


WHAT KIND OF SCHOOL DO WE NEED TODAY?

School Student Committee of the Central Council of **KNE** 



In these pages we present the proposal of KKE for the Unified 12-year School for Contemporary General Education. The objective of this specific edition is to present the basic aspects of the proposal of KKE and to give an impulse for further search, concern and conversation about the school which is worth fighting for by students together with all the people.

“What, how and why do we learn?”

“Which is the purpose of learning?”

“Which is the purpose of school?”

The proposal of KKE for school is not irrelevant to the daily reality of students, on the contrary it gives answers to everyday questionings and concerns.

**School Student Committee of the Central Council of KNE
April 2016**

“...Grow up as good revolutionaries.

Study hard so that you can master technique,
which will allow you to master nature.

Remember that the Revolution
is what is important,
and that each one of us, alone,
is worth nothing.

Above all, always be capable
of feeling deeply any injustice
committed against anyone,
in any country of the world.
This is the most beautiful quality
in a revolutionary.
(...)”

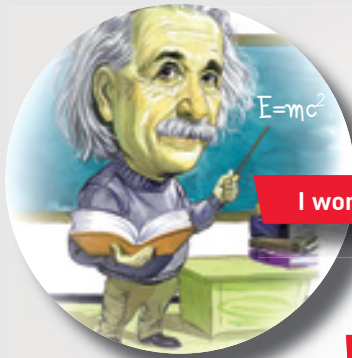
Letter of Che Guevara to his children

In the 21st century...

... science, technology have reached unprecedented levels

... human knowledge conquers new fields ,expands

... so many interesting things, which some years ago may have even been unknown or little was known about them are discovered, interpreted.

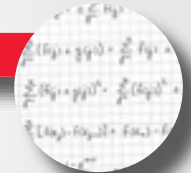


! How did this get here?



I wonder.. how was this expressed and which is its use?

What do all those symbols really mean?



? When and why was it written?

! What does it want to say and what does it refer to?



There is so much that we want to explore, to learn...

... however in today's school very few times we actually learn **"why"** all those things around us happen, how they change, how they develop...

... all this wealth of knowledge in today's school is given to us **in dribs and drabs.**

Knowledge is power...

We want to conquer all "castles" of knowledge, to know the world, because we want and we can change it!

Learn even the elementary things!
For those
whose time has come
it is never too late!
Learn the ABC, I t won't be enough,
but learn it! Don't be dismayed by it!
Begin! You must know everything!

Bertolt Brecht "In Praise Of Learning"

Don't be talked into anything.
check for yourself!
What you do not know yourself
you don't know it at all.
Scrutinize the bill,
it is you who must pay it.
Search with the fingers every mark
Ask: how did this get here?
You must take over the power.

School has become an everyday chore, learning has become a commodity and education has become a highly paid chasing from one's house to school and then to tutorial, without actual free time apart from minimum ...That is whatever we can stick to a daily suffocating agenda if our parents can afford it.

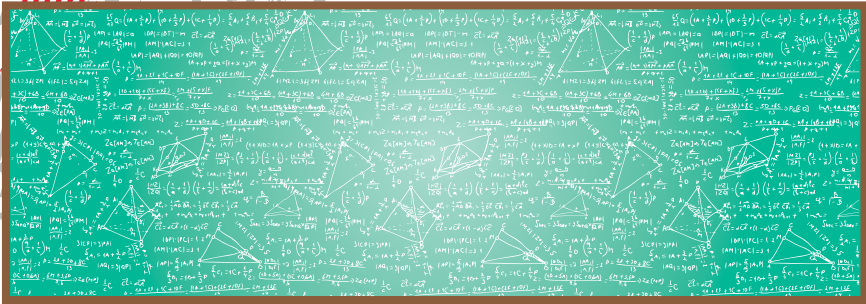
Today's school instead of stimulating our thought, instead of triggering our mind for searching, studying, actual comprehension, instead of putting solid basis to understand and interpret reality...

... is forcing us to memorization by repetition, is giving us fragmentary knowledge which after a while is forgotten, erased from our minds...

... is keeping us away from complete education which gives us the potentiality of understanding and interpreting reality, being creative in our life and our thought in general.



We learn to memorize mathematical, physical and other formulas and symbols which we do not know what they mean. To learn by heart proofs without being taught how they were formulated and which their meaning is.



We have only heard about experiments or we conduct experiments in laboratories without proper structures.

How many of us have had a class in a laboratory?

We gather scattered knowledge without proper foundation.

We are being taught language through extracts of newspapers, from advertisements...

Arts class, music class, gymnastics are being regarded as secondary subjects. On one hand structures are almost non-existent and on the other hand the content of these subjects is superficial.

Every day we come in touch with a large amount of information-real and fake ones. Accumulation of information today is presented as a procedure of conquering knowledge.

But can you Google knowledge??????

Knowledge is not conquered by pressing a button.

It is the result of **research** and consistent effort **to know the truth, to learn.**

This knowledge puts the basis in order to learn to utilize the amount of information which we receive, to evaluate and manage them, avoiding to assimilate without any evaluation whatever that they impose us as true. **To be able to distinguish the fog of false information from the useful and real one.**

But why is school the way it is?

Every now and then a law. Every now and then something about school changes... remaining, however that much class-oriented, that much unequal, that much exhausting!

Today's system depends on exploitation of man by man

To us it gives poverty, unemployment, insecurity about the present and the future but to the few it gives a luxurious life.



**Today's society is unfair to the many and a paradise to the few.
Its law is the interest of the exploiters.**

School obviously is not detached from it...It is the society's reflect and it resembles to it!



To the few it guarantees wealth, good schools. Purpose of today's school is to prepare future employees as the system needs them. They want our passion for new ideas, our creativity to work for their profits.

They also point at our minds!

They teach us how this system of exploitation and injustice, capitalism, is "eternal" and "invincible". They want us never to doubt, never to judge, to believe that their world cannot change...

Rule of today's system is "your death, my life!"

This rule reflects on today's school. Although we will not find it written anywhere, during our whole lives they dictate it to us!

We hear "look after your own good", "if you are smart enough you will escape from unemployment and poverty" etc., **because they want our mind and soul to be completely dedicated to the defense of their system.** They organize "competitions" and "educational programs" for entrepreneurship. **They want to identify our interests with those of capitalists.** To cry when they do not have the profits they want, to celebrate when at expense of our black future they treasure.

They steep our mind with their rotten values and ideals of their system.

Think..!

So many pages, so many books and yet you haven't read about the biggest step of humankind so far, **about the first society which abolished exploitation of man by man, about the huge achievements and the contribution of socialism to all sectors of human life.**

The achievements of socialism in the USSR...



Right after the Great October Socialist Revolution in the Soviet Union (USSR), in 1917, universal social insurance, free public education and health was assured for everybody.



Unemployment disappeared...

The last recorded unemployed person in the Soviet Union was in **1930** Michael Tskunov.



1945 Antifascist Victory of Peoples

The Red Army crashed Fascism!



In 1959 illiteracy was completely vanished.



In 1961 USSR sent the first man in space.

Soviet **Yuri Gagarin** "flew" around the earth with "Vostok 1".

The contribution of the socialist society cannot be compared even to the most developed capitalist country today.

Capitalism is a system aged and old. It doesn't work so that the needs of the many are satisfied but in order to increase the profits of the few. It sets barriers to the opportunity we have today to live a better life.

"...We will sink this pirate ship, we will sink it come hell or high water and we will build a world free, open, full of hope ..."

Nazim Hikmet

Is there a less exhausting and more educating school possible? Is it possible to have a school which develops the skills and interests of each student or is it a crazy dream?

A school with those characteristics has already existed!!!

In countries where socialism was being established (Soviet Union, German Democratic Republic etc.) school fulfilled the students' needs. This was because socialism is a system in which exploiters and exploited people do not exist. It focuses on the complete development of man, on the needs of the many and not the profits of the few!

Did you know that in socialist countries ...

...illiteracy was eradicated?

In 1913 in Russia, before the Great October Socialist Revolution, according to evidence, illiterate people were almost 80% of the population, while in 1959 illiteracy was completely eliminated.



...School developed the interests of each student

The curriculum gave to each class the base in order for a youngster to think completely, to learn, to judge, to combine knowledge, to study the reality and simultaneously to exercise practical activity. In the curriculum there were gardening, chess, astronomy classes etc. Socialist countries were the first to introduce computers to education since 1980.



...Students had free time for collective activity

In all schools in German Democratic Republic students could practice for free electronics, computer science, mathematics, athletics, chemistry, astronomy, painting, music, literature, puppet theatre, local history, photography etc. for free. There were 100 million volumes of books in the libraries of those high schools.



...students had a word on class and school life

According to their age students participated in the formulation of the class. There has to be a special reference to the participation of students in professional education. For example in GDR the right of trainees to decide for all matters was established by law. 17 year old trainees were elected to the administration of syndicates.



...After school...



For those who wanted to work right after school there were job vacancies, while for those who wanted to continue their studies there were academic institutions of high standards. Lomonosov University in USSR was a characteristic example. There were 1000 modern laboratories, 148 amphitheatres, restaurants, libraries, reading rooms, nurseries for mother-students. In the same area there was a hospital, a theater, a museum, an observatory, a geological museum, and aquariums.

**We are fighting
for the society**

**Which liberates man
and his potentialities**

For the socialist society

- ➔ which abolishes exploitation from man by man
- ➔ where wealth belongs to those who produce it
- ➔ which has as a purpose the satisfaction of contemporary needs of people and its children



"We are fighting in order to abolish once and for all the damned formula "each one for himself and god for all".

***We are fighting so the rule
"all for one and one for all"
becomes a custom"***

V.I. Lenin



"New planet", painting by Konstantin Yuon.

Socialist society utilizes the huge capabilities of science, technology, production in order for the many to live better and not in order for the few to increase their profits. That is why it needs the powers and skills of all of us. It utilizes

them but also has a purpose to develop them as much as possible. It takes under consideration our skills and interests and gives them new impulse.

In socialism no one is redundant!

The socialist society is built on new foundations.

It is a society where...

"... the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all"

From the "Manifesto of the Communist Party", C. Marx, F. Engels

That is why a new school, completely different from today's

Purpose of this school is...

The Unified 12-year School for Contemporary General Education is the one which corresponds to our contemporary needs.

... to set the bases of a formulation of people, with complete and high level of education, with complete and creative personality, who will be educated with the values of the socialist society,

...to prepare us:

- ➔ to contribute through our work and our participation in the exercise of power so that society goes forward, people's life is improved, more and more needs are satisfied.
- ➔ to face in a creative way work and life, no matter what profession we choose.

... to educate in practice with the values of collaboration and solidarity, and so to organize students' life.

The Unified 12-year School for Contemporary General Education is not regarded as a cost by the socialist society. It is a condition for its progress!

That is why...



... it does not depend on our family's income, it is public and free. Every student will complete school without obstacles, in responsibility of the socialist society.



...it does not divide us. It educates us in a complete way, without discriminations.



...it has contemporary infrastructures, laboratories, books and teachers everywhere.

This kind of school supports us from our very first step

➔ It gives us the equipment to be able to follow the development of **science** and **technology**, to utilize their achievements for further growth of production, for the **satisfaction of contemporary social needs**.

➔ It has a **curriculum** with unity and coherence from the first to the last class, in order to help us gradually to assimilate higher levels of knowledge.

All of us, regardless of the profession we choose, we obtain the knowledge which composes the necessary foundation so we can approach the wealth of knowledge conquered by mankind, to understand, interpret nature, the world we live in and social evolution.

➔ It promotes **critical thinking, creativity**, assimilation of knowledge so we can utilize it in real life.

It gets us in contact with the wealth of the culture of mankind. It teaches us language as a mean of expression, communication and mostly as an instrument of thought. It utilizes texts with aesthetic and educational quality which can help us think in a complete way, to come in touch and take in the wealth of language.

It helps us come to conclusions and not learn by heart a conclusion without understanding how and why it came from, to which questions it gave answers. It teaches us not only the “formula” but also the process of proving it, the research.

It utilizes observation, experiment and helps us discover the causes and relations between phenomena. To understand the world as a whole.

It utilizes new technologies and helps us familiarize with contemporary technological means, necessary for our future as working people.

**Through all of the classes
emerges the faith in the potentiality of man
to know and change the world**

**Extract from the poetical collection of Yannis Ritsos,
“Morning star”, which he dedicated to his daughter.**

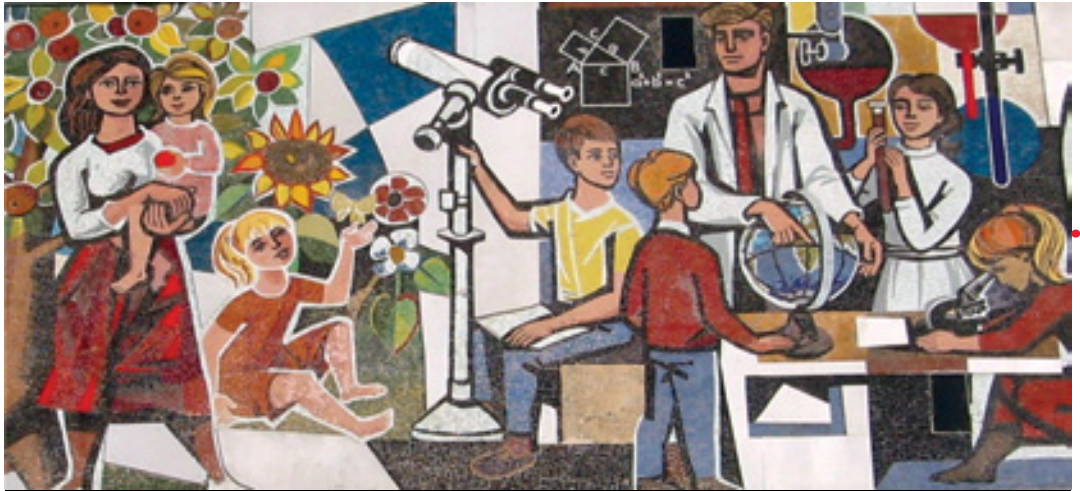
*Because, little girl, it is not enough
to only learn
what you are,
what you have become.*

*The thing that matters is to be
what the happiness of the world asks for,
it is to make, little girl,
The happiness of the world.*

The school we demand opens our horizons and helps us to develop our personality in a complete way

It helps us organize our thought and life, our collective activity in and out of school, according to the needs of our age.

It contributes to the overall development of the total of our capacities and it cultivates, gives boost to our skills and interests, to our initiative and inventiveness.



Part of mosaic from the “House of the teacher”, Berlin (German Democratic Republic). It was made during the time of socialist construction and depicts various aspects of life and school in GDR.

That is why it recognizes:

- **the importance of arts classes** in the formation of aesthetic criterion, the cultivation of creative attitude, the harmonic development of our skills and our fantasy.
- **the irreplaceable value of physical education** for the physical and emotional health of students. It teaches us to also express through our bodies.



It rejects the logic that says:



“Why do you learn to dance if you don’t want to become a dancer?”



“Why involve with the arts if you won’t become an artist?”



“Why exercise if you don’t want to take part to a championship?”



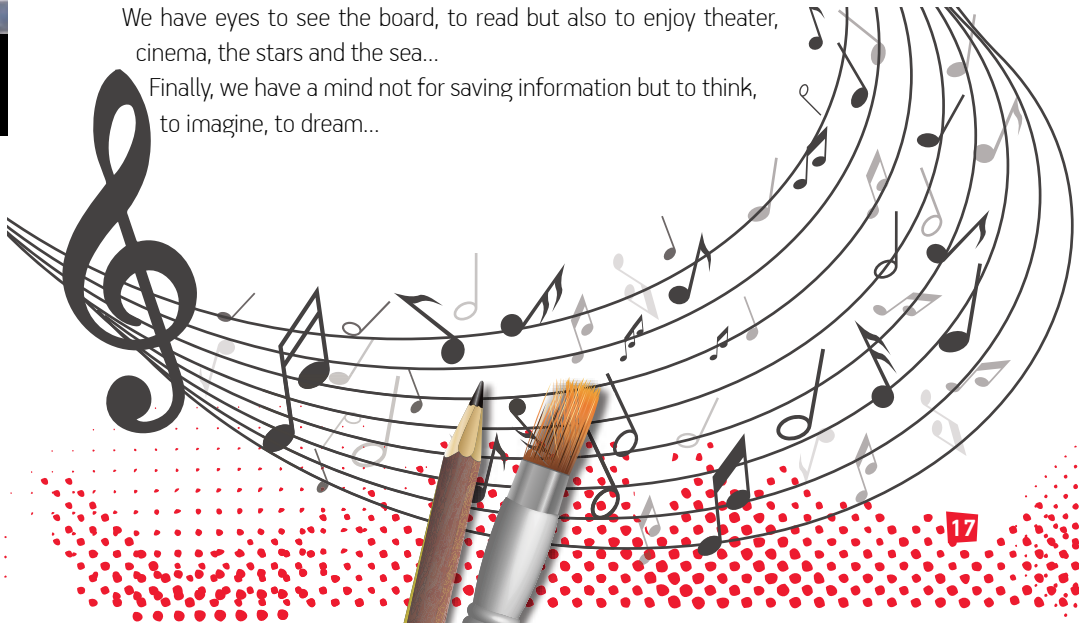
This school “shouts” that:

All we students have hands to write but also to paint, to do sculpture, to get involved with simple and contemporary machines!

We have mouth to say our lesson but also to sing, to play theater! We have feet to go back and forth to school but also to dance, to run, to stand on them and find our own step to the world...

We have eyes to see the board, to read but also to enjoy theater, cinema, the stars and the sea...

Finally, we have a mind not for saving information but to think, to imagine, to dream...



"And if everyone learns the same..."

... how will be each one of us able to develop his own skills?"

**This school gives everything to everyone
not little to few!**

The school which we fight for

...gives to all of us the opportunity to come in touch with the arts, culture, science and athleticism.

...secures all the ways and structures so we can essentially get involved with them!

So each one of can discover, develop skills and "unlock" many more!

These happen through the school curriculum and also by optional classes.

All this activity also continues out of school.

The **socialist society** makes a complete system of education with clubs of interests, conservatories, athletic organizations and unions.

In those we can all participate in our free time for free, according to each one's interests.

Also:



➔ It provides free public centers of artistic education for deeper preoccupation, for example with musical instruments, with theater, cinema, dancing and many more.



➔ It creates systems of athletic activities of high level for sports which require special training from a younger age.



We students have a word

on the life and function of school community


The Unified 12-year School for Contemporary General Education has in its curriculum activities which we today do out of the school program.

Apart from teaching hours, it has for instance athletic and cultural activities, it secures to all of us free boarding, it has structures for rest but also for utilization of our free time.

The school community consists of students, teachers, the rest employees of the school and parents.

In this school we students take an active part in the life and function of the school community.

We do not only have a word on the activities done at school but we organize many of them.



**This school has
on the epicenter of its
function collective activity,
collaborative work and our active
participation at it.**

Because even through these it sees the education of children with the values of collaboration, selflessness, collegiality and contribution.

It therefore sees

the values of the socialist society!

Knowledge combined with practice

The school of theory and practice is a part of the new society. This is why it is on constant and essential connection with it.

This school...

...does not regard technique as inferior. Technical education is for everyone and is in school. We learn to handle simple and complex machines, how material processing is made. We participate with our activity to make our school beautiful (painting, gardening etc.)

...has in its curriculum excursions, visits and activities also out of school. For example at work places, where we will be able to observe how everything we learn to school apply on real life, even participate symbolically.

...has the necessary structures, contemporary laboratories for each class, proper classrooms so we can make experiments and whatever is necessary for all classes in order to understand the importance of theory on practical life and vice versa.

...organizes common events and activities which bring the rest of society inside school and vice versa.

All these contribute to the education of students, the stance which we form for work as an element of progress of the socialist community.



Part of mosaic from the "House of the teacher", Berlin (German Democratic Republic). It was made during the socialist construction and shows diverse aspects of life and school in GDR.



Today...

...technical education is regarded as inferior, technical schools as schools of second chance.

➔ Instead of knowledge, they give us skills. But the acquisition entirely of skills means scattered "knowledge" with "expiry date".

➔ Half of the technical schools do not have laboratories of physical sciences.

“They see laboratories with equipment from the 80's and call it old fashioned...We just give a vintage tone to technical schools.”

That's the only argument we haven't heard yet!

In this system, more close connection of the job market with education does not give a solution to the huge problem of unemployment neither to the degradation of education, as they tell us. The matter is not to further connect the educational system with today's jungle of (capitalist) job market. This happens anyway. **The matter is production, economy to be connected with the objective of the satisfaction of popular needs. This is how the problem of unemployment will be faced, this is how professional education will actually be upgraded.**

By finishing the Unified 12-year School for Contemporary General Education...

➔ **...we will have obtained basic knowledge** which we need in order to respond to any choices that we make in our lives.

Work in socialism is not an opportunity, **it is a right for everyone.**

In the socialist society there is no stress like "What am I going to do in the future?", "What am I going to do if I don't get accepted in a university?" .

➔ **...we can continue** in the public and free universities, to integrate in a professional school or to enter production directly.

The state takes all necessary measures to provide students of universities and professional schools with boarding, transportation, whatever they need in order to complete their studies without obstacles. The degree secures us a job.

At the school we fight for the need of society and professionals is recognized. However a good craftsman-technician-professional is the one who conquers solid knowledge so he can follow the evolution of technique and participate in it. That is why technical education is given after the completion of the studies of the Unified 12-year School for Contemporary General Education.

Socialist society is able and knows the existing needs, it plans how they will be satisfied, encourages in this framework our skills and interests. This is why all youngsters know not only that they will surely work but also where. And this before graduating from school, university or technical school.

This can only be done by a society which owns the means of production

Why can this happen?

➔ Because...socialist society has disentangled once and for all with the exploitation of man by man and the capitalist ownership in the means of production.

So it is the owner of the richness, it returns it in a planned way to whom produces it.

We can explain this world with the power
of knowledge!

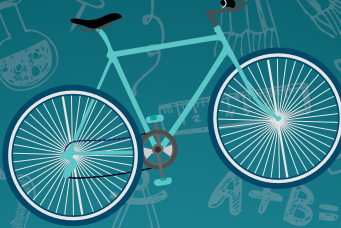
With the organization of the struggle we can
change it!



"People". Painting by Konstantin Yuon (1924).

*Forward! Without forgetting which is our way!
Forward without forgetting: to who owns the way, who
owns the world...*

B. Brecht



$$2+2=4$$

$$A+B=C$$

$$x+y=z$$

$$x+y=z$$

60

