

# **Special school for Primary and Secondary education “Milan Petrović”,**

## **Novi Sad**

Special School "Milan Petrović" placed in city of Novi Sad (Serbia) and represents itself a Center in which 400 experts takes care about 1200 children who are:

- children with autism
- children with mental retardation
- children with multiple forms of disability
- children with damaged eyesight
- children with learning difficulties

Our school presents an **advanced system of support and services** for particular needs of children and adults with disabilities. The primary activity of our school is still education of pupils with disabilities but the offer of our **numerous programs and services present a holistic approach toward integration of persons with disabilities.**

Within our school we also have programs for children and students with **different needs and abilities but also numerous nationalities and confessions.** The Curricula is delivered in four **different languages: Serbian, Slovak, Hungarian and Romany language.** We provide education for all without any difference to the background. We also **have regular classes of religion: Orthodox and Catholic Christian and Islam.** Classes on Civil education are classes where children learn about **Democracy** as a part of the National Curriculum. We also teach foreign languages to children: **English and French.**

Our programs cover **Early intervention, Preschool Education, Elementary School Education, Secondary education and job training, The Employment Centre as shelter employment, Health care and other services** directed towards independent living and inclusion of our students in the life of the local community. Our latest activities are in the field of **deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities.** The school recently provided an apartment for four people that were living in a Home institution for visually impaired to come and live independently in Novi Sad.

The school as a resource centre provides:

1. Specialists of different profiles: special education teachers, occupational therapists, speech therapists, music teachers, art teachers, crafts' educators, psychologists, social workers and doctors
2. Teaching tools, educational materials, computers and assistive equipment
3. Numerous facilities and equipment for therapeutic and sensory-motor activities (Sensory room, playroom, massage room, gym, sensory garden, craft workshops and ateliers)

Our teaching methodology and job training relies on best traditional methods and many contemporary approaches that support the development, learning and education.

The school also provides services to families of children and adults with disabilities. Our specialists work closely with teachers from Mainstream schools. The school manages

exhibitions, sport activities, performances and shows where our children mingle and interact with children from other schools. We also organize seminars and workshops for all specialists who need additional knowledge about persons who require intensive social support.

There are children with visual impairment in all segments of education that are in school and we work and give special attention to their needs and abilities. We also have excellent cooperation with their parents and different associations that gather information and provide services for the children.

**Orientation and mobility, sensory integration treatments, speech therapy, occupational therapy** are a part of every day classes at school.

We have classes of **Daily living skills and communication** specifically designed for children with visual impairment and sessions of **Social training and integration** for children with VI and additional disabilities.

Sessions of **Music therapy, Percussion sessions, Puppetry** and performances, **The Integrated choir**, solo singing and performing and taking part in different contests is also a way our children participate in the community.

**Excursions** of several days every month to a **School camp** on a farm near Novi Sad where we train children for independent living skills.

Every year we organize the *Art colony*, celebration of the *International day of Peace and Tolerance* where children perform and wear national costumes of different countries, the *Mask ball* for 1<sup>st</sup> of April, *My pet* parade, *The Planet Earth* manifestation and other interesting **quizzes** on different topics throughout the school year.

Our school keeps the door open for different projects of other organizations and competitions that involve our children and children from the local community.

We are an **Instruction and Scientific Resource Centre** from the Faculty of Special education and Rehabilitation from Belgrade and the Medical faculty of Novi Sad. We have **shared projects** with the Department of neonatology of Novi Sad and the Developmental counseling of pediatric department of Novi Sad. In September 2008 we agreed on an **exchange program** with Hilton Perkins Program and Mala Kuca from Zagreb.

Milan Petrovic School has many shared projects and takes an active part in all activities employment and it is **connected to the National Labour market**. There are Workshops towards the persons with disabilities. In the Work centres in our school we have the **database of persons who graduated in our school and their skills** who need for **Laundry, Recycling, Mushroom growing, Food growing, Carpentry, Locksmith, Painting (wall), Shoemaking, Weaving, Pottery, Tailoring, Hairdressing, Cooking, Printing, Packing, Photocopying, Traditional arts and souvenirs**

All activities are guided by our special education teachers and other professionals.

Thanks to our initiative and experience in special education and support of the local government, the Municipality of Novi Sad and Serbian Ministry of Education and Ministry for Social care in the recent years we have become one of the most prestigious

institutions in Serbia and the region. We also organize seminars and workshops for all specialists who need additional knowledge about persons who require intensive social support.

## **PHOTO**



**City of Novi Sad and river Danube**



**Our school**





**School camp "Cenej"**



**growing mushroom "shee take"**



**singing**



**montesori classroom**



**school orchestra**





**grill in nature**



**weaving workshop**



**Inclusive art colony**



**My pet parade**



**Art workshop**



**Acting**





**Music therapy**



**Music therapy**



**Art festival**