g. Max-Planck Institut, Observatory Hamburg, ESA, DESY Hamburg and the publishing headquarter of “Stern” magazine.

OUR LEADING PRINCIPLES AND EXAMPLES OF THEIR IMPLEMENTATION AT JAG

1. We provide our students with profound knowledge as well as social and technical ability and skills to excel at university, in the world of work and in their life.

<p>1.1. We support our students to become politically and socially committed citizens of Germany and the European Union, as well as global citizens.</p> <p>1.2. At our school students acquire fundamental knowledge, learning techniques and social abilities. We motivate our students to take interest in and get involved in the world around them.</p> <p>1.3. We support our students in working skills through team work, their learning commitment, and through learning motivation to become effective learners.</p> <p>1.4. We also prepare our students for future European exchange programmes at university and for a working life in a globalized world by teaching them languages and intercultural competences.</p> <p>1.5. We offer bilingual lessons from an early age to enable our students to apply the English language in different subjects and fields.</p> <p>1.6. We encourage an individual and need-based development of our students and enable them to integrate their individual talents in classes.</p> <p>1.7. We also offer a wide range of systematic and individual support in and outside classes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular visits at Carl-von-Ossietzky University in Oldenburg and at University of Applied Science Emden/ Leer, include research work and preparing students for university. • Providing deep vocational insights through internships in companies in Grade 9 and career information days. • Cooperating with political representatives at communal, state and national levels (e. g. panel discussions at school, parliamentary visits at state and federal level). • Cooperating with our regional museum of East Frisian history. • Implementing a skill training “Learning How to Learn” from Grade 5 upwards. • Participating in Erasmus+ programmes. • Regional and international cooperation in the ASP-net working together with Associated UNESCO Project Schools (e. g. implementing an evaluation of UNESCO work in a “joint dialogue”, preparing, hosting as well as participating in regional conferences of the network, participating in students’ summits on climate change and other urgent matters). • Offering bilingual classes in Geography from Grade 7 upwards, History from Grade 9 upwards and Biology from Grade 11 upwards, finishing with the Abitur. • Participating in a wide range of competitions (e. g. Maths Olympics, “Jugend forscht” in Science, “Jugend trainiert für Olympia” in Sports).
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<p>1.8. All of our school day activities there to support individual interests and various talents of our students</p> <p>1.9. We promote students to participate in competitions and projects.</p> <p>1.10. We broaden our students' horizon by integrating excursions, class trips to learning facilities outside school, and exchange programmes into our school environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering Big Band Classes. • Hosting “Kultur Pur”⁷⁾ a biennial cultural festival with music, arts and theatre. • Implementing the “Henri-Nannen-Forschungsklasse”, as an offer for talented students in Science. • Having established “tablet class” from Grade 7 upwards. • Offering German as a Second Language for migrant students in need. • Offering subject-based tuition for students in need. • Offering homework supervision after school hours. • Coaching and counseling services. • Challenging and supporting talented students in extra classes. • Implementing the Physics project “Physik für helle Köpfe” in cooperation with primary schools. • Going on excursions to Roman excavation sites in Xanten, Haltern and Kalkriese. • Visiting museums in Emden and surrounding areas. • Hosting “Emder Forschungstage”.
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⁷ “Kultur Pur” is a festival of our Arts, Music and Drama departments involving students, teachers and parents conducting public performances of art, music and theatre plays.

2. We support each student in reaching their full potential and developing their full capacity to lead a responsible life.

<p>2.1. We teach our students democratic values and beliefs and expect them to respect and live up to these values.</p> <p>2.2. We treat each other with respect and sincerity and appreciate diversity as a part of all of us.</p> <p>2.3. We boost our students' confidence and instill self-reliance.</p> <p>2.4. We enable our students to think and act critically, with good judgment.</p> <p>2.5. We sharpen our students' sense of responsibility towards their fellow human beings, different cultural values and the environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintaining partnerships and cooperation with schools abroad as part of Erasmus+ projects as well as other exchange programmes.• Enabling students to discover the world in our Regular Project Week at the end of term (e. g. introducing topics of great importance to UNESCO)• Joining the annual campaign "letter writing marathon" of Amnesty International.• Having discussions, projects and other events with representatives of public life (e. g. "Präsentationsmarkt" - professionals and organisations dealing with youth welfare present themselves at our school).• Training older students to become tutors for young students.• Signing an "anti-bullying convention" at our school at the beginning of each school year.• Supporting students with special needs (e. g. coaching and counseling services).• Implementing project days in social competences and team building for our new students in Grade 5.• Going on class trips focusing on social competences.• Implementing excursions to universities, libraries, museums and other cultural venues as external educational resources.
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3. In accordance with the UN aims of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), we collectively shape our school life as a diverse learning and living space.

<p>3.1. We shape our school grounds and our school buildings into a place in which students feel welcomed and at home, at the same time adhering to ecological aspects.</p> <p>3.2. We turn our school cafeteria into a place of relaxation and consider it essential to give our students a say in how it provides healthy and appropriate food.</p> <p>3.3. We expect our students to become actively involved in our school community and feel responsible for a positive and tolerant school climate.</p> <p>3.4. We organize, with our students, regular school events directed at a wider public perspective.</p> <p>3.5. We enrich our school life and learning environment by opening our school to external experts.</p> <p>3.6. We offer a large variety of extracurricular activities for our students to participate according to their interests.</p> <p>3.7. We celebrate with our students the successive achievements of their school careers in an appreciating setting.</p> <p>3.8. Our bands, theater groups and choirs participate regularly in events in and outside our school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students of our Gardening Club and our Environment Club create green spaces and keep our school grounds in shape. • There are continuous projects to improve our school buildings. • Regular communication and cooperation between administration and staff of our school and the school authorities of Emden, ensure an optimum development of our school building. • A working group of students and teachers deals with the catering at our school. • Participating in the project “Schule auf Esskurs” – a project taking care of healthy food at our school • Involving teams of students in keeping the cafeteria and the school yard tidy • Presenting students’ pieces of art in the school building • Revising our school rules on a regular basis and monitoring of their implementation • Offering tuition for students in need by older students, through our student company “JUSAS”⁸). • Appointing student volunteers in Grade 11 to tutors in Grade 5. • Regularly hosting theater performances, concerts and cultural events at our school, including our biennial cultural festival “Kultur pur” (cf. p.4).
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⁸ JUSAS stands for **JAG support advance service** and is a student-based company supporting tuition.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inviting guests from the fields of politics, business, science and religious denominations to participate in classes, projects, talks and panel discussions.• “Ender Forschungstage” (cf. p. 1)• “Präventionsmarkt” (cf. p.4)• Presenting our school to 4th Grade pupils at primary schools in an informative programme prepared by students, teachers and parents.• Offering a wide range of extracurricular activities and clubs organized by teachers, students, parents and external partners.• Implementing a welcoming celebration for our new Grade 5’s at the beginning of each new school year.• Offering students sports equipment (e. g. balls, skipping ropes) during break time: a concept which is called “Bewegte Pause”. |
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4. We; colleagues, staff, students and parents, appreciate a healthy and pleasant working atmosphere at our school and see it as an important task to continuously enhance our school climate.

<p>4.1. We treat each other in a respectful, friendly and honest way, both inside school and in our free time.</p> <p>4.2. We support each other in our pedagogical work and are able to rely on each other.</p> <p>4.3. We appreciate and support all members of staff.</p> <p>4.4. We integrate our trainee teachers into our team and take care of their training.</p> <p>4.5. We work together with our parents and students and their elected representatives in order to improve our school.</p> <p>4.6. We motivate our students to support each other in class and in the whole school community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating our communication on a regular basis. • Using SEIS and BUGIS surveys for self-assessment. • Training student tutors. • Training students as paramedics in school. • Offering counseling services. • Applying concepts of prevention and mediation to our students in need, (e. g. “No-Blame-Approach Mediation”, free consultation hours of our counseling service, and electronic comment box). • “Schule auf Esskurs” (cf. p. 5) • Initiating social activities of the staff (e. g. informal get-together at the end of the summer break which also serves as a welcoming event for our new colleagues). • Planning the teaching allocations for the coming school year cooperatively in our faculty groups • Continuously working together with parents, students and teachers in a wide range of school committees (e. g. Gesamt- und Fachkonferenzen, Schulvorstand, and diverse planning committees).
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5. We ensure transparent communication in our school planning, and the implementation and evaluation of our school processes.

<p>5.1. We are all responsible for organising and implementing an effective and satisfactory school life. We exchange information to ensure that the school year is structured and transparent for both parents, students and teachers.</p> <p>5.2. The responsibilities for all special school tasks are clearly defined and designated and made known to the whole school community.</p> <p>5.3. We want our school life organized on the principles of consistency and clarity.</p> <p>5.4. In particular, our younger tutor groups in Grades 5 to 8, are taught by small teams of teachers (Team Model) to ensure an effective pedagogical exchange on students' behaviour, results and close professional cooperation in reacting to their strengths and weaknesses.</p> <p>5.5. The timetables of our tutor groups are structured on the basis of pedagogical and didactic principles and take into consideration our students' needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publishing an up-to-date organisation chart on our website.• Using the school platform IServ for communication, planning and transparency.• Providing an up-to-date school diary on our IServ platform.• Keeping our staff continuously informed via e-mail.• Obliging students of Grades 5 to 9 to use our official school planner.
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6. We cooperate with external partners to guarantee the best possible learning and teaching practices which are topical and in touch with reality.

<p>6.1. We work together with the A-level coordinators of other Emden schools to offer the widest possible choice of A-level courses.</p> <p>6.2. Being an all-day school and offering special extracurricular activities at school we work together with cultural and educational institutions in Emden, as well as the churches and other local and regional societies and associations.</p> <p>6.3. We cooperate with regional educational institutions, universities and companies to provide our students with opportunities to apply their knowledge in real-life contexts and to prepare them for their further education careers and future working life.</p> <p>6.4. We participate in the local school network called "KOV"⁹, in which highly talented students are promoted and offered new stimulating challenges.</p> <p>6.5. We are participating in several European and international exchange programmes to inspire the idea of a united Europe to our students and strengthen our students' expertise in languages and cultural learning.</p> <p>6.6. We participate in regional and nationwide competitions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperating with our local University of Applied Science Emden/Leer and with the universities of applied sciences in Oldenburg and Wilhelmshaven. • Implementing internships in companies in Emden and surroundings for students in Grade 9 and career information events for upper grade students. • Implementing the project "Formel X" (cf. p. 1). • Cooperating with Volkswagen • Cooperating with the paramedic organisation, "Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V." to train student paramedics and provide student paramedic service. • Challenging and supporting talented students after school in MINT subjects, languages, music, arts and drama through the KOV network. • Regularly implementing a prevention fare "Präventionsmarkt" at school in which local youth welfare organisations and the police inform about their work and present their services. • Cooperating with local counseling services and the German children's rights organization, "Kinderschutzbund" • Cooperating with the city task force for road safety education.
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⁹ KOV stands for *Kooperationsverband* and is a cooperation between primary schools and secondary school in Emden to encourage and challenge talented students to follow their interests beyond class. Offers range from music, science, literature to sports.

<p>6.7. We work together with our partners at university and teacher training colleges to ensure a high and up-to-date standard of our teacher training and teaching practices.</p> <p>6.8. We make intensive use of individual training opportunities and regularly invite experts to in-house staff training.</p> <p>6.9. We work closely together with the child and youth welfare services of the City of Emden.</p> <p>6.10. We cherish a partnership with our African partner school in Sierra Leone.</p>	<p>Implementing environmental projects together with the local environmental learning center, "Ökowerk"¹⁰⁾ and Emden's energy supplier, "Stadtwerke Emden".</p> <p>Engaging in the national youth research competition, "Jugend forscht" as participants and members of the regional jury.</p> <p>Joining, "Jugend musiziert" - a competition for young talented musicians.</p> <p>Participating at, "Jugend trainiert für Olympia" - competitions for talented athletes and team sport players.</p> <p>Joining "Klasse kochen!" - a competition for creative young cooks.</p> <p>Working together with "Ostfriesland in Sierra Leone e.V." - an organisation supporting our partner school in Sierra Leone.</p> <p>Cooperating with "Aktion Tagwerk e.V." on the African aid action day "Dein Tag für Afrika"¹¹⁾.</p>
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¹⁰ "Ökowerk" is a well-established learning centre in Emden supporting environmental issues e. g. actions against climate change and teaching sustainability.

¹¹ On the day of "Dein Tag für Afrika" our students work voluntarily in shops, companies or in neighbours' homes and gardens and donate their wages to chosen projects in Africa and to our partner school in Sierra Leone.

7. We make the quality of our work visible.

<p>7.1. We regularly inform students, staff and public about our work and document it both inside and outside of our school.</p> <p>7.2. We regularly enrich our school life, as well as the public life in Emden, and its surroundings, by public performances of: concerts, theatre plays and other public school events.</p> <p>7.3. Our bands, choirs and theatre groups regularly participate in public events.</p> <p>7.4. We consistently open our school to the public and offer an insight into our work.</p> <p>7.5. We present ourselves comprehensively, both to our school community and the public.</p> <p>7.6. We deploy the competences and talents of our students and teachers to advertise our school.</p> <p>7.7. Our school logo is known to the public as familiar and unique.</p> <p>7.8. We present ourselves in a consistent way in our written communication.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing and publishing articles about our school events on our homepage and IServ platform.• Regional papers frequently publish articles about our school events and activities.• Students create a regular newspaper page in our regional paper, "Emder Zeitung" in the project "Klasse!".• Presenting our clubs and school activities at the beginning of each school year.• Grade 9 students organise a public exhibition of their vocational experiences at the end of their internship.• Presenting our talented musicians, artists, actresses and actors in our biennial, "Kultur PUR" festival.• Performances of our brass bands JAG Big Band and JAG Youngsters.• Regular theatre performances of our Drama students.
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8. We provide our students and teachers with appropriate equipment, school furnishing and a pleasant school atmosphere and working environment to reach our academic and educational goals.

<p>8.1. We take great care that our school interior and equipment, as well as our school yard, provide a top-level and safe learning/teaching environment.</p> <p>8.2. We create a positive and pleasant learning atmosphere through age-appropriate work and leisure environments both inside and outside our school building.</p> <p>8.3. We make explicit use of our school's special location surrounded by water and the city's green belt for teaching and learning processes.</p> <p>8.4. We support our teachers in using modern teaching materials and media for sophisticated lessons.</p> <p>8.5. We interlink our different educational concepts to the benefit of our students and teachers (e. g. media literacy concept, learning strategies concept, all-day school concept).</p> <p>8.6. We place great importance on environmental friendly equipment and fittings and being responsible in not wasting energy.</p> <p>8.7. We deal carefully with of our school equipment, property and treat each other's belongings with due respect.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Involving our students in shaping our school premises and our school buildings through school projects and school clubs.• Providing a well-equipped library and self-learning center.• Introducing tablets as a means of learning and interaction in selected classes.• Equipping all class rooms with interactive whiteboards and internet access.• Establishing rooms and spaces for both relaxation and physical recreation.• Developing our school ground into a varying recreational area with a high sojourn quality, e. g. football and basketball fields, climbing frames and walls for sportive activities. But, in contrast, providing quiet areas for relaxation and zones for observing animals and nature (insect hotel, bee hives, chicken compound).• Planning new buildings and reconstructions together with the school authorities.• Offering water sport activities on the surrounding canals, e. g. kayaking and canoeing.• Systematic practising of learning strategies.• Participating in competitions and projects concerning sustainability and saving energy.
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9. We consider our East Frisian culture, heritage, landscape and environment as unique and integrate this idea into our school life.

<p>9.1. We appreciate Johannes Althusius as the name patron of our school and recognise his achievements in developing modern democracy.</p> <p>9.2. We appreciate the historically-developed culture in East Frisia and its confessional variety and help our students to models of identification.</p> <p>9.3. We introduce our students to technical innovations and new technologies in the field of renewable energy, with great relevance for our regional economy and landscape.</p> <p>9.4. We contribute to preservation of our regional environment, especially the Wadden Sea, as a World Natural Heritage Site and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.</p> <p>9.5. The typical regional language (Plattdeutsch) and the customs and traditions of East Frisia are highly esteemed by us.</p> <p>9.6. We offer our students to learn Dutch, as the language of our direct European neighbours.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visiting the <i>Johannes a Lasco</i> Library - an archive and theological institution for Reformed Protestantism, a museum and historical site of the Reformation in Emden. • Visiting our “Ostfriesisches Landesmuseum”- a transregional museum of great cultural importance. • Making trips to churches in the area of Krummhörn. • Participating in projects of our city energy supplier, “Emder Stadtwerke”. • Trips to the environmental learning center, “Ökowerk”. • Conduction excursions and class trips to the North Sea, the World Natural Heritage Site of the Wadden Sea, and the East Frisian Islands. • Offering Dutch as a third language.
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10. Our development projects in the school year 2018/19:

- 1) Further development of tablet classes at JAG
 - establishing more classes in which tablets are used
 - implementing regular meetings involving interested teachers about methodical and technical aspects of teaching with tablets
 - evaluating our work and participating in professional training
- 2) Training a group of students and teachers as media scouts called “Medienschouts”
 - establishing this group as a task force in terms of transmitting media literacy, safety skills and offering consultation services (e. g. in Grade 5 and 6, as well as at parents meetings).
 - offering LAN parties for parents
 - creating offers as an extra-curricular activity, in which students deal with media literacy to gain and improve their safety skills
- 3) Integrating the concepts of “Forschungsklasse” (cf. p. 1) into the concept of “KOV Begabtenförderung” (promotion programme for talented students).
- 4) Continuing school exchanges to Spain (IES Trinidad in Palencia), France (Collège Emile Durkheim in Peujard) and the Netherlands (OSG de Hogeberg in Den Brug, Texel).
- 5) Establishing exchanges to “Tangqi No.2 Junior High School”, Tangqi in China (2019) and to German School, in Alexandria, in Egypt (June 2019).
- 6) Looking for exchanges into the English-speaking world (e.g. Canada and Ireland)
- 7) Offering Multidisciplinary Course combining Chemistry and Politics on sustainability and climate change in the next school year