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UKRAINIAN AND AMERICAN SYSTEMS OF EDUCATION.

EXPERIENCE AND INNOVATIONS

The problems of education are always discussed in the societies. All over the world children go to schools to be educated, to develop their talents and make friends. School is an educational institution for general education. Overall, the word «school» can be applied to the name of any educational institution [5].

The purpose of the paper is to compare systems of education in Ukraine and the USA.

Ukrainian traditions in education deal with the same number of students and students' personalities since the first form. There is also a permanent staff of teachers, the changes take place only during the students' transition to a secondary school after the primary one. While in the USA, new teachers and children come and go all the time. In the USA primary school students are mixed every year for more successful socialization.

Secondly, it is a location of the school. In Ukraine it is usually one building for primary and high school. In the United States, elementary, middle, and high schools are different institutions. In Ukraine everything focuses on stability. While American schoolchildren all the time need to get to different places, at least three different buildings: elementary (elementary) schools from grades 0 to 5, middle (middle) from 6 to 8 grades and senior (high school) from 9 to 12 [2, p. 5].

Thirdly, the role of a school team differs. The American school is responsible for a personal space. They talk about it all the time, intolerance to bullying or physical pressure has been also declared. In fact, students may be expelled from school for a bad joke on a classmate.

Fourthly, this is a break between lessons. In our country, a usual break lasts 10-15 minutes, and a big one (about 20 minutes). Sanitary rules and regulations prohibit breaks less than 10 minutes, because during this time it is impossible to have a rest, move and do exercises. In the USA everything is different, there is only a break for lunch. Between the lessons they have a 4-minute break, which is enough to change textbooks [3]. Americans believe that they don't need long breaks. During the lessons children do not have to sit at their desks all the time, they move freely. «Flexible classrooms» are rather popular among students.

What is more important is the attitude towards «special children». In Ukraine there are some correctional schools, boarding schools or separate classes for children with physical or psychological disabilities. In the USA the situation is quite different. In regular classes children with autism, Down syndrome, crippled peers can study together. If it is necessary, such children can rely on the help of adult assistants who help them adapt to the class, meet or accompany to the cafeteria or to the bathroom.

The beginning of a school year is different as well. According to a long time tradition in Ukraine a new school year starts on the first of September. A «day of knowledge» is famous for its performances and meetings all over the country on that day.

Methods, techniques of conducting curricular and extra-curricular activities are different in two systems of education. In the USA lessons are mostly conducted in an informal way. Some activities are often organized in the museums, botanical gardens, national parks, libraries, theaters, zoos. Parents as volunteers are actively involved into extra-curricular life of their children.

Unfortunately, the process of education is more formal in the Ukrainian school. But the situation is definitely changing due to a key reform –New Ukrainian school. The main objective of the reform is to create a school that will be pleasant to go to and will provide the students not only with knowledge, as is the case now, but also with the ability to apply it in real life [4].

In the American system of education parents are welcome to attend regular lectures delivered by professional and experienced psychologists on various problematic topics such as sibling relationships, bad habits, future careers, bullying, sexual harassment, etc.

The following point is a choice of subjects. In the USA students are taught compulsory subjects, but they can choose a part of the curricular by themselves. Before the beginning of the year, all students fill in the list of optional subjects, then the school board makes a schedule, so that it is convenient for everyone to study [6]. So, the students take an active part in the educational process through the choice of subjects, teachers, clubs. While in Ukraine, students have a list of subjects that cannot be changed.

Thus, the difference between Ukrainian and American systems of education is vivid. But it's impossible to resume which system is better. They have both advantages and disadvantages. Some experts say, that students in Ukraine are more knowledgeable, and in the USA peers get more practical application for their skills.

These systems of education are constantly developing. In the future they will definitely have more common points.

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