Class::	Your Name:	Date:

Introduction to the LKS School

The "Lorenz-Kaim School Kronach" is a vocational school for young professionals. Kronach is a small city in the northern part of Upper Franconia which is a region of Bavaria in Germany. The school is located in the eastern part of the city centre next to the city's main cemetery.

An early form of this school was founded in 1846 as "Volkszeichenschule" (public painting school) by a local painting artist named Lorenz Kaim. His goal was to bring painting skills to young people by setting up a kind of college with a focus on extensive practical work. While steadily growing, it continuously underwent some structural reforms and integration of other types of job education. Because the old site was getting too small, it moved into completely new buildings at the current location in 1966. In 1983 it was finally renamed after the founder.

In the year 2020, about 1600 apprentices were enrolled in this school. They are educated by about 52 full-time teachers and 20 part-time tutors. In the school's office, three office clerks organize the administrative affairs and two janitors are responsible for the technical maintenance. Currently, Mr. Schirmer is the headmaster (or principal) and he is backed up by Mr. Zahner as his deputy headmaster. The director of the electronic department is Mr. Kögel, responsible for organizing seven teachers' daily work and timetables.

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On the school's site you can find a main building with lots of classrooms, computer rooms, teaching kitchens, social care rooms and technical laboratories. A production hall includes car mechanic and industrial mechanic workshops. In a large hall, concerts can be held and sports can be practiced whereas a gymnasium and a sportsground can be used for sports. The central place to stay outside is an atrium with a water fountain.

Besides the electrical department, there are departments of mechanic and mechatronic technicians. Additionally, car mechanics, industrial office clerks, shop selling staff, bakers and hotel assistants get their vocational training here. This is achieved via partnerships with local companies that care for the more practical part. During a school year, apprentices have to stay for one week at school and for following two weeks at their home company as their regular schedules. In some of these training programs, it is possible to get a graduation degree that entitles them to visit a university of applied science afterwards. Other students do a university graduation (Bachelor or Master) in parallel.

Also, there is a two year fulltime education to get an assistant for child care, social care and becoming a housekeeping assistant. They do their practical work in social care organizations like a nursery or in hospitals. If young people hadn't found a job yet, they can attend further programs like "JoA" to increase their chances in the job market.

A typical vocational training takes 3 ½ years. Electricians are educated in subjects like electrical theory, power distribution, control technology, communication technology and automation. They gain knowledge about a large variety of electrical devices and systems used in buildings and industrial production. In their last year they take their final exams at the chamber of industry and commerce - or alternatively - at the local chamber of commerce. After that, they are certified electrical technicians.

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During the apprenticeship the company pays a usual salary between € 600,- and € 800,- a month. It is not necessary to pay any tuition of fee to go to school, which is unique in Europe!

A typical school day starts at 7:40 a.m. A lesson (class) takes 45 minutes. After ending the 3rd class, a first break for breakfast then takes 20 min. A longer break is for lunch, which starts at 12:30 o'clock and takes 45 min. The day ends latest a 15:30 o'clock if the timetable is completely booked, but this is usually not the case.

The school maintains international partnerships with sister-cities in Hungary (Kiskunhalas) and with schools in Cyprus. There are exchange programs for teachers and students to come and go at different periods of time. The LKS also has partnerships to universities of applied sciences in Hof and Coburg. The latest news about this matter can be read on the school's website at (URL) www.bs-kronach.de.

Questionnaire

Just fill-in the key-information.

- How many apprentices go to this school? Answer: .....
- What's the name of the director of the electronic department? Answer: .....
- When does the school day start? Answer: .....
- What's the position of Mr. Schirmer at the school? Answer: .....
- Where can you do sports in the LKS? Answer: .....
- What's the name of the building with the class rooms? Answer: .....
- Where do the apprentices do their final exam? Answer: @.....of ind. & com.
- How long is the breakfast break? Answer: .....
- Where are the partner universities of the LKS? Answer: .....
- How do you call the payment you get every month? Answer: .....

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Questions to the text

Answer in complete sentences, try to find your own formulations.

1. Where is the school located?

2. Who was "Lorenz-Kaim"?

3. What are the most important buildings?

4. What kind of technical education can you get at this school?

5. Name five typical technical subjects for electrical technicians.

6. What does the text tell you about partnerships?