

## Culture Bridge ...



**... Means Understanding Others And Reflecting Our Own Situation**

## Landfermann-Gymnasium Duisburg



This year Landfermann-Gymnasium Duisburg will celebrate its 450th year of existence and it is thus one of the oldest schools in the region. However, the old school building that you can see in the picture is only slightly more than 100 years old. A new wing used for the Sciences plus a gym and assembly hall were built much later, however, due to constantly rising student numbers, we also use classrooms in another adjacent school building.



Here a few pictures from the inside of the old building.



Landfermann-Gymnasium is a secondary school with the aim to enable students to study at a university later. The official founding year of the school is 1559. It was originally called Latin School, as Latin was the important subject at that time, later it became a Royal Gymnasium (1885) and after the fall of the monarchy a State Gymnasium (1918). In 1925, it was named after Dietrich Wilhelm Landfermann (1800-1882), who was headmaster of the school from 1835 to 1841.

The roots of the school are even older than 450 years. Documents in the city archive mention a 'Schola Duisburgensis' (that is Latin and means School in Duisburg) before the year 1280. Yet, following the celebration of its 400th birthday in 1959, the school community have decided to celebrate its 450th year of existence in 2009.

Landfermann-Gymnasium is attended by about 1200 students. Grade 5 students, the youngest, are around 10 years old, grade 12 or 13 students are 18 to 19 and they have to pass a final, central exam, the 'Abitur', to be able to start their studies at a university.

Students at Landfermann-Gymnasium have to decide whether they want to be in the bilingual or the Latin-English group, or whether they want to join a group that has more education in natural sciences.

The bilingual students have two more English lessons in Year 5 and 6. From Year 7 onwards the subjects Geography, History and Politics are taught in English then.

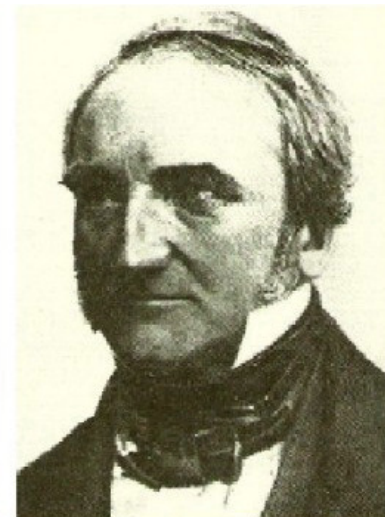
The Latin-English group starts learning English and Latin at the same time and the third group have more lessons Math and Sciences.

All students have to learn a second foreign language from Year 6 onwards. They can choose between French and Latin. The English-Latin group can of course only choose French.

In their later school career students can choose to learn Spanish or Greek. There is also a club for learning Chinese. Other extracurricular activities are, for example, rowing, sailing, hockey, choir, school orchestra, rock band, jazz-dancing or a musical society, which is presently preparing a performance of Grease.

Lessons usually start at 8 o'clock in the morning. Each lesson is 45 minutes long and after each lesson there is a short break of five minutes, so that teachers and students can go to other rooms. After two lessons there is a longer break of 15 minutes for recreation. Students usually bring something to eat from home or buy snacks at the school cafeteria. The typical German 'Pausenbrot' is a slice of bread with meat or cheese on it. However, there is also a small cafeteria on the school ground in which the students and teachers can buy something to eat. Most students, and especially the younger ones, leave school after the sixth or seventh lesson, which means at 1:15 p.m. or 2:15 p.m. In the afternoon they have to do their homework for school.

Landfermann-Gymnasium is located in the centre of Duisburg, right next to the Central Shopping Malls.



Dr. phil. Dietrich Landfermann



There are normally quite some queues in the school cafeteria.



If you want to find out more about Duisburg, you might visit [www.duisburg.de](http://www.duisburg.de). There is also an English version of this website.