

How Balvi State Gymnasium is working towards a socially sustainable future



Values of the school:

Responsibility

Respect

Cooperation

Determination

No Poverty! Zero Hunger!

At Balvi State Gymnasium, the UNESCO values of **No Poverty** and **Zero Hunger** are actively embraced through meaningful initiatives that foster empathy, generosity, and social responsibility.

The **Balvi municipality** ensures that every student has access to free lunches, promoting equality and nourishment for all.

Students also take an active role in supporting their community by organizing **charity concerts** for residents of the retirement home, spreading joy and kindness to those in need.

To further encourage sustainability and generosity, the school has established **a donation and exchange corner**, where students and staff can donate or exchange items they no longer need, ensuring that resources find new purpose instead of going to waste.





At Balvi State Gymnasium, the **well-being** of students and school staff is a top priority. The school is dedicated to creating a supportive and nurturing environment that promotes both mental and physical health.

Through various initiatives, including afterschool volleyball, football and basketball clubs, and opportunities for open dialogue, the school ensures that everyone feels valued, heard, and supported. Regular activities that encourage mindfulness, stress management, and physical fitness are integrated into the school culture to foster a balanced and **healthy lifestyle**.

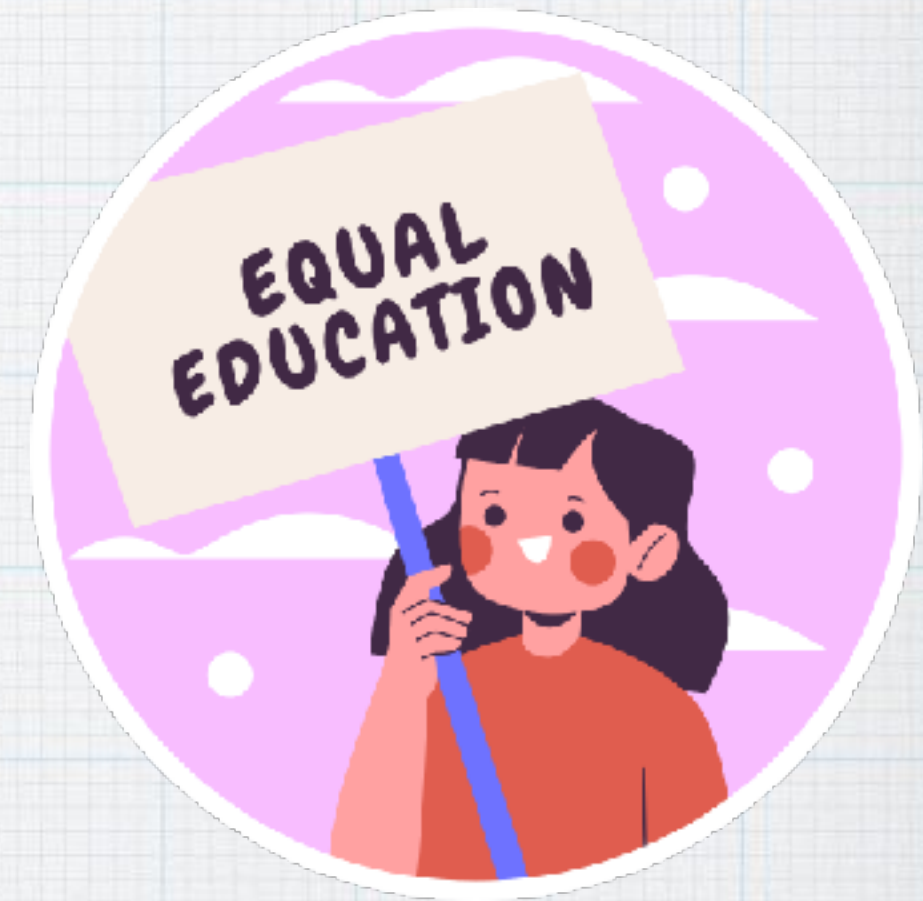
The school emphasizes student voice through its active **Student Council**, which not only represents students' interests but also plays a key role in organizing events and initiatives that enrich the school community.



Together, we create a space where respect and understanding pave the way for success!

Balvi State Gymnasium takes pride in fostering a safe and inclusive learning environment through the implementation of the **anti-bullying program "KiVa"**. This evidence-based initiative focuses on preventing bullying and promoting **kindness, respect, and empathy** among students.

By addressing bullying proactively, KiVa empowers students and staff to **build a supportive community** where everyone feels **valued and secure**. With its innovative methods and collaborative approach, the program strengthens the school's commitment to ensuring that **every student** can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally in a positive and encouraging atmosphere.



Being proactive!

Balvi State Gymnasium is proud to be the only school in the Balvi district implementing the **Leader in Me** program, which is based on Stephen Covey's **7 Habits of Highly Effective People**. This program equips students with essential life skills, fostering leadership, responsibility, and personal effectiveness.

As part of its commitment to developing **global citizenship**, the curriculum includes lessons on global challenges, diversity, and sustainability. These topics prepare students to understand and engage with the complexities of the modern world.

Additionally, students are introduced to **business basics** and learn how to establish their own enterprises with a focus on sustainable practices. This hands-on approach equips them with the skills and mindset needed to succeed in a rapidly evolving, environmentally conscious economy.





Balvi State Gymnasium is proud to be a part of the **Eco-Schools program**, demonstrating its commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility. This school year, the focus is on the topic of **Garbage**, encouraging students and the community to rethink waste management and adopt eco-friendly practices.

Each year, the school hosts an **Eco Forum**, bringing together all district eco-schools to share ideas, inspire action, and collaborate on sustainability goals. Additionally, Balvi State Gymnasium actively participates in **Global Action Days**, joining worldwide efforts to make a positive environmental impact.

At the school level, numerous initiatives are in place, including: +Collecting waste paper to encourage recycling, + Organizing campaigns for the safe disposal of hazardous waste like batteries, + Establishing deposit points to reduce and reuse waste, + Sorting waste at both the school and community levels etc.





In alignment with its Eco-School values, students participate in an **Eco-School after-school club**, fostering environmental awareness and hands-on involvement. The school also takes pride in its green initiatives, with **an abundance of plants** both inside and around the school. Students actively engage in **plant-growing activities**, nurturing a connection with nature and responsibility for the environment.

Adding to its unique learning experience, the school boasts an **outdoor classroom**, where lessons are conducted during springtime, providing students with a refreshing and immersive learning atmosphere.

Parents also play a vital role in the school's eco-friendly initiatives. A recent example includes **a sewing activity**, where parents collaborated **to create reusable shopping bags** for fruits and vegetables, promoting **sustainable** alternatives to plastic.



This school year, Balvi State Gymnasium is involved in three Nordplus projects, emphasizing collaboration, innovation, and cultural exchange.

+ Our Baltic Sea

+ Ecological Thinking Within Our Minds

+ EcoQuest: Exploring Sustainable Living in Every Step



