

MySchoolsNetwork NHL University of Applied Sciences

Global citizenship for pupils and students by means of a social network



If your school is interested in participating,
contact :

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What is expected from (prospective) members i.e. schools and teachers?

In order to make good use of MySchoolsNetwork it is advisable that:

- Teachers and pupils be online and make contact with members abroad at least once a week
- Teachers – assisted by student teachers – take their responsibility for a respectful social climate on the platform
- Participating schools work together to develop teaching materials for MySN. A wiki has been created for the purpose
- Member teachers themselves are active within the MySN community

Curious?

Send an e-mail to info@myschoolsnetwork.com; you will then receive a personal guest account.

MySchoolsNetwork is an online, educational platform for pupils, students and teachers all around the world.

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What is MySchoolsNetwork (MySN) ?

MySN is an online, educational platform for pupils, students and teachers all around the world; a secure social platform where pupils

- learn to communicate (in English) about their lives and culture in an authentic setting
An attractive feature is the monthly worldwide competition
- can develop themselves as global citizens
- receive coaching and feedback from student teachers

Why MySchoolsNetwork?

The NHL teacher training institute have developed an international online platform over the past two years with – initially – two goals:

- facilitating online communication between pupils and students from the NHL network at home and abroad
- creating an opportunity for NHL students to practice their didactic and pedagogical skills anywhere and anytime

The website was developed by NHL teachers and students. Existing sites such as Facebook, Friendster and MySpace did not meet our demands with respect to security, flexibility and usability. Moreover, advertisements play a prominent role in these sites, which is not in line with the educational character of MySN.

How does MySchoolsNetwork work?

MySchoolsNetwork has three important features:

1. Each member has a personal profile; there are distinctive roles for pupils and teachers/student teachers
2. MySN members (pupils, teachers and students) can communicate with each other – in English – by means of simple message boxes
3. Every four weeks there will be one or more events; an event is an online competition around a cultural theme. Pupils are challenged to write a story or poem and to upload this, together with a picture or photograph to illustrate the story. At the end of each event there is a poll to decide who'll be the event winner. After a week the winner will be announced on the homepage.

"I think it's a brilliant idea to make contact with pupils and teachers abroad via MySN. In this way you learn a lot about other cultures and customs. Especially for secondary school pupils it's a fun way – beside the traditional classes in school – to practice and develop their communicative skills and world orientation"

(Lisanne de Jong, 2nd year student NHL)

"With MySN pupils broaden their horizon and enlarge their world"

Within two years MySN has come to be widely used; both pupils and teachers are enthusiastic about the fact that they can communicate with peers in areas they may never have heard of before. Besides, the NHL teacher training department have structurally embraced MySchoolsNetwork as a platform where students may practice their feedback and coaching skills.

What's in it for your school?

Secondary schools may use MySchoolsNetwork as an addition to their more traditional curriculum to offer pupils an authentic setting to practice certain skills.

Pupils could – for instance - earn credits by taking part in a number of events; it is also possible for schools to design their own events or projects and have them programmed into the platform.

Teacher training institutes might consider implementing the "online traineeship" strategy described above, thus strengthening their ties with their network of schools.