



## Cultural Activities: Importance of Extracurricular Learning in Switzerland Basel Schools



**Asım Ari**

Prof., Editor in Chief, International Journal of Instruction, [asimari64@gmail.com](mailto:asimari64@gmail.com)

Many children and young people have limited access to cultural institutions such as theatres or museums. Therefore, the school plays an important role as a cultural mediator. Attending an event together, seeing one's own performance, or taking part in a workshop not only contributes to cultural education but also promotes class spirit and can greatly support students' personal development. Against this background, the Department of Education supports teachers wishing to establish a cultural project with professional assistance. For example, interested schools may participate in national cultural funding programmes such as MUS-E or Superar Suisse with selected classes free of charge. For larger cultural projects at a school, applications for support (not necessarily only financial) can also be submitted. Funds are available for this purpose in the budget for cultural education within the Culture Department of the Presidential Department, and some resources for local school development may also be used for cultural projects. Schools can benefit from the city's rich cultural offerings. In all cultural sectors, organisers offer discounts for schools or provide special educational programmes. In theatre, collaboration with schools has been institutionalised for years through the "School and Theatre" working group. This committee reviews programmes whose concepts for class attendance are subsidised by the canton and maintains a calendar that teachers can use to view options suitable for their school level. Information on subject-specific extracurricular learning locations is available in the relevant teaching materials. The PDF document "Extracurricular Learning Locations" also contains a collection of extracurricular learning locations for primary schools, which is continually updated. Detailed information and links regarding these services can be found at [Extracurricular learning venues](#). A collection of extracurricular learning locations across northwestern Switzerland is provided on an online platform for the northwestern Switzerland educational area. Detailed information and links regarding these services can be found at <https://www.edubs.ch/unterricht/kulturangebote>.

**Keywords:** cultural activities, extracurricular learning, cultural education, educational opportunities, Switzerland, Basel, cultural projects

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Dear Readers,

Many children and young people have limited access to cultural institutions such as theatres or museums. Therefore, the school plays an important role as a cultural mediator. Attending an event together, seeing one's own performance, or taking part in a workshop not only contributes to cultural education but also promotes class spirit and can greatly support students' personal development (Basel Erziehungsdepartement, 2026a).

#### *Cultural projects in schools*

Against this background, the Department of Education supports teachers wishing to establish a cultural project with professional assistance. For example, interested schools may participate in national cultural funding programmes such as MUS-E or Superar Suisse with selected classes free of charge. For larger cultural projects at a school, applications for support (not necessarily only financial) can also be submitted. Funds are available for this purpose in the budget for cultural education within the Culture Department of the Presidential Department, and some resources for local school development may also be used for cultural projects (Basel Erziehungsdepartement, 2026a).

Collaboration between schools and professional cultural workers and institutions has a long tradition in the canton of Basel-Stadt, particularly in dance, theatre and music. Teachers wishing to set up a project with professionals from the cultural sector can make use of various offers that provide not only financial support for such initiatives. For Basel schools that wish to encourage the enjoyment of making music together in their lessons, we also recommend participating in the “Superar Suisse” music projects. These are free of charge and are aimed especially at children who would otherwise have little access to musical training. For larger cultural projects that exceed the regular financial framework – such as the wind and string classes at primary school – contributions from the area of school development projects at the elementary school can be applied for (Basel Erziehungsdepartement, 2026b). [More about the promotion of cultural projects in schools.](#)

#### *Theatre, music education, museums*

Schools can benefit from the city's rich cultural offerings. In all cultural sectors, organisers offer discounts for schools or provide special educational programmes. In theatre, collaboration with schools has been institutionalised for years through the “School and Theatre” working group. This committee reviews programmes whose concepts for class attendance are subsidised by the canton and maintains a calendar that teachers can use to view options suitable for their school level (Basel Erziehungsdepartement, 2026a; Basel Erziehungsdepartement, 2026c). [More about school and theatre.](#)

Meet musicians and discover the diversity of sound worlds: There is a wide range of music education opportunities for school classes in Basel-Stadt. Schools often receive discounts, and some rehearsal visits are free. The programme includes various genres of music: the Basel Sinfonietta, the Basel Chamber Orchestra, and the Basel Sinfonieorchester introduce school classes to classical music. The Bird's Eye (photo) offers insights into jazz music, while the “Mittendrin” project at the Gare du Nord focuses on contemporary music (Basel Erziehungsdepartement, 2026d). [More about music education.](#)

The Basel museums offer a wide range of activities for Basel public schools. On the museum website, you will find information about current exhibitions at all museums, as well as the school programmes for each exhibition. For public school classes from the cantons of Basel-Stadt and Basel-Landschaft, admission to the five state museums with their ten sites, as well as the associated workshops, is free (subject to any material costs). Teachers from Basel-Stadt receive free entry to prepare for lessons and visits (Basel Erziehungsdepartement, 2026e). [More about the museums.](#)

#### *Other extracurricular learning locations*

Information on subject-specific extracurricular learning locations is available in the relevant teaching materials. The PDF document “Extracurricular Learning Locations” also contains a collection of extracurricular learning locations for primary schools, which is continually updated. A collection of extracurricular learning locations across northwestern Switzerland is provided on an online platform for the northwestern Switzerland educational area (Basel Erziehungsdepartement, 2026a). Detailed information and links regarding these services can be found in the ["Extracurricular learning venues"](#) (PDF document).

#### *Learning in the Educational Area of Northwestern Switzerland*

With the “Extracurricular Learning Locations in the BRNW” portal, teachers can select extracurricular learning venues in the educational area of northwestern Switzerland according to the curriculum and level when preparing teaching sequences. With just one click, you receive all relevant information, from arrival details to references to didactic materials on site, making it easy to plan a class trip that combines subject-specific and interdisciplinary learning objectives (Basel Erziehungsdepartement, 2026a; Nordwestschweiz, 2026). [Platform: "Learning in the Educational Area of Northwestern Switzerland"](#).

Sincerely,

Prof. Asım Ari

**Editor in Chief**

International Journal of Instruction

Email: [asimari64@gmail.com](mailto:asimari64@gmail.com)

Website: [www.e-iji.net](http://www.e-iji.net)

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