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## **SZ interview with Bikar training manager Heinz-Georg Stark**

### **Career information day at Bad Berleburg's Johannes-Althusius-Gymnasium Grades and personal appearance are decisive factors**

**Bad Berleburg. (tobi)** As a medium-sized company, Bikar Metalle in Raumland relies on a close relationship with its employees. Like many other local employers, the company was represented with its own stand on Saturday at the **career information day** in Bad Berleburg's **Johannes-Althusius-Gymnasium**. **Training and sales manager Heinz-Georg Stark** provided information about training opportunities in the company, which operates successfully around the globe. He was assisted by **Maximilian Walle**, a **trainee** in wholesale and foreign trade.

The Siegener Zeitung asked more specifically about training.

*Siegener Zeitung: Heinz-Georg Stark, Bikar Metalle is an important employer in the region. How many apprenticeships does the company offer each year?*

**Heinz-Georg Stark:** Every year we take on between two and three apprentices in the commercial sector and one young colleague in the industrial sector. We have been doing this for 18 years now.

*Siegener Zeitung: What skills are particularly important to you in the applicants?*

**Heinz-Georg Stark:** Of course, school grades have priority. If you have a good report card, you have an advantage over applicants with poorer grades. But of course we also pay attention to how the applicant behaves and presents himself in a personal interview. For this reason, we have never conducted a recruitment test.

*Siegener Zeitung: Today, dual studies are particularly interesting for high school graduates. Does Bikar Metalle offer such dual study positions?*

**Heinz-Georg Stark:** Yes, we do, but in a different way than many other companies do. At Bikar Metalle, you first complete a two-year apprenticeship as a wholesale and export merchant and then go on to complete a dual study program in business

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administration. That way, you don't have as much pressure and can perhaps finish the final exams with a better grade. This is also the plan of our colleague Maximilian Walle.

*Siegener Zeitung: Then the direct question to the trainee: Why should a student choose an apprenticeship or dual study program at Bikar Metalle?*

**Maximilian Walle:** Above all, it's the family environment that I like very much. People get along well within the company and the training runs at a very high level.

**Heinz-Georg Stark:** And it is certainly not easy to create such an environment with over 250 employees. We do everything we can to look after the interests of our employees.

**By Tobias Beitzel**