

Information because of an announced teacher strike.

A teacher strike has been announced from Monday 17th March 2014. All regular teachers and administrators in the teachers' union go on strike. The following teachers are part-time teachers and will teach according to their timetable in day school.

Guðmundur Ármann Sigurjónsson, who teaches MYL103 group 1 and MYL603.
Birgir Haraldsson, who teaches FOR109

The following teachers in **distance learning** will teach if there is a strike.

Bryndís Indíana Stefánsdóttir, who teaches NOR153.
Brynhild Mathisen, who teaches NOR203.
Guðmundur Sæmundsson, who teaches ÍSL 212 and ÍSL242.
Kolbrún Harðardóttir, who teaches HAG102.
Olga Ellen Einarsdóttir, who teaches SÆN203
Sigríður Elísa Eggertsdóttir who teaches SPK103/203/303/403.
Pétur Ringsted, who teaches MSÖ102.
Guðmundur Ármann Sigursjónsson, who teaches LIM103.

Is there going to be a strike or not?

Even though a strike has been announced the negotiating committee is still working and trying to finish negotiations before the strike. Often negotiations have been successful on the last day before an announced strike.

- a) If negotiations are successful before the strike then it is postponed until a vote has been carried out about the agreement. If the vote is in favour of the agreement, the strike is called off, but if not, the strike will continue.
- b) If there is an agreement between the two parties after the strike begins then teachers start working and the strike will be postponed until the vote has been carried out.
- c) The government can put a law on the strike. The president of Iceland has to confirm that law to make it active.
- d) It is always a part of the solution between teachers and the government to negotiate on how students can finish their term. Right now there is no certainty as to how it will be done and one should avoid speculating on how it will be done.**

If there is a strike.

After a strike is over, we will probably try to catch up on what has been lost during the strike. The ways in which that can be done are:

- # Faster teaching in subjects.
- # Emphasis and evaluation may be adapted.
- # The term may be a little longer, if the strike goes on for a long time.

Will the school be open?

- # The library will be open from 8-18, as always.
- # The office will be open from 08-15, as always.
- # Students have access to classrooms in wing C and Gryfjan from 08-18. All vocational classrooms will be closed.
- # Computer classrooms will be closed, but students can use the computers in the library.
- # Wings B and D will be closed except in co-operation with the building's caretakers.

- # The headmaster, part-time teachers, support workers, office workers and caretakers will not be on strike.
- # Student counsellors, school nurse and school psychiatrist will be on strike.
- # The school will be open to all students but no specialised service will be on offer.

What can students do?

- # Attend all lessons until a strike is announced and if it is called off, attend well after that.
- # Students have access to the lesson plans and can continue with their studies as possible. Read and do assignments if they are accessible and review the material they have already covered.
- # Keep their routine in their daily life. Go to bed at the same time as usual and get up in the morning. It's good to have a regular schedule; for example, go to the library every day between 10 and 12.
- # Keep on with their physical activities, go out for a walk every day.

What about the dormitory?

- # It will be open.
- # No rent reduction can be expected if there is a strike. Those students who go home and do not use the service in the canteen, will be met with repayment of food cost, but to the maximum of 60% during the time the student was away.
- # Students are advised to check the demands the dorm sets before they go home.

Will the school's canteen be open?

- # It's not expected that the school's canteen (Lostæti) will be open.
- # Those students who have an annual card or other food cards from Lostæti will get information about those from the school and Lostæti if there is a repayment after the strike is over.

Where do I get information during the strike?

- # The school's homepage (www.vma.is) will be the most important source of information for students and their guardians. All information will be put there as soon as possible.
- # Students are encouraged to monitor the homepage closely for other important information, like if the students' board decides to schedule an event.

Students' social life.

- # The student board and students can organise events within and outside the school, but nothing has been planned beforehand. All information will appear on Thorduna's homepage, www.thorduna.is, and on the school's homepage. "Open days" have been cancelled this year, whether there is a strike or not.
- # Students can organise events in the school in co-operation with the headmaster and caretakers.