



*„Tym obyczajem domy i narody słyną,
Z jego upadkiem domy i narody giną.”*

A. Mickiewicz „Pan Tadeusz”

Tradition is the most treasured heritage of a nation. It helps the nation to retain its identity even when the country is in turmoil. It becomes a cornerstone laid when the country is reborn. Thus, the next generations should be brought up to respect, safeguard and make their own contribution to tradition. In this process home and school are of particular importance. School tradition is based on the school history, rituals and ceremonial. Our school started functioning over 25 years ago, in 1980 as a six year Primary School nr 8. In 1999 a three year Gymnasium nr 8 merged with Primary School number 8 and they formed Zespół Szkół nr 8. The patron of Primary School nr 8 was Maria Curie – Skłodowska. In 2005 Gymnasium nr 8 was also named after this famous Polish scientist. During the ceremony of giving the name both schools got their school flags and the school anthems sounded. During important school and state celebrations the most important elements of the school ceremonial are the presence of the school flag and singing the school anthem.

The school flags

The flag of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska Primary School number 8 – obverse



The flag of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska Primary School number 8 – reverse



The face of the Primary School Nr 8 flag is mainly covered with the oval portrait of the Patroness against the background of blue. Under the portrait there is the name of the school embroidered with golden letters across which the red, yellow and green band winds reflecting the symbols of the school.

The flag of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska Gymnasium number 8 – obverse



The flag of the Maria Curie – Skłodowska Gymnasium number 8 – reverse



The face of the Gymnasium Nr 8 flag is white and it shows the oval Patroness profile image in the centre. Again, the blue background corresponds to the symbolic colours of the Primary School flag. The portrait of the Patroness is surrounded by the school name embroidered with golden letters.

The reverses of both flags have the Polish flag image and the emblem of Poland.

The Parents Committee moved a motion that the equal school uniform should be the element of the school ceremonial. The uniform consists of a blue polo shirt with the emblem of school and a dark blue sweatshirt. Every student must wear the uniform to school every day and at all

national and school ceremonies. This obligation was recorded in the School Book of Regulations and is regarded to be an equal duty to all of those written there.

Colour party

The colour party is made up of 3 students selected by the teachers and schoolmates from among students who have an impeccable reputation and achieve the best school results. The leader boy wears a black or navy suit, a white shirt and a tie, the two girls wear black skirts and white long-sleeved blouses. All of them wear red – and – white sashes and white gloves. The colour party is invited to the most important school and municipal ceremonies held by the authorities to honour them with its presence.

School Symbols

The symbol of our school is a fruit – an apple whose colours are associated with pupil's development and puberty. A pupil's life is like a fruit which changes day by day. When pupils are at the beginning of their school education they are already formed but they are not mature. For many years they will be growing up and their lives will be changing. A fruit also changes its colour depending on its age. In the youngest classes green symbolizes immaturity. Yellow is for older pupils and red is for the oldest pupils who attend Gymnasium.

These symbols are depicted in the school logo.



School anthems

The anthems both in Primary School and Gymnasium were created by students and teachers. The authors paid special attention to the fact that the lyrics should correspond to the school mission and arouse the feeling of pride of being a part of the school community defined by the place and the aims to be achieved by students who are supported by the teachers and the attitude and achievements of the School Patroness.

The anthem of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska Primary School Nr 8 expresses children's enjoyment when they start a new, interesting period in their lives and acquire knowledge about the world in the place which will become their other home for many years.

The anthem of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska Gymnasium Nr 8 depicts the next stage of a young person's life who with the help of school and the Patroness should aim at more and more ambitious goals without fear for daring the most difficult challenges.

Primary School Anthem

Music: Barbara Rusin, lyrics: pupils

Patron nasz Curie - Skłodowska
wzorem naszym zawsze będzie,
jej odkrycia dobrze znamy
Noblem wyróżnione w świecie.

My uczniowie Rzeczpospolitej Dziecięcej
Chcemy wiedzy, coraz więcej.
Każdy chętnie tu przebywa, tutaj wraca,
Bo tu czeka radość, praca.

Naszym domem jesteś szkoła,
W twoich murach chłopcy i dziewczyny
Tworzą razem bratnie koło
Łącząc serca, myśli, czyny.

My uczniowie Rzeczpospolitej Dziecięcej...

Już na lekcje dzwonek woła,
Spiesz mały, spiesz duży.
Do nauki wzywa szkoła,
By Ojczyźnie naszej służyć.

My uczniowie Rzeczpospolitej Dziecięcej...

Wspólnym krokiem wyruszamy
Do nauki, zabawy i pracy.
Jak w rodzinie się zbieramy,
My uczniowie i razem śpiewamy.

Junior High School Anthem

Music: Irena Szczurko, lyrics: Alina Dyrda

Szkoła jest zadaniem,
dla tych którzy pragną,
poznać lepiej życie jego sens ogarnąć,
wciąż rozumieć więcej,
wyżej śmiało sięgać,
i naprzeciw nowym wyzwaniom wybiegać.

Świat jest skrzynią skarbów,
ona na tych czeka,
którzy się odważą uchylić jej wieko.
Z niej ktoś wyjął koło,
a ktoś pierwszą nutę,
w niej był rad i polon no i nasz komputer.

Szkoła to ciekawej podróży jest etap,
tutaj decydujesz dokąd chcesz dojechać,
tu zdobywasz wiedzę,
bagaż najcenniejszy,
dzięki niemu będziesz mógł wszędzie dotrzeć pierwszy.

Świat jest skrzynią skarbów ...

Our primary school celebrations:

1. School Year Inauguration Ceremony.
2. Oath ceremony for the first-form Primary School pupils.
3. Oath ceremony for the first-form Gymnasium school pupils.
4. Accepting new pupils as library members.
5. National Education Day.
6. Patron's Day (7th November).
7. Self-government Day.
8. Spring Day.
9. Competition: "I've got a talent".
10. Children's Day.
11. Graduation Day.

The School Ceremonial during the most important ceremonies and national holidays.

The list of the ceremonies during which the full ceremonial is observed:

1. Independence Day.
2. Constitution Day (3rd May).
3. Patron's Day.
4. Oath ceremony for the first-form Primary School pupils.
5. Oath ceremony for the first-form Gymnasium School pupils.
6. School Year Inauguration Ceremony.
7. Graduation Day.

During the ceremonies pupils have to wear their Sunday best and the order of the celebration is as follows:

1. Bringing in the school flag.
2. Singing the national anthem.
3. The official part.
4. Singing the school anthem.
5. Taking out the school flag.
6. Artistic part.

When the colour party brings in and takes out the school flag all pupils sing the anthems and stand at attention. Singing the national and the school anthems is both an honour and a duty. Pupils should know the lyrics of the anthems by heart and perform them with all due respect.

During the Oath Ceremony both the representatives of Primary School and the representatives of Gymnasium read the oath formula and the rest of the pupils repeat after them: "we take the oath". Pupils stand at attention with their hands in the position of taking the oath. The school flag is also in the position of taking the oath.

The oath formula - Primary School

I am taking the oath to:

- ♦ be a diligent pupil
- ♦ respect my parents and my teachers
- ♦ protect the good name of my class and school
- ♦ do everything to grow up to be a good person

The oath formula - Gymnasium

Opening a new chapter in the book of school life and being aware of all my rights and duties

I am taking the oath to:

- ♦ acquire knowledge and broaden it in order to deal with higher levels of education without fear
- ♦ create and respect the traditions of my school and preach its good name wherever I am
- ♦ protect values such as dignity, patriotism, humanitarianism (the patron of our school was famous for these values)
- ♦ behave in a fair, respectful way at school and outside school
- ♦ trust teachers who help us to understand the world
- ♦ help the poorest pupils
- ♦ be courageous enough to fulfil my own dreams

The school ceremonial is also observed during the celebrations organized by the state authorities in the most important moments for the country.

Other rules connected with cultivating school and national traditions and observing the school ceremonial.

In our school the School Parliament is organized which works like a real Parliament. The President is chosen from among all pupils who vote in school general elections. The President appoints the Prime Minister and they both form a government, of which ministers are responsible for many important school areas: sport, education, environment protection, health and entertainment. The government ends its works on the last school day. On the 1st September when school year starts a new government starts its works. The members of the School Parliament are the members of class councils.

Students as well as other citizens of the Republic of Poland ought to observe the rules of the Polish Constitution about special protection of the national symbols – the Polish flag and the national emblem. Students do not wear hats in the rooms where the national symbols are stored. They ought to treat the national and school anthems with all due respect and behave with dignity when they are performed. Students should not let other students desecrate and show disrespect to the national symbols as they vowed to protect and respect them.