

If you are invited to visit a School . . .

It is very likely that your team will be taken to a school one or more times, possibly an elementary school, a high school, or a vocational school. It is less likely, but still possible that you could visit a university campus. This document is addressing the elementary, high school and trade school visits.

There are two kinds of schools: a government school and a school governed by a church or denominational agency, such as Hungarian Baptist Aid (HBA). Regardless the type of school, it is important to ask and then follow the instructions regarding evangelistic boundaries.

Government schools most likely will not want the team to offer an invitation or maybe even pray for the class and school, regardless of the age. An alternative is for the church to host an after-school activity and invite them to that.

In schools that are sponsored by a church-related group (e.g. HBA), it is almost always ok to share your story. In a high school you (or the local pastor) can take the spiritual conversation as far as the Spirit leads. No pressure on the students to pray or indicate a spiritual decision.

It is an excellent idea to ask the school leadership if you can answer questions from the students. They will almost always say 'Yes'. Answer what the students ask, but don't forget the boundaries!

What to do at the school . . .

This approach has worked very well in schools all over Europe and is perfectly suited for Hungary. Get together with your team and plan out who will do what. If you are on a large team (5 or 6 people), you may want to divide into 2 smaller groups.

1. Each person introduce themselves, including family info, work/school details, hobbies and other interests. .Include where you were born.
2. One person shows a map of the USA.
 - a. Ask if students know any U.S. cities and let them find & point them out
 - b. The USA is about 105 times bigger than Hungary. Hungary is about the size of Indiana (point out Indiana).
 - c. Point out that the USA is divided into 50 states. It took about 200 years to identify all the states, from 1176 to 1959

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- d. Show the Texas map. Point our Collin County on the US map, then on the Texas map.
 - e. Answer questions about geographic information.
3. Another person talks about U.S. schools and the difference from Hungarian schools
 - a. Three levels: elementary, middle and high schools vs. generally 2 levels in Hungary. 12 years in USA vs 11 years in Hungary
 - b. Hungarians often choose between high school and trade school, whereas trade school in the US usually comes after high school
 - c. Schools in the US include many other activities, such as sports, music drama, and many clubs for things like agriculture, language, art, etc. In Hungary, these activities are almost always separate from school and student participate in organized clubs.
 - d. Schools in the US typically start at 8:00 to 8:30 and finish from 3:00 to 4:30 depending on grade level. Ask about the time this school or class meets.
4. A 3rd person talks about students and your church
 - a. What weekday activities does your church provide for students after school? (Don't get bogged down in activities and names such as RA's, Awana, etc. Just describe what they do.)
 - b. How are students integrated into your church on weekends?
 - c. What summer activities are available for students?
 - d. If your church has adopted a school tell about that school and why it was adopted
5. If you need to fill more time, practice a few simple conversations. After practicing with whole group, break into small groups of 3 or 4 and let the students practice the "conversations"
 - a. Hi, my name is _____. I am new here.
Hello, my name is _____ and I am happy to meet you.
 - b. We will have lunch soon. What is your favorite food?
Good. I am hungry. My favorite food is _____.
 - c. Will you be here all day?
No, I have to leave right after lunch. I will be here all day tomorrow.Your make up more or let the students suggest some if they want.
6. Play games with whole class
 - a. Rock, paper, scissors
 - b. Heads or tails
 - c. Etc.