






*The Icelandic school system*



# *School administration structure*

-  **Municipalities** → Run kindergartens, primary and secondary schools
-  **School Boards** → Hire principals
-  **School Principals** → Hire teachers

**Government runs “higher” education.**

- Upper secondary (not compulsory)
- Universities



# *How many schools in Iceland?*

- Kindergarten = 276
- Primary and Secondary (Grunnskóli) = 170
- Kindergarten and primary = 4
- Special need schools = 2
- Colleges = 30 (16 – 19 year)
- Vocational schools = 5
- Music college = 1
- Universities = 5
- **Almost all of them are public schools!**
- Uni of Reykjavik costs 2000 Euros per semester for a Bachelor degree

# *Two ministries of education*

- Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation
- Ministry of Education and Children

# *How is the school system in terms of age?*



- 1 – 5 years old = Kindergarten (optional). 97% of children go to kindergarten. 200 Euros a month (8 hours with two meals a day).
- 6 – 16 years old = compulsory education, free.  
Students never have to repeat a class/year.
- 16 – 19 years old = college, free.

# *Special need schools*



# *Vocational schools*



- 3 years in a school
- 2 years working
- Different lines f.eks e.g.
  - Plumbing
  - Electricial
  - Painting and decorating
  - Mechanic



# *College 16 – 19 year olds*



- 3 years
- Different lines
  - Languages
  - Business
  - Social subjects
  - Science subjects
  - Art - line



# *Entrepreneurs in colleges!*



- Work on in either for a week or the whole term
- Students in group of 3 – 7 students
- Decide a project to design
- Make a product – or an idea
- Marketing plan in Icelandic and English
- Introduce the project







# *Adult education!*

- Schools offers “Bridge to Uni” courses.
- People older than 23 years old and want to go back to school to be able to go to college.
- Mostly online.



# *How long is the school day in secondary and primary?*



- From 8:30 – 13:30 (15:00 in secondary)
- Everything is free including lunch.
- After school activity until 17:00 – paid by parents.
- Annual leisure stipend is around 500 Euros pr.child pr. year.

# *Universities*

- 7 Universities

4 Public (UI, UA, UH, AUI)

3 Private (RU, UB, UoA)

All of them are state funded according to the number of students but only the private ones have significant entrance fees

# *Working school! Summer jobs for teenagers*

Salary: 8<sup>th</sup> grade = 7 Euros,  
9<sup>th</sup> grade = 8 Euros  
10<sup>th</sup> grade = 9,5 Euros pr. Hour.





***All children have:  
180 days at school each year  
30 – 35 lessons a week.***

- Icelandic
- Math
- English
- Danish
- Social science
- Science
- Sport/Swimming
- Art
- Woodwork
- Textiles
- Home economics
- Music/Drama

**Secondary can choose 4 – 6 hours a week.**

**Sports, Spanish, knitting sweater, make-up, finance, steel work, car repairs.**



# *Languages*

- Icelandic is our mother tongue.
- From 3<sup>rd</sup> grade English (most children speak English).
- From 7<sup>th</sup> grade Danish.
- In college you choose a 3<sup>rd</sup> language (Spanish, German, French)

# *Project based learning (PBL)*



- Many subjects taught together
- Team-teaching
- “Open timetable”

8. BEKKUR

| TÍMI        | MÁNUD.          | ÞRIÐJUD.     | MIDVIKUD.  | FIMMTUD.     | FÖSTUD.              |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 8:10-8:50   | SPLÆS           | SPLÆS-Danska | SPLÆS      | SPLÆS        | SPLÆS                |
| 8:50-09:30  | X/Hei.fr./Smíði | SPLÆS-Danska | SPLÆS      | SPLÆS        | SPLÆS                |
| 09:30-10:10 | X/Hei.fr./Smíði | SPLÆS        | SPLÆS      | SPLÆS        | SPLÆS                |
| 10:10-10:30 | FRÍMÍNÚTUR      | 10:10-11:30  | FRÍMÍNÚTUR | 10:10-10:50  | FRÍMÍNÚTUR           |
| 10:30-11:10 | SPLÆS           | SUND         | SPLÆS      | ÍDRÓTTIR     | LEIKL./MYNDM./TEXTÍL |
| 11:10-11:50 | SPLÆS           | SPLÆS        | SPLÆS      | SPLÆS-Danska |                      |
| 11:50-12:10 | MATUR           | MATUR        | MATUR      | MATUR        | MATUR                |
| 12:10-12:30 | FRÍMÍNÚTUR      | FRÍMÍNÚTUR   | FRÍMÍNÚTUR | FRÍMÍNÚTUR   | FRÍMÍNÚTUR           |
| 12:30-13:10 | SPLÆS           | SPLÆS        | TONM./VÍS  | SPLÆS        | SPLÆS                |
| 13:10-13:50 | 13:30-14:10     | SPLÆS        | TONM./VÍS  | SPLÆS        | SPLÆS                |
| 13:50-14:30 | ÍDRÓTTIR        | SPLÆS        |            | SPLÆS        |                      |

KENNARAR: GUÐRÚN ASTRÍÐ OG MATTHILDUR

# *National tests... use to be...*



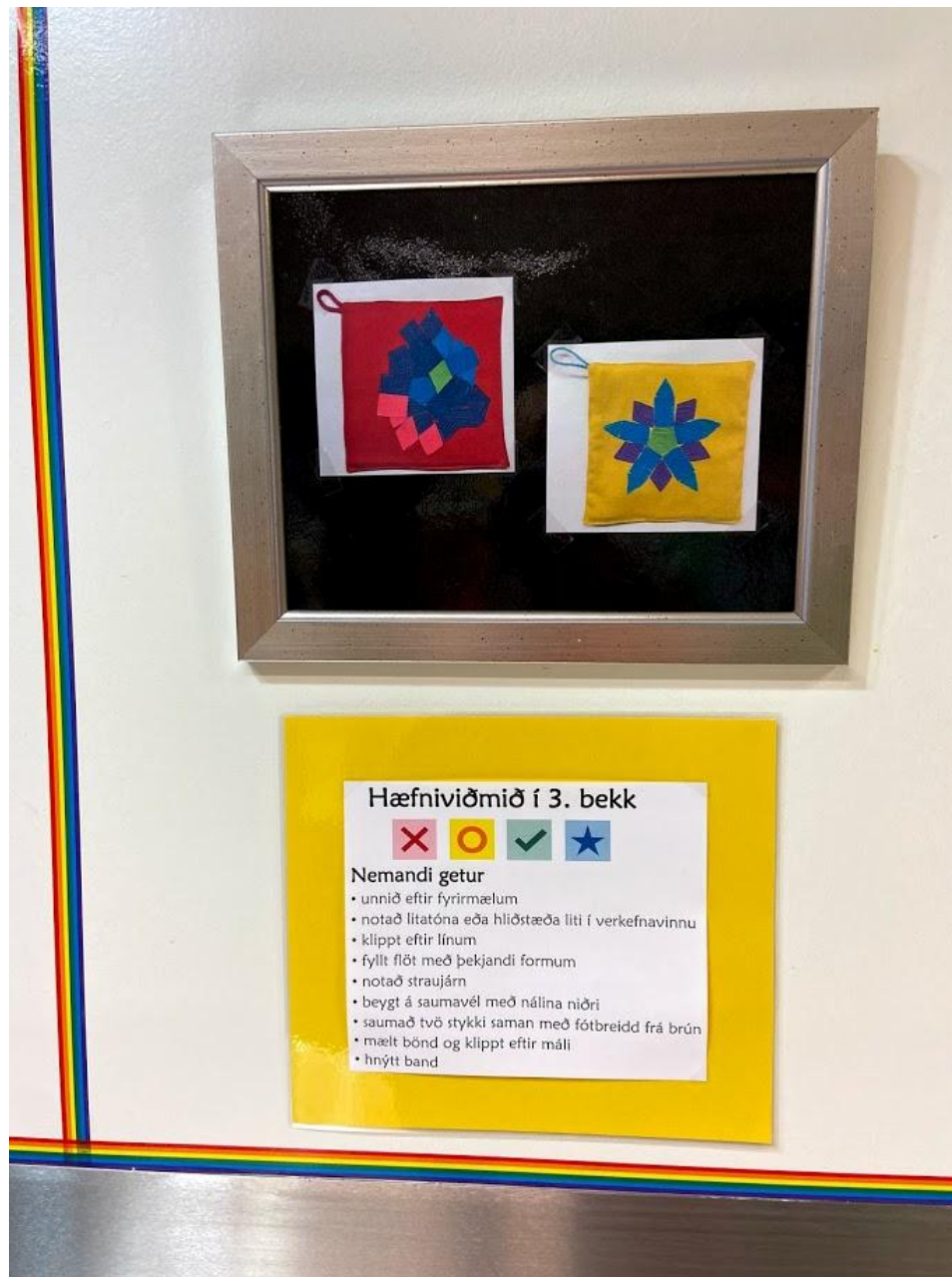
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade
  - 7<sup>th</sup> grade
  - 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- 
- Pisa – special episode 😊

# ***KEY COMPETENCES OF THE CURRICULUM***



- Expression and communication
- Creative and critical thinking
- Independence and cooperation
- Using media and information
- Responsibility and evaluation of one's own education
- Wellness and health

# *Evaluation*



# *School for everybody!*



- School without segregation – school for everybody.
- Schools are similar – in general parents do not buy houses in terms of schools in the area.



# *How many children in a class?*

- 1 – 3 years old = 5 children per adult.
- 4 years old = 8 children per adult.
- 5 years old = 12 children per adult.
- 6 – 15 years old = 18 – 25 children in a class.
- Primary classes often have a teacher assistant.
- Average = 22 children in a class.



# *Teacher – education*

- 5 years at University!!!
- 5<sup>th</sup> year get paid to work in school.

## **New law!**

- 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2021 - All teacher stages are equal!
- 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2021 – 36-hour work week!

# *Teachers!*



- A teacher that works full time in primary teaches **26 x 40 minutes per week.**
- Most schools **require** that teachers prepare in school up **to 36 – 38 hours a week.**
- Holiday: 10 weeks summer holiday, 2 weeks at Christmas, 10 days at Easter.
- Children are most often 180 days a year in school.



# *Teachers' – salary!*

- Average:  
45 years old  
15 years of teaching experience  
100% post = 26 x 40 min lesson a week.
- After tax is around 550.000 ISK = **3500 Euros**
- One litre of milk costs 230 ISK (1,6 Euros) 😊
- Renting a 90m<sup>2</sup> flat in the suburb costs 300.000 ISK a month (2050 Euros!!!)

# *Teachers' salary and – educational grant*



- **Teachers can earn extra money at school by:**
  - Taking extra classes when they are not teaching, well paid
  - Taking break and lunch duties with children
- **Teacher autonomy**
- **Inspection**
- Professional development = 105 hours a year.
- 1800 Euros over two years.



# *Other professional staff at school*

- Study counsellor
- Occupational therapist
- Leisure counsellors – after school activities
- Psychologist - one pr. two or three schools
- Speech therapist – one pr. two or three schools
- School nurse

# ***Sport centers – the heart of the neighborhood***



- One sport center belong to 2 – 3 schools
- Swimming pool
- Many different sports
- Schools uses it during in the morning.

















