

# SIAULIAI JULIAUS JANONIO GYMNASIUM

## Gymnasium Profile

Siauliai Juliaus Janonio Gymnasium is a state co-educational general secondary education school. 670 students are enrolled: 324 students in Lower Secondary Study Programme (Forms I-II, age range 16 to 17 years) and 346 students in Upper Secondary Study Programme (Forms III-IV, age range 18 to 19 years). 68 members of teaching staff and 4 assistance specialists are committed to developing inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people. It is located in Siauliai, the fourth largest city in Lithuania.

## History of School

Gymnasium is one of the oldest education institutions in Lithuania. It was established in 1825 in Svisločius (present Byelorussia). The idea to have a gymnasium in Siauliai came out in 1838. Siauliai area landlords applied to local authority and promised to raise funds for gymnasium building. The permission to transfer Svisločius Gymnasium to Siauliai was issued on September 11, 1845.

In 1845 the construction of a two-story brick building was started and it was finished in 1850. In 1851 *Boys' Gymnasium* ("Šavelskaja Mužskaja gimnazija") started its work in Siauliai. In 1920 it was reorganised into *Siauliai State Gymnasium* and in 1928, after girls were separated and taught in a separate school, it was renamed *Siauliai Authority Boys' Gymnasium*. During the years of Independent Lithuania, famous educators worked there, Lithuanian traditions were established, and students who later became famous science, arts and culture figures finished Gymnasium. During the World War 2 gymnasium experienced hard times - it was deprived of the building; teaching and educating trends were enforced. After the war, Gymnasium was reorganised into a secondary school and in 1946 it was called *Juliaus Janonio Secondary School*. In 1954 it became a co-educational secondary school. In 1965 it was entitled to specialise in Humanities profile. School community contributed a lot to cherish school history. In 1993 school building was awarded the status of a state preserved culture heritage object. The year of 1991 was the starting point of preparing to re-establish gymnasium status. Primary classes were moved to a separate school. In 1996 the school gained the status of gymnasium and was called *Siauliai Juliaus Janonio Gymnasium*.

During more than 160 years of school history many famous people who left well-marked trace not only in Gymnasium, but also in the whole Lithuania life studied and worked in Gymnasium. National revival ideas were popular among students who after finishing gymnasium became prominent society and culture figures. Even four out of 20 signatories of February 16, 1918 Independence Act were Gymnasium students: M. Biržiška, J. Vileišis, A. Petrusis, S. Kairys. Three generations of Earl Zubovai, three brothers professors Viktoras, Vaclovas and Mykolas Biržiškos, S. Šalkauskis (a philosopher), P. Višinskis (a social figure and promoter of Lithuanian ideas), Juozas Grušas (a playwright), prof. Saulius Sondeckis (a conductor) and many other outstanding persons studied in Gymnasium.

Gymnasium history is reflected in the Gymnasium History Jonas Krivickas Museum, which was founded in 1970 by a teacher of the Lithuanian language and ethnographer Jonas Krivickas. In 1987 the museum was awarded the name of the Folk Museum. Now the Museum contains over 3500 exhibits. It is widely known for its wide range of activities. Former students from all over the world come back to their school and share experiences, success stories and career opportunities with present day students.

## **Academic**

The curriculum at Siauliai Juliaus Janonio Gymnasium is designed to provide each student with a suitable breadth and depth of opportunity in each year of study. Students have an opportunity to choose from 6 modern foreign languages available: English, German, Russian, French, Spanish, Swedish and the Latin language, which is important for those who are interested in philology, medicine or law. All students study English as the first foreign language. The range of subjects available is appropriate to the overall high academic standards of our students. The results of final state examinations in all subjects are above the city and national level. The commitment to hard work by both staff and students and the recognition of each student's ability are the principle reasons for this success. Education in forms III and IV is individualised according to the following study areas:

- Humanities, Social Studies, Arts
- Biomedicine
- Physical and Technological Sciences

## **Extra-Curricular Activities**

The wide range of extra-curricular activities provided by the school is one of its distinctive strengths. These include: club "Friends of Earth", theatre studio "If...", creators' club "Opus", club of young scientists "We", art studio "Colouring", vocal studio "Allegro", ensemble "Do-Re-Mi", Studio of Modern Dance, Folk Dance Club, Regional Studies and Journalist Club. Music activities: guitar, piano, singing studios. Sports Clubs: football, basketball, fitness, aerobics. The whole Gymnasium community is involved in traditional events such as the English Language Competition sponsored by Isolde I. Poželaitė-Davis, AM and Kazimieras Butkus (Australia), music competition "Without Silence", National Mother-Tongue Conference, National Olegas Truchanas Conference, Week of Healthy Lifestyle, Week of Kindness "Res Non Verba", Week of Australia, competition "Stars of Science", Theatre Day, Reunion Day, annual nominations "The Roots of Science" and many others.

Participating in international and national projects promotes individual achievement through a variety of experiences which enable the development of positive self-belief and self-esteem. Students develop co-operative and friendly attitudes and respect for the values and beliefs of others. Gymnasium participated in the international Comenius project "Common Changing Customs and Traditions Round up Europe" (Germany, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovakia), take active part in student mobility project "The Youth in Europe" (Germany), 9 national projects as well as other city and gymnasium projects.

Gymnasium community is open to new ideas and new co-operation opportunities.

## **Contacts**

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