

## School Excursion

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### At the Front Staircase

Hello, dear guests! We are happy to have you at one of the oldest and most beautiful schools in Russia. No very educational institution can boast with such a rich history and a great number of outstanding graduates. Our school had different names. Before the Great October Socialist Revolution of 1917 it was called Kekel's Gymnasium for boys. During the Soviet times it was school number 1, and now it is Alexey Leontievich Kekel's Gymnasium.

You can see a memorial board in the vestibule. It was open in 2009 to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Two of our graduates, Igor Chikunov and Viacheslav Sandorin, were killed during that war. On the right you can see the memorial board to Yuriy Kachurin who was killed in Chechnya.

Every year on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September the new generation of our students come through these big wooden doors. The first graders officially become the students of the school on the Day of the Gymnasium. This building was meant for 720 pupils but nowadays we have 1198 students. Our school is one of the biggest in the Yaroslavl region.

And this is our emblem. It was designed by our headmaster Danil Alexandrovich Brazhnikov.

There are classrooms on all three floors. There are 2 gyms, a library, craft shops, and several classrooms on the ground floor. Look on your left, the main building is connected to the small one with a passage. There teachers and the headmaster used to live before the Revolution of 1917. Now elementary school pupils (2-3 graders) study there. Our first graders have a separate building.

### Up the Stairs

Here, on the stairs, just as 100 years ago, you can hear happy children's voices. Look, what big windows! What a beautiful chandelier! A red carpet is put on the marble stairs during holidays and we take this red carpet route to get to the Assembly Hall. There we even have ballroom dances.

his memorial board is devoted to the poet Alexander Gavrilov, who graduated from our school. He published four books of his poems: "A Premonition of Love", "The Running Light", "My Fair Land", and "Star Groove".

In 2009 the fifth book "Love has no Parting" was published. Since that time, in January, we celebrate Alexander Gavrilov's birthday with a poetry Festival.

On the opposite wall you can see memorial boards to three other graduates of our school. All of them are the heroes of the Soviet Union. They are pilots Alexander Davidov and Boris Yeriomin and a tankman Constantin Tulupov. Next to their names you can see a list of our school graduates and teachers who were killed during the Great Patriotic War.

The first floor is the main floor of the gymnasium. Here you can see the coat of arms of our country and the coat of arms of our town. There are boards with the names of all the best students.

#### The First Floor (near the portraits)

And these are the portraits of the founders of the gymnasium. The history of the school began in 1885 when Kostov's merchant and benefactor Alexey Leontievich Kekin bequeathed all his movable and immovable property to the town society. According to his will the town had to build a gymnasium and a university in Kostov.

And this is a portrait of the first headmaster of our school, S.P. Moravskiy. He was quite a unique personality. He was a historian from Moscow. And the building was being built when he was a headmaster of the school. Moravskiy was the one who hired the first teachers and wrote the first school charter. He was loved and highly respected for the high professionalism, deep knowledge and humanity. The street that our school stands on has got his name since 2001.

#### The Assembly Hall

And here is the Assembly Hall where balls, concerts and different events are held. Look how magnificent it is!

The ceiling is high. There are some balconies you can use to watch the dancers and singers. The windows are huge and spacious. Before the Revolution of 1917 there were icons in the hall and all the morning prayers were held at that place. On this wall there was a portrait of the last Russian Emperor, Nicholas the Second.

In 1936 the fir tree holiday was restored. (It was banned till that time). A huge fir tree was placed in the middle of the hall each year for the New Year celebrations and masquerade. The graduates of the 50 celebrated the New Year with their teachers from the 31<sup>st</sup> of December to the 1<sup>st</sup> of January and everyone had to wear a costume. There were competitions, lottery and dances till the morning. They had lots of fun!

#### IT Room

This is one of IT rooms (room #217). There are three of them in our school. The computers are the gift of our graduate of 1985 Andrey Baronov. There are more than 100 computers at school. We have our local network and the Internet access. IT is taught to students from the second up to the eleventh grades.

### Biology Room

Most of the elementary school classrooms and some secondary school classes are equipped with such smart boards. Our teachers use the contemporary teaching techniques such as multimedia projects, the tele school and long-distant teaching.

### The Observatory

We go all the way up the stairs and find ourselves in the observatory. Unfortunately, all we have from the ancient telescope is its stand. But we have some modern equipment. Nowadays our students can watch the stars and planets just as the students 100 years ago did. Some world-famous astronomers came out of this school. They are Dodaiev, Dombrovskiy, Mazaiev... You can find some information about them at the second-floor stand.

There are 4 observatories in Yaroslavl region and ours is one of them.

### The Big Auditorium

And here is our big auditorium. Back then it was used for physics and natural science lessons. During Soviet times communist party and Komsomol meetings were held here. Now we use it for different purposes. Our region different school subjects olympiads, concerts, performances, meetings, and other events take place here. It can fit up to 300 people. The auditorium is well-equipped.

### The Museum

And now we are in our school museum. A lot of historical materials are stored here.

Here you can find some old Russian household tools (a cradle, a samovar, a spinning-wheel). In this cupboard you can see some physics devices of old gymnasium. Another treasure of ours is the first picture album with the first school-leavers of 1914.

There are some stands on the walls that tell us the stories about the foundation of the gymnasium and the people who made it come true. We've already introduced you to Kekin and Moravskiy and this is the architect Trubnikov. Thanks to his project this magnificent building was constructed.

There are a lot of materials about the Great Patriotic war. Some teachers and students of the 40s fought in that war, some were captured, some were killed, others worked hard in the hinterland. There are some military hats, pocket flasks, letters and diaries. During those hard times there was a military hospital at school. We have a photo album that can illustrate that period of the school's history.

These stands tell us about outstanding graduates of the 30s. Among them there are two National Artists of the Soviet Union Vera Gorodovskaya and Nikolay Rykunin. And there is some information about the 191

graduate and world-famous astronomer Alexander Mazaiev. You can read about his inventions in the Bi  
oviet Encyclopedia.

That stand is about the graduate of 2005 Pavel Kozlov. He won the International Mathematics Olympiad  
With the delegation from Yaroslavl region he met with Vladimir Putin. Here in this photo he and his family  
are meeting the governor of Yaroslavl region. Pavel graduated from Moscow State University and now  
teaches there.

This is the end of our excursion. We hope you enjoyed it!