*Danish high school looking for*

*partner schools for school partnerships and class exchange programmes*

At Skive Gymnasium & HF we strongly believe in international school partnerships in general and in class exchange programmes in particular. Both our students and our teachers have truly enjoyed the benefits of a personal exchange where you get to know the country you visit in a completely different way. Therefore we would like to get in contact with European partner schools – both in the countries that we already work with (Italy, Spain and Germany) and in other European countries.

**Who are we?**

Skive Gymnasium & HF is a Danish high school in the Western part of Denmark with an international profile that we would like to make broader than it already is. We have about 900 students and 85 teachers and offer two different courses: a three year course, the STX and a two year course, the HF. Both courses are aimed at the same age group of youngsters between 15 and 19, i.e. youngsters who have finished the compulsory part of the Danish school system, and both the STX and the HF qualify to further studies at universities or other institutions of higher education.

In the Danish educational system English is the first foreign language and the teaching starts in third grade, which means that Danish youngsters are quite fluent in English and the working language of our exchange programmes is therefore English. Apart from English, we teach German, French and Spanish as foreign languages.

**International school partnerships as a means to cross-cultural understanding**

The idea of our exchange programmes is that the “foreign” hosts stay with the families of the Danes that they hosted during the visit in their home country. That way the students and their families really get to know each other, and whenever we have been involved in an exchange programme, the feedback has been very positive. A few student quotes from the last US visit to Skive Gymnasium & HF (March 2012):

“We loved seeing all the little historic buildings and how Copenhagen differed so greatly from Delaware. Denmark is a completely different culture from the one we are used to. Though we differed from the native Danes in Copenhagen, we were warmly embraced. They accommodated to our inability to speak Danish, by adapting to English. Our arrival into Copenhagen was an experience none of us will ever forget.”

“All of the individuals that we have encountered have treated us with generosity and curiosity; they seem genuinely interested in our daily life in the United States. By the end of the trip you became a part of the family and can consider them part of yours.”

“One of the biggest differences between the US and Denmark that we have noticed so far is the greater use of bicycles.  Cars are very expensive in Denmark and licenses are quite costly. People of all ages use bikes to travel throughout the cities because they are the most effective way of travelling small distances. Bikes are cheap, environmentally friendly, and good for one’s physical health. In Delaware, bikes are not used for daily travel because cites are further apart and spread across the state. … Danish people also take the train, and bus, while this is very uncommon for many of us.”

“We enjoyed eating meals with our host families; it was nice getting to know them. It was interesting to see what a typical day was like for our Danish hosts. They were always so polite and welcoming making sure we were fed, well rested, and had fun.”

As it would appear, the US students noticed small, but important details about the Danes and they really enjoyed their stay in Denmark. The evaluations from the Danish students after their visit to our partner schools around the world have been just as positive.

The personal experience is one of reasons why we strongly believe in exchange programmes and why we would like to be able to offer exchange programmes to more students. Therefore, ***we are*** ***looking for European partner schools that would be interested in joying an exchange programme with us***. Feel free to contact international coordinator at Skive Gymnasium & HF, Lise Markussen at [lma@skivegym.dk](mailto:lma@skivegym.dk) for further details or visit [www.skivegym.dk](http://www.skivegym.dk)