

Harmonious Development School for Children

Sunday school of the
Evangelical Baptist Church
Of Georgia

The Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia has a long tradition of Sunday Schools. In the beginning children would have Bible class and music. The main goal of the Sunday school was to teach children Bible stories and church songs. Later on, when the Christian summer camps' project was launched, the Sunday School faced new challenges. This was no longer only for the church children but also for others. Those others were the campers who heard about God, who made new friends and wanted to spend time with them. New children and new challenges made us to rethink the Sunday School concept.

On the other hand we want our children to learn about Christian values, to study something that is impossible to learn at public schools. Our Children, being children of the minority church in our country, most of the time have very low self esteem and need to be encouraged.

That is why we decided to have not just a traditional Sunday School but to start a more complex project called "School of Harmonious Development for Children" and we try to build a comfortable atmosphere at our school, in order to give our children opportunities for a >> harmonious development <<.

HD School is an interdenominational institution where students represent different Christian Denominations.

The mission of the project is:

- To create a healthy atmosphere for the children to reveal and to develop their gifts and abilities.
- To teach them Christian values.
- To help them to become valuable citizens of our country. To make them feel they are a valuable part of our culture, history and society.
- To make them feel, being HD School students, means also to be part of the Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia despite of what denominations they belong to.

Current Project Description:

For the time being there are 35 students and 21 staff at the HD School. Students are from 6 up to 16 years of age. Both the staff and the students are from different Christian denominations.

Students form 4 age groups:

1. The youngest group from 6-9;
2. From 9-11;
3. From 11- 13;
4. From 13 – 16.

The staff forms three groups:

1. Teachers of different subjects
2. Leaders of the age groups
3. Administration team

Each of the age groups has 2 leaders who are responsible for the bible classes and they look after the students from the time when children are brought to the church up to the very moment when they are taken home to their parents.

HD School students are brought to the Evangelical Baptist Cathedral Church for a short sermon in the beginning of the service. Then they leave the service and are taken to the Betheli Center by bus where they have Bible classes. After a small meal they attend different classes upon their choice.

Students have excursions and different interesting activities that help them to be closer to each other and to gain new experiences.

Short term Goals of the Project:

- To have Bible lessons for age groups to discuss the issues that are interesting for a certain age group.
- To have various subjects that children would like to study (English, Russian, German, Computer, Music, Crafts, Drama, Dance)
- Each teacher has to make its own curriculum that covers not only the Sunday lessons but also the activities outside the school. In accordance with the subject teacher will teach, they are obliged to motivate students to participate in different activities to widen a worldwide view.
- To take part in Evangelical Baptist Church services and other projects.
- To conduct training for age group leaders as well as for the teachers.
- To have a well equipped computer class.

Tamuna Kopadze
Head of the HD School



Irma Gegeshidze
Administration Manager



Valeri Buiglishvili
Finance Manager



Rusudan Gotsiridze
Program Manager



Long term Goals of the Project:

- To have classes not only on Sundays.
- To have a youth club (this club can serve as a basement for the secondary school)
- To have branches in the regions.

Project Outputs:

- To build a network with Sunday Schools of different Christian Denominations and to cooperate with different educational institutions..
- To organize common activities together with other Sunday Schools.