

Oleksandr Korotych

Kyiv, Ukraine

UKRAINIAN SCHOOLS IN THE USA: SPECIFICS AND FUNCTIONS

We must add to the proposed topic that Ukrainian scientific and educational space is not only limited by the border of Ukraine. Ukrainian educational organizations are located all over the world. Having in the focus of our scientific work Ukrainian ethnicity in the USA we would like to give a quick look about the traditions of the Ukrainian schooling in the polyethnic society of America.

Known fact that school is one of the most important social communities in which all children are included since compulsory education is enshrined in international law. But if we are talking about ethnic schools we see no law that requires students visiting them. There are many different reasons why parents want children to be members of the ethnic schools and we should name few of them: 1) wish to get children acquainted with the culture and traditions of their ethnic motherland; 2) give them an opportunity to learn the native language; 3) provide them a chance to be in the company of children with the same ethnicity. That is why Ukrainian schools in the USA are popular in the environment of persons with the Ukrainian ancestry for the last 120 years (first Ukrainian school was founded in 1893 in Shamokin city, Pennsylvania). It is a known fact that Ukrainian ethnic groups are willing to preserve its ethnicity and translate for the future generations.

That also determines a structure of the Ukrainian schooling in the USA. Besides traditional Saturday and Sunday schools, where students learn native language, literature and culture of Ukraine, there are also four types of schools: 1) schools, which are taught in Ukrainian; 2) schools, where students study Ukrainian subjects among others; 3) secondary schools, which taught Ukrainian language; 4) schools

where Ukrainian is taught as an optional subject. Also in the USA there are few kindergartens with Ukrainian-language group.

All of the Ukrainian elementary and secondary schools in the USA are financed by Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and Ukrainian Orthodox Church. As of 2011, in the US there were 40 Ukrainian schools with over 2,500 students [Teacher...]. All of the schools are controlled by the Educational Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. The Council's main goals are: translation of knowledge of Ukrainian language, support for Ukrainian education and stimulation of interest in the culture and traditions of the Ukrainian people. Educational Council is also publishing text-books (around 30 titles), approves and develops educational programs, issues the educational certificates and takes care of teacher training.

Since Ukraine's independence, the Council has established a close working relationship with Ukraine's Ministry of Education and many of its publications serve as basic texts of study in Ukraine. They also closely with the Ukraine's Ministry of Culture, Prosvita Society, universities, libraries and other educational institutions throughout Ukraine. Thousands of textbooks have been disseminated throughout Ukraine, free of cost [Educational...].

We can conclude that the wide network of Ukrainian schools in the USA has a good base of teaching methods; its textbooks are modeled like first-class American text-books and it has century of a teaching experience. That is why educational exchange between Ministry Of Education And Science Of Ukraine and Ukrainian Congress Committee of America should be intensified during the process of modernization of the system of secondary education in Ukraine.

References:

Teacher conference. MIST-online: Ukrainian Weekly for the whole world. [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: <http://meest-online.com/?p=1004>

Educational Council. Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, 2014. [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: http://www.ucca.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15&Itemid=13&lang=en