

Students Worldwide

- Emma Szalewicz

Of the 7.4 billion people in the world, 25% of them are teens. Here are stories from three teens from around the world about their high school days.

Carla Barbato wakes up at 7:15 to walk to El Instituto Gerardo Diego in Pozuelo de Alarcón, a suburb of Spain's capital, Madrid. She is 15 and in 10th grade. Her school day starts at 8:30 and consists of ten classes: math, biology, physics and chemistry, arts, P.E, history and geography, language arts (Spanish), English, ethics, and "a class that prepares you to do work." She told me that usually in her classes, they do some exercises and take a lot of notes. She also said, "most of my teachers are a bit serious, but we normally get along pretty well. There's always a teacher that you don't like..." On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, her school gets out at 2:15, and on Thursdays, she gets out at 3:15. Carla doesn't eat lunch at school, so she has it when she gets home from school.

Fifteen year old Sophie Dominici goes to school at Lycée Dumont D'Urville in Toulon, France. She is in the première grade, which is the equivalent to 11th grade. Depending on her schedule, she either wakes up at 6:30 or 7:00. Sophie takes the bus and then the train to school, or sometimes her father drives her. During school, she has economics, English, French, math, physics, biology, P.E, history and geography, and German literature and Civilization. Sophie is in a special German program at her school, so several of her classes are in German. During her classes she does exercises, lessons, and listens to the teachers talk. She said, "Most of my teachers are nice, but my German teacher is very old and we never understand what she wants us to do..." Mondays she has class 10-6, Tuesday 8-5, Wednesday 10-12, Thursday 8-5, Friday 10-4 or 6 and Saturday 8-12. For lunch, Sophie says, "I eat at the school's restaurant, and on Thursday, I go out somewhere with my friends."

Seventeen year old Zurfahani (Fahani) Batrisya goes to Sekolah Kebangsaan Seksyen 9 in Selangor, Malaysia. In Malaysia, they don't have grades; they use forms instead. When you are 17 years old like Fahani, you are in Form 5. Everyday, they have assembly at 7:20, and Fahani has to be at school before 7:20, or else the school prefects will write her name in the school discipline record. Fahani says, "I wake up at 6:30, and I walk to school. Despite the fact that I live a stone's throw away from my school, I am always late..." She explained her class schedule to me: "When you are in Form 4 or Form 5, you have to choose your stream. There is science stream, architecture stream, accountancy stream, ICT stream (which is basically a computer stream) and art stream, which is my stream." Fahani has six main subjects: Bahasa Malaysia (Malay language), English, science, mathematics, history and religion. Depending on your stream, you also have two additional classes. Fahani's additional classes are art and business. Her favorite class is English. She says, "I always pay attention in English class. My English teacher is fun and she always does different activities to vary her teaching style. For example, we have to read a literature book. Most of the boys in my class don't like to read, and my teacher does a role play for each of the important events that happened in the book which makes it very cool and interesting!" Fahani goes to school until 1:40 on Monday, 1:05 Tuesday-Thursday, and 12:20 on Friday. During her recesses, she hangs out at the library.