

*a toolbox for teachers*

# Golden ratio teaching programme



## #1. You want to optimize learning via visual tools:

Go to our DRAW YOUR MIND set of tools and pick what suits your classroom best.



## #2. You want to make your lessons captivating by turning them into stories:

Go to our STORIES TO REMEMBER set of tools and start creating!



## #3. Your students respond well to music stimuli:

Check out MUSIC IN THE AIR for games and activities, as well as for ideas how to take care of your voice as a major work instrument.



## #4. You want to use IT tools and the flipped classroom approach:

Go to FLIP THE FUTURE set of tools and transform your lesson plans.



## #5. You are enthusiastic about GRT, but need further reassurance:

Check out the adapted lesson plans and the tests already implemented.



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## Introduction

The Golden Ratio Teaching method, as its name suggests, puts a strong emphasis on harmony and balance. All the different elements of any system claiming that it is based on the golden ratio principles shall have clearly articulated coherence between all its parts and also coherence in between the parts and the system as a whole. It can be used to describe patterns in nature and to analyze the proportions of natural objects as well as man-made systems, including education.

The reason we chose this name is our aspiration to suggest, combine, describe and apply new or less used approaches and methods of teaching following certain rules and directions, into one method and finally making sure that they can be both inspiring and beneficial to the students and teachers.

The core prerequisite of having inspired students in class is inspired teachers. “Teachers: leading in crisis, reimagining the future.” is the UNICEF motto for 2020. Judging by this pandemic and all the shifts and challenges faced, teachers are the ones to make a crucial contribution to ensuring continuity of learning and supporting the mental health and wellbeing of their students.

Golden Ratio Teaching aims at supporting teachers in their challenging job. We hope we can foster resilience, leadership, and innovation. We have set ambitious tasks of providing teachers with inspiration, re-igniting the sparkle of their creativity and providing them with classroom-tested tools for teaching the required material.

Hence, the main Principles, which the GRT experts abided by in the process of developing this Training programme, can be summarized as follows:

1. Teachers are the backbone of any society. Without them and their devotion, we cannot have progress. And for them to be successful at this heavy task, they need to be **inspired, creative and motivated**. GRT aims at supporting exactly those elements, having the importance of the teachers at its core.
2. If we lay the very foundations of our approach on two of the basic needs of human beings – **love and freedom**, we can be sure great results will be achieved in any classroom. **In our case love is manifested in a passion for teaching/learning and freedom is manifested in the selection and use of tools for achieving the passing/acquisition of knowledge**. If a teacher is passionate about the subject he/she is teaching, that passion is imprinted in the minds of students and they will find this subject original and fascinating. Additionally, if students feel that they are in a safe environment, not judged or mocked for their mistakes or learning styles, if they have the freedom to choose through which channel they can best acquire and retain knowledge, the results will be even more impressive. Likewise, if a teacher is provided with a variety of tools and he/she can freely choose which one



applies to the concrete subject he/she is teaching, as well as to his interests and talents, the process of teaching can become inspiring and effortless.

3. **Inspiration.** After having discussions with teachers in Bulgaria we understand how important having a classroom with inspired, curious and motivated students is. We believe that this is valid in education everywhere, and that teachers also need to have these positive attitudes. Hence, they also need to be inspired by our Golden Ratio approach, tools and recommendations. Therefore, a further exploration of Inspiration as a guiding principle is needed in each part, phrasing, description, approach, vision of the Guidebook.
4. Golden Ratio Teaching is about **applying new approaches to the existing subjects and material.** We are confident that we can use the current curriculum and find different approaches to it, and by applying the principles, approaches and structures, we can encourage teachers to test and use these in their classrooms. Below is provided the step-by-step approach and the Expert teams in the preparation of the tools.
5. **Creativity**, described as the process of having original ideas that have value. Having original ideas and/or combining them with already developed methods, will both bring innovation and reliability to the outcomes.

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