

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year!

DISV is so pleased to be open as usual, after a school closure in March 2020 and a reopening in May 2020 with only half the students attending school at any one time. As we continue to navigate a global pandemic, we are grateful to see so many excited faces back at school. It has been a pleasure to welcome back so many returning families and to welcome new ones to the Danube family. We take pride in our school as we strive for excellence, by engaging minds, exciting learners, acting ethically and showing empathy.

With **100% of our students passing the IBDP in the last 6 of 7 years**, many students apply to join our program due to our excellent results. A seasoned faculty that invests in our student body makes the difference and creates a world-class school. Academic preparation in our PYP and MYP programs builds the necessary skill sets and knowledge to ensure IBDP students are prepared for what's ahead.

In previous years, DISV was able to extend our support to our partner schools in Kenya, Waluka and Miwani, where we are working hard to establish agricultural programmes that will lead both schools to long-term self-sustainability. Thanks to the outstanding efforts of our school community early last school year, we were able to raise **€ 16,912.00 for the support of our partner schools in Kenya** for the 2019/20 school year. In February 2020, a group of highly dedicated DISV students and teachers travelled to Waluka and Miwani once again to support the schools, working with the students and families on site. We thank the entire DISV community for their continued effort and support for Waluka and Miwani.

We hope you – our Alumni students and parents – will continue to be part of Danube International School Vienna. We look forward to welcoming you again at some of our events, and we thank you for continuing to be a part of our community!



With best wishes,

Director Dr Michelle Purghart & Family Biber



DANUBE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL VIENNA

Since 1992

*‘striving for EXCELLENCE, by
ENGAGING minds, EXCITING learners,
acting ETHICALLY and showing
EMPATHY’*



A word from our director

Dear DISV Alumni and parents,

The 2019-2020 school year was unlike any other in Danube International School Vienna's history. The world became engulfed in a global pandemic and abruptly shifted to some type of lockdown. In Vienna, DISV was closed overnight, and on March 15, 2020 transferred to distance learning. In spite of there being very little warning, DISV was able to navigate a transition to home learning with finesse and grace, as teachers learned all about zoom and google meet to ensure they stayed in touch with their students. New at home schedules were defined and immediate goal setting transpired to ensure learning objectives were met and children continued to learn. Students at the highest level, IBDP, prepared for exams from home with teacher support, while our three to five-year old's navigated devices with classmates and teachers on screens that some had never maneuvered beforehand. Despite these challenges, the DISV community came out stronger and wiser than ever before.

Returning to school at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year brought new found respect for classroom instruction and the miracle of learning teachers/assistants are responsible for making happen every day. Students were so pleased to be back at school, they smiled under their masks and had a skip in their step as they entered the building. Every class activity was a welcome one, full of excitement and engagement. Every student was truly grateful to be back at DISV to see their friends and educators, and have the opportunity to explore with peers and teachers face to face. As we opened again in August, these sentiments remained. There was a light among DISV community members that embraced navigating this pandemic together, knowing that we would be triumphant. There was less fear and more understanding, less reaction and more action. This is DISV, a place where families and staff work together for the betterment of all community members, ensuring that children are cared for and challenged to be the best version of themselves. This has never been lost, whether we are at school learning or at home connecting virtually. Students come first.

We see the results in our happy students, who enjoy coming to school every day, as well as in test results. For a fourth year in a row, DISV IBDP students received a 100% pass rate. Once again, all students in the IBDP passed, securing DISV the best exam results in Austria. These outcomes are exceptional because we are an inclusive school, allowing all students to matriculate to the program regardless of learning needs. DISV consistently receives results well above the national pass rate of around 79%, placing it in the top range of International Baccalaureate schools around the world.

Our results in the PYP and MYP programs are equally impressive, as we backward plan from the Diploma Program all throughout the school. In a time when many families are adversely affected financially, we are grateful to serve over 500 students, with admissions picking up every day as countries begin to open up. We are pleased to be the school of choice for families both locally and internationally and will continue to provide the highest standard of care. We welcome the opportunity to tour any new families around DISV and thank those of you who have referred friends and colleagues to DISV over the years. As we continue to look at ways to serve the DISV community, we thank you for being a supporter of our school, both past and present. We are sending our best wishes to you and your family at this difficult time; you are now and always will be a part of the DISV family.

With sincerity,
Dr. Michelle Purghart
Director
Danube International School Vienna



DISV Events in the school year 2019/20

The Corona pandemic and the required safety measures had a considerable impact on school life and school events in the school year 2019/20. While DISV took great care in ensuring continuous high quality education for all students during the governmental lock down from mid-March to mid-May, the required safety precautions and hygiene requirements to prevent a possible infection at school have led to many events, such as the successful DISV Alumni tournament and all athletic tournaments of our school teams, being cancelled or postponed to the next year.

Still, we have been able to ensure a number of exciting events for our students that both enriched the school experience and helped important causes, such as the annual fundraising goals for our partner schools in Kenya.



Trip to Kenya

Repeating the TRIP OF A LIFETIME for our students!

February 2020 was the second year in a row that highly motivated DISV students traveled to Kenya to work with students at Waluka and Miwani primary schools and see firsthand the difference the DISV community's donations make. The previous year's trip brought back so many memorable experiences and a great wave of support that led to donations of € 16,912.00 in the school year 2019/20. Returning to Kenya in February, we were able to assist our friends in building a school kitchen and working with the students on site to ensure that the agricultural programs continue to work smoothly and provide daily meals for over 1000 students in both schools.

We also extend our thanks to the Make Me Smile Kenya organization that is run by fellow Alumni Maximilian Ullrich who not only helped organize this trip with us, but who is our spokesperson on site all year round and continuously ensures that all donations reach their intended goals in Kenya.

Those students who traveled to Kenya came back profoundly changed by their experience, and we hope that circumstances will allow us to organize another trip in the future.

Impressions from our trip in February 2020:



Trip to Kenya - continued



Challenge Week September 2019

The annual **Challenge Week** for Secondary School students Grades 6 to 10 was a great start to the school year and an exciting adventure for all. These memorable trips took our students to Altenmarkt im Pongau (Grade 6), National Park Gesäuse (Grade 7), Mariapfarr in Salzburg (Grade 8), Grundlsee (Grade 9) and Haiming in Tirol (Grade 10).



School events in 2019/20

Students enjoyed many different activities, events and trips last academic year. Here are some impressions:

Project Centipede (supporting orphans in Romania), October 2019:



International Day, November 2019:



Halloween, October 2019:



School events in 2019/20 - continued

Waluka Bazaar, December 2019:



Thank you for your donations towards the Waluka and Miwani Primary Schools in Kenya!

Model United Nations Conference Vienna, January 2020:



School events in 2019/20 - continued

Lunar New Year Celebration, February 2020:



Fasching, February 2020:



Grade 12 Art Exhibition, March 2020:



Investments: school building & infrastructure

During the summer break 2020, as every summer, the school building was carefully maintained with fresh coats of paint and renewed floor surfaces to welcome students, parents and staff back in a safe, friendly and efficient working environment.

Additionally, this summer we also renewed the sidewalk in front of the school entrance, allowing for additional space for students and parents when arriving or leaving the school. Bicycle and scooter stands are encouraging sustainable transportation and are providing an additional benefit not only for DISV, but also for the neighboring buildings.

The Kindergarten (EYU) is also happy to have a new changing room in front of the popular play room, where children may leave their coats, shoes and belongings to get ready for their exciting day.

A few impressions:



Farewell to Wlady

In June 2020, we said goodbye to our main caretaker Wlady Kaczmarczyk, as he happily entered retirement after 19 years at DISV. Wlady was known for being the one to call if you needed anything fixed or taken care of, and he was always ready to help with a smile on his face. After almost two decades of working at DISV, we congratulate Wlady on his retirement and wish him well. A farewell party brought back so many memories and funny stories that we shared with him, and many well wishes were sent from around the world to Wlady from employees who knew him over the years. We wish Wlady all the best for his retirement and are happy to welcome his son Matthias Kaczmarczyk to join our staff and assist our caretaker Krzysztof Boczon in his daily tasks.



DISV Summer Camp 2020

In June and July 2020, DISV hosted 6 weeks of the popular DISV Summer Camp, providing exciting activities around Vienna, combined with academic sessions on each school day that allowed students to catch up on curriculum topics that needed further solidifying after the period of home learning.

Many children signed up for our camp and created beautiful memories together. We hope to welcome them all again in the next year and look forward to many more children who want to join the fun!

We are happy to welcome children from outside of the DISV community as well, of course.

