

How can school communities help to prepare young people to be responsible citizens in line with fundamental values such as peace and tolerance of diversity?

The task to raise a good citizen is very difficult and cannot be achieved quickly, thus it is even more important not to ignore it during school years, because it is the period when our personality undergoes the final transformation.

For students the school community is like a second home and has great influence on us. I believe that the most important skill for a citizen is to know the different opinions and views on the worldly matters, so I suggest the school community organizes discussions with different topics. The next thing would be to open up the school community which tends to shut herself in a world of her own. An interesting solution is exchanges with different foreign schools. Also, I think, the students should get a taste of real life. Maybe a good way is practical education. But the most important part in becoming a good citizen lies in your own hands. If a person is uninterested the school should better leave him alone until he shows some interest, because if they force him into cooperation it will do more damage than good.

So in the end, I think that the school community holds a crucial role in the development of new citizens. But its influence is most of the time rather negative, because the teenager nature is too complex to be toyed with and should better be left alone.

Jakob Grasselli,
Diocesan Classical Gymnasium