

# THE MOZART TIMES



*Maturant 2022*





A portrait of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, showing his face and upper torso. He is wearing a red coat with gold embroidery and a white cravat. The title "The Mozart Times" is overlaid in a large, orange, serif font.

# *The Mozart Times*

## MESSAGE FROM EDITORIAL

BY JUSTÝNA KŘIVKOVÁ, ROBIN NAIMAN

Dear readers,

There is maturita exam coming in spring and the main editorial team will be saying its farewell this time. But before we disappear for good, we want to share with you our latest issue of The Mozart Times, on which we have been working on since September! This time we discuss our personal thoughts on various topics, such as what being a good person means to us, why we turn to crime or about our self image. If you have not yet seen the famous South-Korean series The Squid Game, we got you! Or if you are currently looking for some new book, you might want to keep reading.

The students of the first year are already active, took time and created their very own survey about their experience here so far. In contrast to that, we have an advice to our younger readers from our very wise soon-to-be graduate. We have also made an interesting interview with one of our newest teachers, Mrs. Miláček. And, following the previous issue, the language section is also present. This time we talk about French!

We would love to thank everyone involved throughout these four years on behalf of the whole team. And of course, many thanks to our readers. It was a fun experience for all of us and we are sure it helped us in many ways.

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## SELF IMAGE AS A NONBINARY PERSON

During lockdown we got the chance to connect more with our feelings and perception of ourselves. We discovered many things whether we wanted to or not and thanks to that many people are coming out as non binary which is rather misunderstood or not respected label. I feel like it is because of the definition, there are pretty much no rules, only that you in your mind do not fit into man/women identities = binary genders.

I personally fully came to terms with this identity only about a year ago. The journey was exhausting. I did not feel like I was a part of any group, woman nor man seemed just right and feeling like you are not enough of something is a pretty bad feeling. Since I started to identify as nonbinary, I became more comfortable with my feminine side, which had never happened before in my life, only because I found myself. And even though it is not always nice and shiny and I battle with tough expectation of what I should present like, I bend those rules one by one, day by day.

So for anyone out there – it gets better and you will actually find yourself, whatever that means for you.

*Nonbinary = not male nor female - in between those two or outside of the spectrum - body-wise no specific features*



## WHY YOUNG PEOPLE TURN TO CRIME

BY LIBOR PEZINEK

Why young people often start committing crimes? That is a question of many psychologists, and a very good one. Recently, I watched a documentary in which three people discuss it and try to systematically explain every one of the three main reasons mentioned in the beginning.

Which reasons you ask? Well, first there is the problem of children lacking the discipline and control from their parents, which is so important for them in order to pass through childhood without making decisions they will eventually regret. The absence of “the firm hand” from at least one of their parents can be caused by several factors. For example: parents not having the time to oversee their children because of their pursuit for career. Or simply because they are too lazy and do not want to care for their children.

Secondly, there is the biggest problem of all: children mixing with a bad group of people and in the process of trying to impress them, not seeing the bad things they do. This has always been the biggest fear of every caring parent on the planet.

When children reach the age of puberty, they do not listen to their parents and think they know everything better. They often look up to certain people, not seeing what of a person they are. And before they know it, they end up in a jail cell just because they didn't think of the consequences of their actions. Sadly, only experience can teach us that. Right?

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A GOOD PERSON?

BY TOMÁŠ PAZDERKA

Please bear in mind that the amount of research made before writing this article is close to zero and most of it is just from my head, but I felt like I need to put these words on paper.

Being a good man and what does it even mean? This thought has been on my mind for quite a while and the answer is not so easy to find, or at least not for me. But I may have a trick up my sleeve that might help us. Let us start from the other end – what does it mean to be a not so good man? I can think of several traits, that can make someone stand out in a bad fashion. One of them – lying. But as everything in the world, lying is not just black and white. What if telling the truth is going to hurt someone? Either the person you are telling the truth to or some third person. What is the right thing to do then? And why is protecting yourself by lying seen as being worse than protecting someone else?

The other trait that comes to my mind is not keeping your word. I do not mean these tiny things, like when you say you are going to clean your room tomorrow and I guess we all know how it usually ends. I am talking about bigger things, such as maybe not keeping an important secret you promised not tell anyone or something like that.

Another thing is hypocrisy. Talking about hypocrisy is always a double-edged sword, so a quick disclaimer before I go on. I am by no means perfect – obviously, I do not always speak only the truth, no matter how hard I try, sometimes it is simply easier to lie, I am sure there were times when I have not kept my word, but I am trying to be the best version of me and avoid these things as much as possible. In the end, I do not even know, why I was writing this, but coming this far, I am not going to throw this away and with the publish date right around the corner, I have no choice but to leave the article the way it is. Hopefully it made you think at least a little bit and if not, well life goes on.



## PARALLELS OF IN OUR REALITY

SQUID  
GAME

BY KATEŘINA BUREŠOVÁ

Unless you have been living under a rock, you have probably heard about the South Korean Netflix series Squid Game. Since its release in mid-September, it has attracted about 150 million viewers from all around the world, and it has quickly become Netflix's most popular series thus far.

Korean entertainment has been slowly but surely making its way into the western market over the past decade. It has been doing so with its catchy music (Gangnam Style, BTS, Blackpink etc.), last year with its Oscar-winning movie Parasite and now, with Squid Game. This phenomenon of spreading the Korean culture into the mainstream is called the Korean Wave, or Hallyu in Korean. Squid Game and Parasite however, compared to the usually cheerful and romanticized themes of K-Dramas (=Korean series) and K-Pop, introduce us to the gloomier parts of Korea, and even our world on the big scale.

If you have watched the series, the odds are you have probably related to some of the characters, because each one of them represents a certain side of the human nature. The characters are selfish and selfless, cunning and naïve, brave and insecure. And the show is not only realistic in its characters. It also points to a lot of social issues that are recurrent not only in Korea, but in the rest of the world as well. Let's take a look at some of these.

### The economic inequality

Squid Game raises the awareness of the wide gap between the rich and the poor in South Korea. Even though South Korea is a greatly developed country with strong economics, there are still a lot of people that find themselves in desperate situations, unable to get out of debt in this highly competitive society that capitalism encourages. That is why the leader of North Korea used the series for his anti-capitalistic propaganda yet ignoring the many similarities Squid Game exhibited with his own country.

### Life in North Korea

According to a North Korean defector Park Yeon-mi, the South Korean series reminded her of the dictatorship in the north. There, you can get shot for making a single mistake or simply for not obeying the rules. She also pointed out, that Kim Jong-un enjoys watching people fighting and being in physical pain on his visits on military parades. In that way, he is not different from the VIPs and the organizers of Squid Game.

### Human suffering as a source of pleasure

You may call the motivations of the VIPs and the organizers of the game stupid or unrealistic, but in fact, even ordinary people watch violent sports for fun, for example boxing. People in ancient Rome would go out of their way just to watch gladiators fight for their lives for entertainment, so humans have been twisted in this way for a very long time.

### Remote islands and modern-day slavery

Being struck on an island without a way out is not so much of a sci-fi in South Korea. Whereas in *Squid Game*, the players are brought on a private island in the middle of nowhere to play games, in the port cities of South Jeolla Province, mentally disabled or homeless people are sometimes tricked to come to work on nearby islands, and then being held there as slaves. They are forced to work on salt or seaweed farms there, without getting paid and without the freedom to come back home. The authorities have tried to prevent such cases after the news of slavery on Sinan Country's salt farms came out in 2014, but it is nearly impossible to stop it completely, as there are so many hard-accessible islands in the area.



There are many more parallels, such as discrimination against women, North Korean defectors, and foreigners in general, but I will not go into any more details, as this article is getting a bit too long. I hope you have learned something new or interesting.

Thank you for reading and let's make sure that our world becomes a better place, than that one portrayed in *Squid Game* :)



# DISCWORLD

There are many books to pick from, but if you want something different to read or think about, you should try Discworld.

The sarcastic, quite dumb and non the less funny fantasy book series. It is not like your ordinary novel, it makes fun of every fantasy books around it. Discworld, in czech Zeměplocha, was born in 1983, and from that year, it grewed really fast.

Its author, Sir Terry Pratchett, born and lived in Britain, published 41 novels featuring this book series.

But you might ask, does the word Discworld have any meaning?

Yes.

Discworld is a planet, but not shaped like our planet. Discworld is a huge disk resting on back of four elephants which are standing on a huge turtle named A'Tuin. This right here sounds crazy enough, but it gets even better. On the edge of the "planet" are constant waterfalls flowing, and washing the elephnats' heads. Gods of this crazy planet live on the central point of the disk, on a tall mountain called Dunmanifestin.

So right now, we have introduced you the planet, and mentioned gods..The divine pantheon here is wild. For example, there are gods of Things that should stick in drawers, or goddess of Missunderstanding. These were some of the rather normal members of the Discworld gods.

The Discworld book series have been sold in 37 languages and more than 80 million times. The man who translated it all into czech was Jan Kantůrek.

There is a whole guide on how to read all of the Discworld books so that they can relate to each other and many more..

There are many story lines which you can choose from and none of them is boring..

For example, you can read 5 books related to the character of the Death.

Or you can read 8 novels about witches which are all over this crazy planet.

This comic fantasy sarcastic book series is full of jokes, dumbness, but also some deep memorable moments...

To anyone who doesn't know what to read, try this. Because this is pure gold.

Thank you for reading!



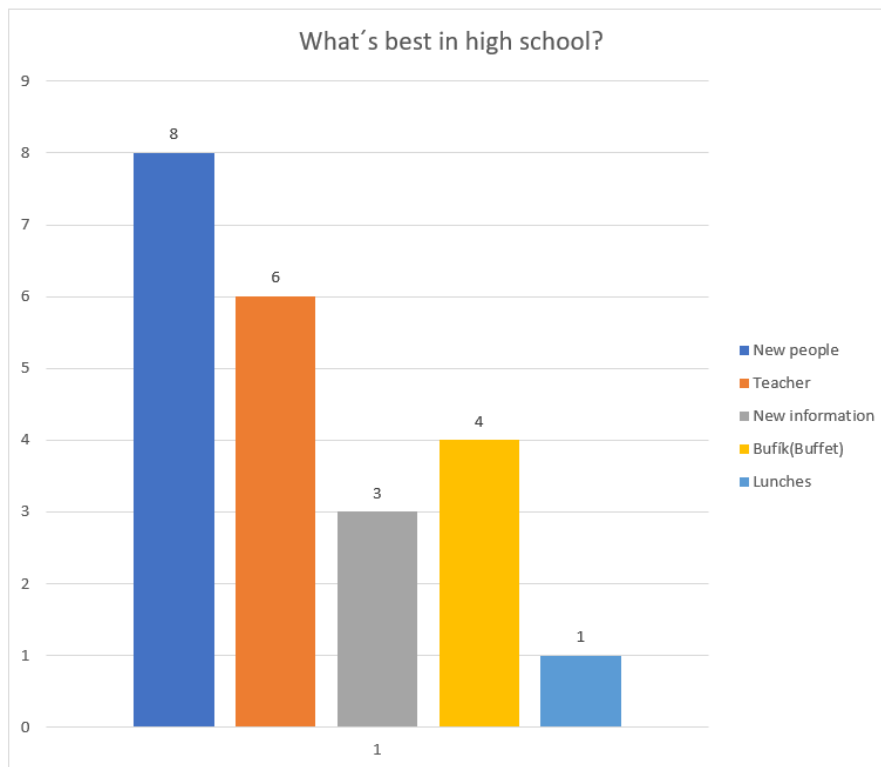


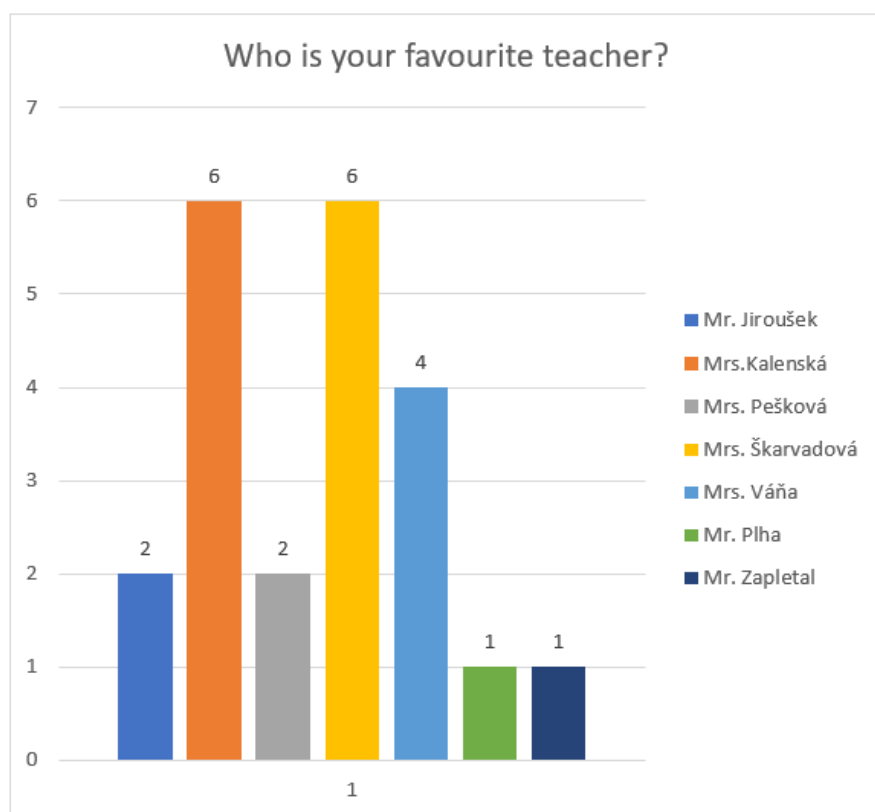
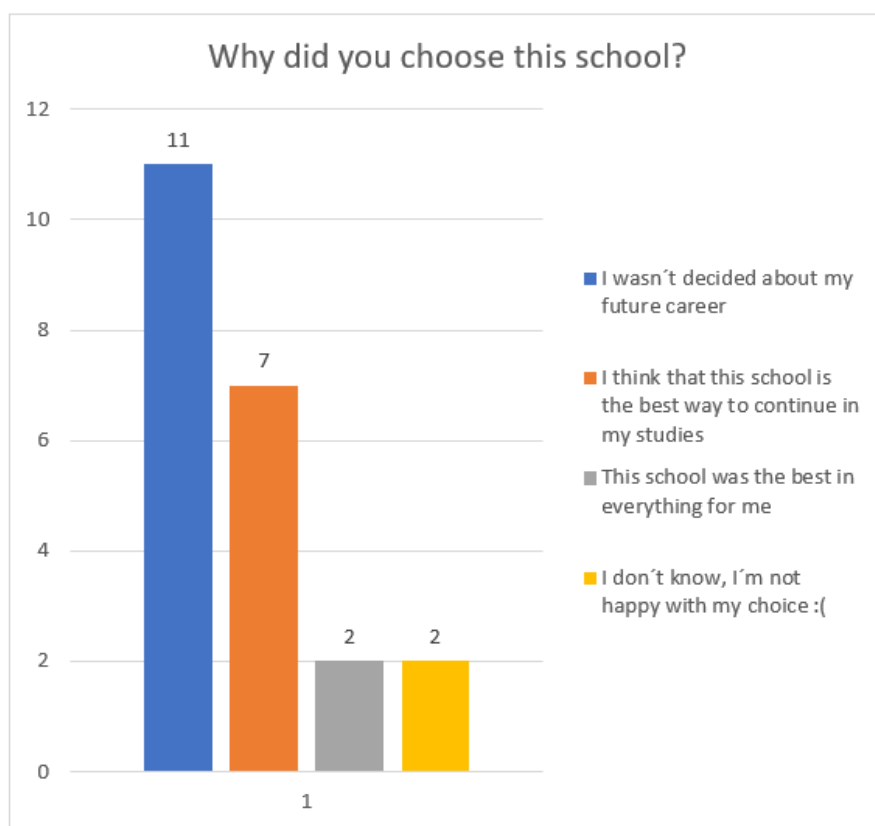
## POINT OF VIEW: FRESHMEN

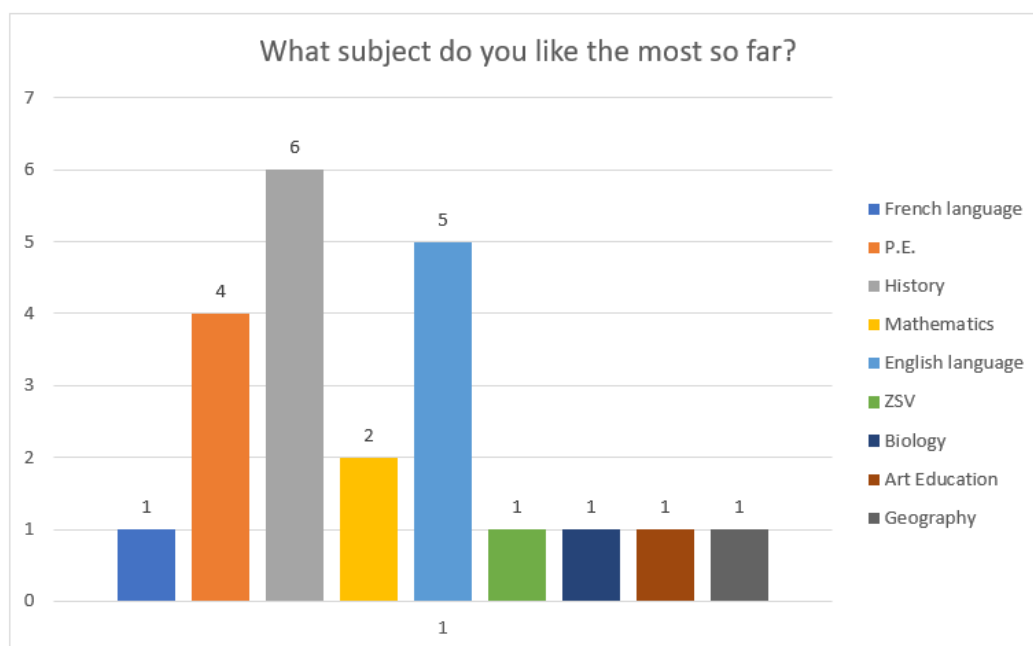
Our class made a little survey about our new life in high school. Some of my classmates and I got together some questions about studying at our high school like for example "What's best about high school?", "Why did you choose this school?", "Who is your favourite teacher so far?", "What subject do you like the most?".

Almost our whole class joined in. We were asking our classmates questions and later we discussed their answers. It was funny and interesting! One of our schoolfellows made us graphs with all these interesting answers.

So if you want to see what the new students of Gymnazium Mozartova said about their first few months studying here then you're looking at the right article!







## POINT OF VIEW: MATURANT

BY JUSTÝNA KŘIVKOVÁ

### My advice to freshmen

This being my (hopefully) last year of studying at our school, I was thinking about what I have learnt throughout those bittersweet years that I have spent behind our school's walls. What would be some advice from me that would ideally change your life for the better? Something so great to enlighten you?

Well, unfortunately, there is nothing like that. I still, after these four magical years, find myself in a state of chaos on daily basis, and I am afraid there is not any easy way out, other than to figure it out for yourself over time. But what I can offer you is some tips.

1. Always check your lunches in ahead.

No, but for real.

1. The higher the floor the better the toilets.

Sorry.

Be active. That is my one and only advice, that has really changed my life. I know it may sound really difficult for some of you and I hear you. But at least try it. Usually, people who attend gymnasium are the ones without any plans or ideas about their future. This school is made for them, for you (yes, you too, don't look away), but you have to keep your eyes open. The school will try to give you some ideas and opportunities, but it is you who has to take action. It is your life. You got any invitation to somewhere? Go. The school is organising a trip? Go take part in it. Want to do some sport after school? Try it! (Please, I beg you, we are short on volleyball players!) Join an excursion, get a group ticket to theatre, go and meet those new people, take part in SOČ or AMAVET.

Now is the time for you to try as many different things as you can, because if not now, then when? Of course, a majority of these things will be something new to you and you will probably suck at it, but how else would you know, if you did not try it in the first place? And yes, meeting new people can be scary and all. I have been there too. But trust me. By being active in different areas I got to know many people which I am truly grateful for and my experience here at our gymnasium would not be the same if not for them. With that in mind I am sad to leave, but we still have plenty of... no, wait. Well, we still got a few months left, and I plan to enjoy those months with you all as much as I can.

## INTERVIEW WITH CHRISTINA KYOKO MILÁČEK

She teaches us in a bit different way than other teachers. She makes us dance early in the morning to wake up a bit. She makes us talk about our feelings with our schoolmates. She runs English club. Some of you probably know her already but we thought it would be great to get to know her more. Christina, a new English teacher at our school, was so nice that she agreed with an interview. And I didn't have to translate anything because she is a native speaker. Therefore, here it is. If you want to know even more about her, visit her Eclub we also mention in the interview.

**You have already told us about yourself at our first class with you. However, for those who don't know you, where do you come from? How would you describe yourself?**

I'm from San Diego, California but I spent most of my adult life near Pasadena, CA which is closer to Los Angeles. And I would say that I'm a typical Southern Californian because I love the water: I love the beach and surfing and water polo and swimming and even just drinking water. In fact, some Czech's were surprised to hear me ask for cold water when they offered me coffee or tea, but us people from warm climates don't like hot drinks much.

**What is your story? What caused you to move to the Czech Republic? Could you imagine that you will end up in a foreign country one day?**

In college, I studied French, Intercultural Studies, Adolescent Psychology and Ministry. (In the US, you can study many different things at the same school.) I wanted to work with teenagers in France because I love French

culture and I'm so interested in the way the teenage mind works. I never intended on coming to Czech or even being a teacher but a big part of why I'm here is because of my faith in God. I'm a Christian and I was asking God for a long time what I should do after I finish school. There was one organization that would not stop contacting me about teaching but I kept ignoring them until I realized I couldn't find any other jobs. They told me the commitment was only for 2 years and all of my other job options wouldn't be available until 2 years later. And it felt too perfect to be a coincidence. So I took the job here and it was pretty hard at the beginning and still is sometimes but it really helped me realize that I can't do this alone. Hard times are not fun but they definitely help us grow and mature. And specifically for me, when you all see me being happy every day, it's because I really care about all my students and I hope that I can help them get through these crazy times the way that God got me through my first years here.



I never planned to be a teacher but I DID know that I was going to live abroad in the future. In fact, we don't have stick shift in our cars in the US but I was so convinced that I was going to move to Europe after college that I asked a friend to teach me how to drive a stick shift car! As for the dream job, I really wanted to study etymology and learn how languages are formed!

**What are your hobbies? Do you actually have some free time?**

I have a little free time, but mainly I spend it trying to keep in contact with friends and family here and friends and family back home. I guess my main hobby would be reading, whenever I can find a book in English! Also I've started painting but it's not as advanced as some of the art I see on the walls here at school!

**Are you homesick sometimes?**

Definitely, I get homesick. Usually it happens when there's an American holiday happening at home or when I think of some food I want to cook that I don't have the ingredients for here. Sometimes, it happens because I can't be a full-functioning adult in certain situations like at the doctor or government offices due to the language barrier. It's hard because I've been independent for a long time (because of American culture) but I still have to rely on someone else to do things for me.

**Aren't Czechs sometimes "scared" of you? I mean, do they try to avoid talking to you? (e.g. teachers at lunch)**

YES! I don't think I look scary but yes, everyone usually runs away from me so they don't have to speak English! Thankfully, most of the teachers (and students!) here are amazing and many of them speak English fluently so I haven't had much of a problem here!

**What do you like about the Czech Republic? Czech people? Our culture, manners?**

I love how hospitable, generous, and caring you all are! I always get invited over for coffee or lunch or tons of people bring me baked goods and I feel so bad that I don't bake much.

I love that in your culture it's not typical to have a ton of friends but when you do those people are very close to you and Czechs are very loyal to those people they chose to have in their lives. So much so that I was so surprised to hear about how many couples have been together since high school! That's not typical at all in the US!

Speaking of, I love how family-oriented you are, especially now that I've married into a Czech family! It was amazing to see how close everyone is with their families, always visiting each other, helping each other, talking to each other, doing activities together; it's amazing!

And I love how respectful of the environment you all are. We don't really have the opportunity to recycle much in the US and we don't often talk about how to do more to save the planet. When we do talk about it, it's whatever the government has told us which is usually not exactly true, like with electric cars...

**Are there any things you don't like about Czech Republic?**

It's usually only when I'm homesick but yes there are some things. Like how "limonada" is not made with lemons. And that at traffic lights they are always somewhere that I have to stretch to see them! Maybe also that the typical pillow size is huge!

**How were you enjoying your own studying at school? What type of student were you? Which were your favorite subjects?**

I went to a private middle/high school and it was very advanced so everyone loved learning and it was amazing because it was challenging

and fun at the same time! I loved doing homework and taking tests because I'm crazy I guess! But I also loved all of the school events we had like football games and pep rallies where everyone in the school got together to watch a show that was supposed to encourage our athletes to do well in their games. Also I loved my choir! I've been singing my whole life and we often got to do performances, especially for all of the holidays! My favorite subjects besides choir were French, Spanish, English, and Math, because crazy enough, I think of language as following a logical mathematical formula so it all makes sense!

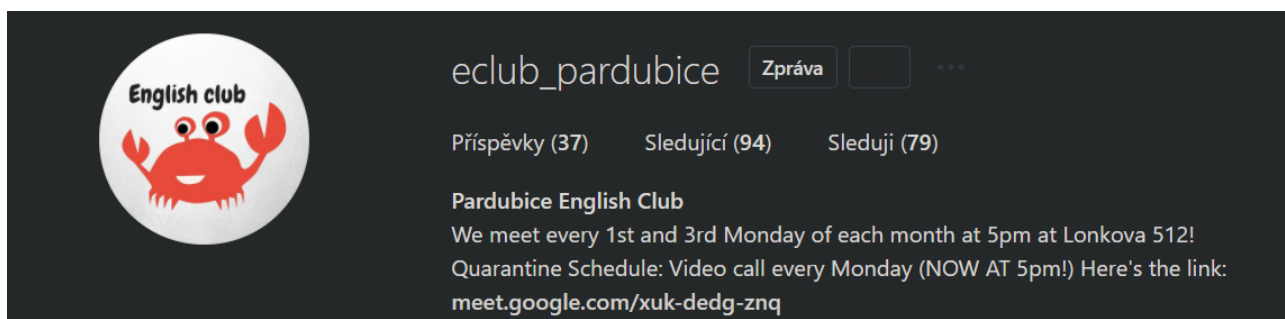
**I would like to mention eclub. What is it? What is the main goal of eclub?**

Eclub is meant to be a safe space for students to practice their English or just hang out and make new friends while also providing a little insight into American culture as I make everyone celebrate our holidays with me! ;) It's also meant to be a place where they can ask me questions about why I'm here and why I am Christian when it seems like most Christians are not nice people or are very strict.

**Is there any advice you would like to tell the students?**

Don't let stress or fear of making mistakes, stop you from doing things you love. And then, if you make a mistake, make the most of it and learn from it so you can grow and move on to do what you wanted to do.

## INSTAGRAM



# WINDOW INTO OTHER LANGUAGE

## - FRENCH -

### Pourquoi tu as choisi français?

J'ai choisi français parce que je l'apprenais aussi à l'école primaire. Alors, pour moi ça c'était un peu facile au début. Mais il a changé après et maintenant les autres sont au même niveau.

J'aime apprendre français bien que ce soit difficile. Et bien sûr j'aime aussi comme ce sonne. Beaucoup de gens sont francophone (par exemple au Canada, bien sûr en France :D ou en Suisse). Alors si vous voyagez un peu, peut-être vous pourrez l'utiliser.

BY VLADIMÍR SEVERIN

J'ai choisi français parce que je pense que c'est une jolie langue. Ça peut être difficile, mais je l'aime très très bien. La difficulté était aussi une raison pour apprendre cette langue. C'était un défi pour moi mais j'adore aussi l'accent, les mots français et je trouve la langue française très intéressante. /En plus j'ai commencé à aimer le pays (France) grâce à des courses./

BY ANNA NOVOTNÁ

### Why did you choose French?

I chose it because i was studying french also in primary school. So in the beginning it was kinda easy for me. But now, i'd say that the others are on the same level.

I like to study French even though it's hard. And of course i like how it sounds.

Many people are francophone (for example in Canada, of course in France :D or in Switzerland). So if you like to travel, maybe you'll use it.

BY VLADIMÍR SEVERIN

I chose French because I think it's a beautiful language. It may be difficult but I love it so, so much. The difficulty was also a reason for me to learn the language. It was a challenge for me but I adore the accent, the french words, too, and I find the french language very interesting. /Moreover I started to love the land (France) thanks to the lessons we have./

BY ANNA NOVOTNÁ