



AFS Austauschprogramme  
für interkulturelles Lernen

Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

## School information sheet

Most students hosted in Austria will attend traditional Austrian High Schools (Gymnasium) which are usually co-educational schools and offer general education (natural sciences, languages, history, musical education, religious instruction and P.E.). Only a few of our host students will have the possibility to go to high schools which specialize in certain fields (like music, sports, tourism, etc...). In general, school lasts from Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (no lunch break) and there might be some classes in the afternoon as well. Quite a lot of schools have decided not to have classes on Saturday. In this case, pupils attend school for longer hours during the week.

There are no school uniforms but in some schools pupils must wear slippers. A wide range of schools offer additional subjects and activities in the afternoon, like theater groups, choirs, sports lessons etc.

### *School year lasts in*

- Eastern provinces (Burgenland, Lower Austria, Vienna) : from first week in September until first week in July.
- Western provinces (Carinthia, Salzburg, Styria, Tyrol, Upper Austria, Vorarlberg,): from second week in September until second week in July.

### *School vacations:*

- Christmas Holidays: December 23· 2013 until January 6· 2014
- Midterm-break (depending on the region)
  - Lower Austria and Vienna: February 2 until February 7· 2015
  - Burgenland, Carinthia, Salzburg, Vorarlberg and Tyrol: February 9 until February 14, 2015
  - Styria and Upper Austria: February 16 until February 21, 2015
- Easter Holidays: March 28 until April 7, 2015
- Whitsun Holidays: May 23 until May 26, 2015

### *Confirmation of school attendance*

Please make sure you know which requirements there are for re-entry into your school in your home country. The schools in Austria are only obligated to give you a confirmation of school attendance. If you need more than that (eg. evaluation/marks in certain subjects) then it is important to inform the school in Austria about this during the first weeks of your stay. Many schools are co-operative but it cannot be guaranteed that you will get marks. This will also depend on your willingness to work hard in school!

For additional information on the Austrian school system please refer to our „Willkommen - Welcome - Bienvenido“ booklet already distributed to you.