



Alapítva 150 éve

*A Short Introduction to the 450-year-old
Arany János Reformed Grammar School*



Nagykőrös

*“The burning sand will
become a pool”*
(Isa. 35.7)

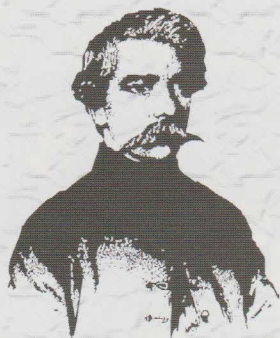
The school was established by the Nagykőrös Reformed Church with the town's support. We do not have the exact date but, by indirect evidence, the estimated point of the establishment may be put between the 30s and 50s of the 16th century. In the registers of the Vienna University the names of Nagykőrösi Péter and Kőrösi Csuda Demeter can be found as early as 1520 and 1531, who, later on, continued their studies at other European universities, in Cracow and Wittenberg.



The first officially documented teacher of the school was the rector, Mihály Veresmarti in the year 1598. From that time on we have the list of teachers, and since the year 1632 the registers containing the students' names.

The rules and regulations of the school dating back to the middle of the 17th century include the directions for the organization, management, student officials and for the everyday life of the students. These rules cover the education as well as the spiritual and moral life of the students. The first regular curriculum can be found in the 1792 school laws which enumerate the subjects to be taught and the school text-books to be used. At that time students were taught by two professors. The school was a boarding school, where about 30 students were lodged in six rooms. Between 1830 and 1870 teacher training and a course in economy were added to the school's profile. It was not an accident that the presbitery chose Latin language as the means of communication with the government instead of German. According to the Organisations Entwurf – which was constructed as a new educational policy for the hereditary provinces of Austria – an eight-year compulsory schooling system was introduced from the 1848/49 school year and the form tutorial system gave place to the subject tutorial system. In 1850 the presbitery of Nagykőrös announced that they would make any sacrifices for their school.

By the Ministerial Decree No 7008 of 8 August 1853, the grammar school won the rights first among the protestant schools to provide its students the opportunity of the final exam. The grammar school had its heyday in the 10-year-period following the suppress of the War of Independence in 1849.



During this period the following prominent and distinguished figures of Hungarian cultural life tutored in the school: János Arany one of the finest poets of Hungarian literature, Károly Szász bishop and poet, Sándor Szilágyi the author of the 10-volume millennium edition of the Chronicle of Hungary, Károly Szabó who soon left for the University of Kolozsvár, János Szigeti Wurga professor of humanities, Anasztás Tomory mathematician who became the member of the Academy soon afterwards. At the time of Arany seven academics belonged to the teaching staff.



The old building of the school soon became cramped and in only one year the present building of the school was built and the education started in 1901. The memorandum contains the following: This grammar school should educate students with strong character and belief, who honour their principals and fellow-men with all their heart, who are ready to live and die for the saint convictions of mankind. On 31st October 1927, on the day of Reformation the ancient school gave a banner into its youth hand so that they could show the right way – literally and also in figurative sense – for the next generations. Its motto says 'Adore God and love your motherland.'

During World War I-II the occupation army used the school building as a hospital. In 1948/49 nine tutors educated the children. On 1st July 1948 Arany János Reformed Grammar School was secularized without compensation. It was followed by the 45-year-

long period of socialism which abolished religious life and condemned parents whose children attended religious occasions and congregations. In these years education advocated the principle of socialism in our school as well. After the change of regime, Nagyőrös Church District – as a result of the act of the new Parliament – sent an application to the local council in spring of 1990. They reclaimed all the church estate and landed properties. On 1st July 1993 – on the exact day after 45 years – Nagyőrös Church District got the grammar school back from the local government. In great favour of God, after the school's „rebirth”, our education – connected to the spirituality and past of the school – is built on Christian morals following the Holy Scripture. The greatest forming power of our spirit and conscience is the knowledge of God's Word.

“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge”

(II Peter 1,5)

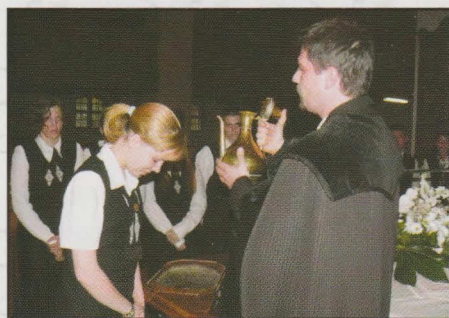
Principals of our
Calvinist education

Our purpose is to train the students for educated, honest Christians, admirers of the universal human value, loyal citizens who are

willing to make sacrifices for the Hungarian nation.

COMMITMENT

Our school is a Christian community with the principle of proclaiming the life changing Gospel. The institute preserves and passes on the timeless values of our culture with the help of its history, language, moral and curriculum.



CULTURE

Our school provides proficiency for students according to their skills. We prepare them for the final exam and higher education. Our teaching methods help the students achieve original thinking and critical sense.

HIGH STANDARDS

We would like to turn out young people with highly developed sense of responsibility.

Besides the traditional 4-year education in 1992 our school started the 6-year one with a call

for maintaining talented students. These groups of students have become the best classes of all.



Students candidating for this school can be majored in arts or science and have the opportunity to learn English and German languages.



Our students' hostel has been performing the great task of Christian upbringing since the resumption. Our education has a significant role in preparation and promotion of God's Word and the work of Holy Spirit.

The school library places nearly 37 thousand books, 250 videocassettes, CDs, etc. at our students' and teachers' disposal.



So called "spiritual days" held during the schoolyear serve confirmation of the reformed spirit. We regularly visit the congregations of South-Pest diocese where we introduce our school. On these occasions followed by an agape, the minister-RE teacher preaches the Word and the students perform a short play.

With the help of out-of-class activities, common experiences, fostering of traditions and customs we try to strengthen students' public spirit and sense of responsibility.



In September, 2001 a new era began in our school. We started to participate in the process of teacher training of the Faculty of Arts, Károli Gáspár Calvinist University.

More than 250 students carry out their teaching practice at our school in Hungarian Grammar and Literature, History, English, German and Religious Education. Also, they can experience the everyday life of our institute. The practical and spiritual training of the teacher trainees provides an inner renewal for the rest of the teaching staff, too.

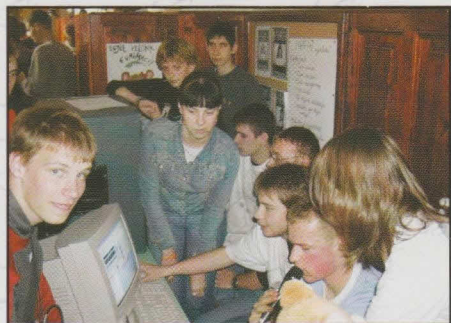
Our students are living their adult life in the third millennium, so our reformed grammar school has to give them the knowledge and the pride so that they will be able to find the right way in our world full of uncertainty. Evidently, the Word of God helps us to make them see this right way. The enamelled school badge, the embroidered "Bocskai" tie and the waistcoat have been made, both teachers and students are really proud to wear them on school ceremonies.



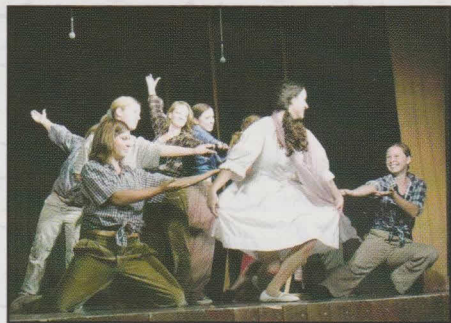
In the school year of 2004/05 we started our 5-form language class. Besides, it was the year when we

began to teach Latin again and when the two-levelled final exam system was introduced.

Moreover, the first "freshers' camp" was also organized last term, at the end of August, in



Lakitelek-Töserdő. It turned out to be an ideal place for a camp like this and I'm sure our 'newcomer' students gained some unforgettable experiences. The school choir and our talented readers follow the school tradition and represent us in several school and church events. The annual performances "The Stage is Ours" are popular with the local citizens, these happenings



give both the students and the audience an amusing time. We

publish our own school magazine and yearbook from which you can get information in details about school life. Every May, on the “Day of Birds and Trees”, teachers and students go out together and enjoy the beauty of nature in the



nearby forest. Apart from these, we can provide some other annual amusing school programmes, such as “Who is the Best in Music?”, Christmas and carnival parties, national public holidays, religious festivals and commemorations.

We have to work and get enriched in love and peace so that we can fulfil the task we were given. We are all building stones in God’s school. Giving a good example, let us do our duty by getting and sharing knowledge, spiritual food and lots of experiences.

“Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.”

(Romans 14,19)



1993



Name: Arany János Református Gimnázium és Diákhon

Address: 2750 Nagykőrös, Hősök tere 6., Hungary

Further information: www.ajrg.hu

E-mail: gtitk@ajrg.hu