INCLUSION

at the

NMS VOITSBERG –

the interview

**1. Which integrative measures do you have in your class and what are the reasons for using them?**

Based on extensive research in the field of psychology and neuroscience we know that every child is unique and shows distinctive needs. According to that facts we teach a mixed approach of inclusion and integration in our class called „Integrationsklasse.“

**2. What exactly does that mean and how is it expressed?**

As mentioned beforehand, children act, learn and develop differently, as a result every class constellation is always heterogenious. So in principal every child in our class is tought by the same teacher, supported by a special needs teacher. In that case we also acknowledge kids with special needs, and provide them with specifically tailored tests and adjusted grates.

In main subjects like German, Maths and Englisch we provide separate teaching opportunities because we are lucky to have an extra classroom for the children with special needs. The teaching there is different and characterised by an open, cooperative, ad collaborative learning environment, furthermore to prepare them for being self-responsible and independent for life. All this is based on various reform pedagogics including Helen Parkhurst, Friedrich Fröbel, Peter Peterson, Celestin Freinet and especially Maria Montessori and her principle: “The hands are the tools of the human intelligence.“

**3. Which needs do your pupils have exactly?**

The special needs kids we have in our class are also very different. Some have cognitive disabilites, others have problems with their concentration and one pupil has behavior problems caused by traumatising events experienced in the past.

According to these facts it´s much more important to differentiate, to individualise and to work with "heart, hand and head” a teaching approach developed by Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi in the early 19th century.

Moreover its always important to give the students everything they really need. For this to happen, teachers need resources to allow individual learning in the most efficient way. Additionally its absolutely necessary to give also the teacher the freedom he needs, to choose his own kind of teaching for being authentic. Luckily our principal has provided us with the resources needed, for which we are very grateful for.