

Technical and Art Secondary School of Samuel Mikovíni in Banská Štiavnica, is a state school providing higher specialized education for students from 15 to 19 years old.

The school was named after Samuel Mikovíni a renowned scholar, engraver, mathematician, surveyor, astronomer, cartographer, water-engineer, architect, builder and teacher who was the first headmaster of the Mining Secondary School established in Banská Štiavnica in 1737. The school is located in the Botanical Garden established in 1737 by professors of the famous Mining and Forestry Academy established in Banská Štiavnica in 1764. The school draws from its rich historical traditions and in many years of its history it was a place of studies of many prominent scholars, scientists, and researchers but also managers and designers in Slovakia.

It has existed in a current form since 2008, when original Mining School merged with local Chemistry school and formed the joined Technical and Art Secondary School of Samuel Mikovíni.

This is a quite small school currently attended by around 300 students who can choose from technical and art specialisations. The school has a staff of approximately 30 teachers and the administrative staff consists of a headmaster and two vice-headmasters. One famous tradition of our town and school is Salamander Parade. It is the parade of academics and all representatives of population of the medieval town which was started by students of our famous predecessor and our students take an active part in reviving and preserving this tradition. The school consists of 3 departments:

1. General Subjects Department: languages, physical education, mathematics, physics, IT, civics, religious education and ethics.

2. Art Department offering specialisations in:

- Paper and Historical Book Bindings Restoration and Conservation

It is the only specialisation of its kind in Slovakia. Students gain practical skills in hand made paper production and learn all classical book binding techniques. They also get theoretical knowledge of art history, history of book culture and ancillary historical knowledge which can be applied in identification of historical books and documents. Students carry out restoration of historical book bindings and documents already during their studies. Graduates can work in different museums, archives and libraries or complete their studies at universities.

- Graphic and Spatial Design

Students develop knowledge in the area of culture with the focus on visual art and ability to solve tasks in the area of graphics and spatial design. Studies develop creativity and independent thinking. In practice they design posters, make commercial prints, design visual identity of companies or institutions, make packing designs, interiors and exterior designs and 3D objects design. Graduates can work in different commercial companies and design studios, consumer industry or start their own business in designing. They can also continue in their studies at universities.

- Commercial Design Students learn individual technological and digital techniques up to final realisation of the design, which can be presented by multimedia. The focus is on commercial presentation and visual communication. Graduates can carry out tasks in the area

of typography (art f printing), bookwork and free art graphic. The can also work with computers and all professional graphic programmes, use different types of fonts, process photographs and use graphics, create different visualisations of 2D and 3D applications. Graduates can work in commercial and graphic companies and studios, information centres, design studios and studios of visualisation of interiors and exteriors; they can also start their own business in the commercial art design.

-Fashion Design

Graduates of this specialisation are creative artists ready to work in fashion, theatre, film or commercial design. They learn history of art and are well versed in the area of clothes design. Many graduates continue their studies at universities.

3. Technical Department offering the following specialisations:

- Environment Protection

Our school has one of the longest traditions and experience in teaching the specialisation of environment in the Slovak Republic. This specialisation focuses on components of environment – plants and animals, water, soil, air; pollution of environment by industrial, agricultural production, transport and people’s activities; waste disposal; use of alternative energy resources. Many graduates complete their education at universities.

- Biotechnology and Pharmacology

Students gain knowledge about technologies using microorganisms, plants and animals cells. Except for classical biotechnologies, such as beer, wine, yeast, grain alcohol, vinegar and antibiotics, they also learn about modern biotechnologies which can be used in pharmaceutical processes, food processing, waste disposal, energy production, metals extraction and other areas. Many graduates complete their education at universities.

- Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre

This specialisation educates students who are interested in geo-science, technical subjects, science and informatics and have a positive relation to nature and landscape. Geodesy deals with measuring in a terrain and imaging of Earth surface and objects located on it. Students of geodesy learn how to use specialised measuring instruments (total stations, GPS instruments) and how to process data obtained by their measuring with the use of modern IT software. They can create maps, different ground plans and 3D models.

All our students assemble an active career portfolio, which includes examples of their individual work. Under each of the specialisations, students participate in a mass amount of hands-on experiences in actual workplaces and school-based workshops, studios and laboratories. There is a wide range of after school activities. Students can do sports, take part in local, Slovak and international youth or specialised projects and do scientific research. There are also plenty of excursions, field trips, museum visits and other activities organised by the school to enable students to broaden their knowledge and experience.

Vision of the School: To equip our students with academic and professional expertise necessary for success in globalised markets.
