



IRMAK SCHOOL PROFILE

2022 - 2023 ACADEMIC YEAR





The School

Irmak Schools were founded in 1995 as a joint venture by Yapi Merkezi Group of Companies and The Youth, Culture and Service Foundation as a private, co-educational day school. Irmak Schools comprise Kindergarten, Primary School, Middle School and High School on one campus. The school campus, which covers an area of 15,170 m², on the Asian side of Istanbul, is in a central area overlooking the Marmara Sea with large gardens and historic trees making it an ecologically friendly environment for the students. The campus contains all the facilities necessary for an appropriate educational environment.



On the school campus, there is a renovated Ottoman house to be used as a administration building, two four-story, one one-story classroom wings, two libraries equipped with a wide range of books, a 530-seat auditorium, Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Science Labs, FRC Robotics Studio, art & crafts rooms, gymnasium, dining hall and infirmary. Playing fields, tennis courts and basketball courts are also on the grounds.

Our Mission

Irmak Schools aim to raise conscientious and successful lifelong learners with ethical and aesthetic values, a strong sense of responsibility, and the confidence to apply their knowledge and abilities towards the improvement of their local and global communities.



Our Vision


The schools' vision, in accordance with the goals and principles of the Turkish National Education Basic Law, is to provide an environment of academic freedom for students and teachers, along with a unique model of education that cultivates children who are academically successful, honest, determined, and productive individuals with respect for their culture and others.

Our Principles

- Mutual love, respect and trust are the basic principles at Irmak Schools.
- Irmak Schools consider the student, who learns and produces as an essential part of universal development.
- Knowledge is acquired through inquiry and produced by relating with life at Irmak Schools.
- Irmak Schools know each student well and provide suitable environments to develop their own skills.
- Irmak Schools, together with all the stakeholders, adopt the understanding of a continuously learning and developing school.

Accreditation

Irmak Schools are accredited by the Turkish Ministry of Education. Irmak Schools were found to be in accordance with the requirements of the quality standards by BVQI in 1997 and was the first school in Turkey to be given the ISO 9002 certificate. In December 2003, the ISO certificate was renewed by DQS with the 9001:2000 certificate.



**Irmak Schools
are accredited to
implement the PYP,
namely the Primary
Years Program of
the International
Baccalaureate
Organization, since
May 14, 2008.
This authorization
certifies that Irmak
Schools meet such
qualifications for an
international school
providing education
to international
standards.**

Schools

Kindergarten Caddebostan
Kindergarten Feneryolu



Primary School



Middle School



High School



Students

The total enrolment is 1114 students in grades kindergarten to grade 12. There are 190 students in the kindergarten, 337 students in the primary, 305 in the middle and 282 students in the high school.



Faculty

The school is staffed by Turkish nationals (143 teachers) and native English speakers from the UK, Canada and the United States (19 teachers); there are native English speakers for each level of the English program. There is a total of 162 full-time teaching staff. All members of the staff are well-qualified, experienced and aware of the latest educational developments.

Academic Program

English is taught intensively from pre-school onwards with German, Spanish and French as a second language from grade 1. Starting from primary school, fine arts, music/instrument and physical education lessons are taught in English.

The Primary Years Program (PYP) of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Organization is implemented from preschool through grade 4.

To provide additional opportunities and support within our internationally focused middle school curriculum, in 2020 the school became a candidate for the IB Middle Years Program (MYP).

The high school program began in September 2001 with the opening of the preparatory year. There is a strong emphasis on teaching Math and Science throughout the curriculum. In addition to the intensive English program, students in prep classes have Math and Science courses in English.

Irmak High School offers a university preparatory education with a bilingual academic program. The program prepares students for university entrance either in Turkey or abroad. The students are also prepared and encouraged to take international exams such as TOEFL, IELTS, SAT and AP. Turkish language and literature, fine arts, physical education and social studies are taught in Turkish. Natural and physical sciences, mathematics and computer classes are instructed in English.

In grades 9 through 12, all students must take 4 years of English and 4 years of Math through Calculus. After grade 9, students choose a Math/Science or Turkish/Math track. Math/Science track students continue with all three natural sciences for 3 years while Turkish/Math students take 3 years of additional social studies and Turkish literature. By graduation, students will have completed a very demanding program, averaging 12 courses per semester, preparing them for study in selective Turkish or foreign universities.

Kindergarten

Play-based Learning & Second Language Acquisition

Language is a tool that allows people to communicate with each other and with other cultures. Research shows that language acquisition is much easier when children are exposed to a second language at an early age in a natural environment.



At Irmak Kindergarten, English as a second language is learned by natural acquisition/ immersion technique. An English teacher and a kindergarten teacher work together in each classroom. Both teachers conduct their communication in English. All classroom activities are planned together by English and kindergarten teachers collaboratively. Our kindergarten program aims to support all developmental areas (Cognitive Development, Social and Emotional Development, Language Development, Physical Development).

A play-based approach is adopted in planning all activities. Teachers whose native language is English accompany students throughout the day, both inside and outside the classroom and engage in daily activities so that students stay in touch with their English teachers in different environments of the school all day long and communicate with them.

IB Programs - IB Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. This refers to all the IB programs. Therefore, learners are expected to acquire and develop certain skills which are as follows:



IB Learner Profiles - One of the most important aims of the PYP is to ensure preserving the national values and cultural identities of students as they become citizens of the world and foster international mindedness.

IB Approaches To Learning - Students, during the entire program, gain a number of interdisciplinary skills such as social, communication, thinking, research and self-management and learn how to apply them. These skills are not only essential in inquiry but also in real life situations.

PYP - Primary Years Program

The crucial goals of education provided at Irmak Schools are: to provide students with opportunities which would help them become aware of their individual abilities and also develop them; to teach students how to relate their experiences and observations acquired in school settings to real life scenarios to ensure students' acquisition of such knowledge, skills, and attitudes; to create the awareness of existence of others and to respect other beliefs, values and thoughts and also to develop their creative and critical thinking skills. The process of the PYP (Primary Years Program) journey ends with the PYP exhibition prepared by grade 4 students.

Irmak Schools aim to incorporate a local and global point of view into the curriculum. As we support awareness of our own culture, we encourage our students to explore other cultures through a different perspective. In order to provide an international point of view, we work to have our students internalize and adopt the international learner profiles and to use them efficiently in their lives.



PYP Transdisciplinary Themes - Academic studies in our classes are carried out by setting off from the teaching - learning curriculum put forward by the Ministry of National Education based on a questioning program taking the curiosity of students into consideration. By forming a relation between the basic elements of PYP, knowledge, concepts, skills, attitudes and actions with other disciplines, the academic program is planned to create interdisciplinary understanding. The subjects to be covered at each age level are gathered under the six basic themes of who we are - where we are in place and time - how we express ourselves - how the world works - sharing the planet - how we organize ourselves.



Agency

PYP students take responsibility for their own learning in line with their own decisions and take ownership of their own learning process. It is the responsibility of the entire school community to hear the learners' voices, see their preferences and develop a sense of belonging.



MYP - Middle Years Program

Building upon our well-established IB PYP programme, Irmak School is a candidate school for the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP). At Irmak Schools, we apply the three-year programme which is offered to all of our students from grade 5 to grade 7. The IB MYP is a student-centered curriculum which emphasizes holistic learning and intercultural awareness and communication.

The design of the MYP is sufficiently flexible to accommodate the demands of national curriculums as schools develop their own units of study. The MYP curriculum framework comprises eight subject groups, providing a broad and balanced education for learners. These are:

The image shows three students (two girls and one boy) in a classroom setting, looking at a large circular diagram on a wall. The diagram is a spiral-like structure with various subject groups listed around it. Overlaid on the right side of the image are eight colored boxes, each containing a subject group name. The subjects are: Language acquisition (yellow), Language and literature (teal), Individuals and societies (orange), Sciences (green), Mathematics (light blue), Arts (orange), Physical and health education (light green), and Design (red).

Language acquisition

Language and literature

Individuals and societies

Sciences

Mathematics

Arts

Physical and health education

Design

Each year, students in the MYP also engage in at least one collaboratively planned interdisciplinary unit that involves at least two subject groups.

The programme also promotes interdisciplinary study to help learners make important connections between classroom learning and the real world. The six global contexts are:



Identities and Relationships

Personal and Cultural Identity

Orientations in Space and Time

Scientific and Technical Innovation

Fairness and Development

Globalization and Sustainability

AP - Advanced Placement

With the intention of providing the students with educational opportunities to universal standards, Irmak High School was accredited by the College Board in 2013 to teach AP Calculus (AB), AP English Literature and Composition, AP English Language and Composition, AP Chemistry, AP Biology, AP Physics, AP Art, AP Latin, AP Economics and AP French. This program allows students to receive university level lessons while attending high school to qualify for exemption from such lessons when attending university.



For the 2022-2023 Academic Year, AP English Literature and Composition, AP Biology, AP Physics, AP Chemistry and AP Calculus AB are taught in grade 11.

Grading

Irmak Schools follow the passing and promotion system of the Turkish Ministry of Education. A student's Grade Point Average is calculated on the basis of the grade and the number of periods each class meets per week. AP courses are not given special weight.

The grading is based on a scale of 0 through 5, with failure being 1 or 0. The grading scale is:

85 - 100 = 5 **Very Good**

70 - 84 = 4 **Good**

60 - 69 = 3 **Fair**

50 - 59 = 2 **Pass**

0 - 49 = 1 **Failing**

An average of 4.0 is required to earn academic honors; an average of 5.0 to earn high honors.



Community Involvement Projects (CIP)

During the 50 hour education and community service program, students learn, internalize and practice social responsibility through projects in the local community. The program was first included in the curriculum in 2015, and it is a required course for high school students. Students can participate in projects involving animal shelters, nursing homes, underprivileged schools and can work with people from various backgrounds.

Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities are an important part of the school's program. Students are encouraged to take part in music, art, drama, a range of sports, dance, journalism, computer, public speaking, chess, ecology, cinema, social service, social affairs, JMUN/MUN and science.

Our FRC Robotics team has been formed by our high school students in June, 2019 and has won many national and international awards since then. The student council has been an active part of student life at



Irmak since it was founded, however, Ministry of Education had cancelled this process for all schools nationwide in 2019. Irmak has also been a member of ECO-Schools since 1999 and has been awarded the "Green Flag" for its projects and efforts in protecting the environment.

School Partnership

Since 2005 Irmak Schools have had a fruitful partnership with Cranbrook High School and Brookside Primary School of Michigan in the United States. During this time the schools have developed relationships involving: teacher and student exchanges for cultural and academic development and joint academic projects from grade 1 to grade 12.

Matriculation of Irmak Graduates to International Universities (2010-2022) with 2022 placements shown in bold.



UK

Arts University Bournemouth

Birmingham University

Durham University

Kettering University

King's College

Newcastle University

Point Blank Music School

Richmond University

Royal Holloway University

Soas University of London

UAL Central Saint Martins

University of Birmingham

University College London (2)

University of Exeter

University of Kent

University of Leeds

University of Manchester

University of Nottingham

University of Sheffield

University of Southampton

University of Warwick

University of West England

Westminster University

USA

Academy of Art University

Art Center College of Design

Berklee University

California Lutheran University

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Case Western Reserve

University

College of William & Mary

Columbia University

Emerson University

Johnson & Wales University

Loyola University Chicago

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Michigan State University
Northeastern University

Pace University

Pennsylvania State University

Portland State University

Purdue University

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Rutgers University

Sarah Lawrence College

Southern California Institute of Architecture

Syracuse University

The State University of New York - Albany

University of California - Los Angeles

University of California - Santa Barbara

University of San Diego

University of West Virginia

University of Wisconsin

EU

Aalto University (Finland)

Bocconi University (Italy)

Esade University (Spain)

Erasmus University

Rotterdam (Netherlands)

Gerrit Rietveld Academie (Netherlands)

Istituto Marangoni (Italy)

Ku Leuven University (Belgium)

Kunsthochschule Weissensee (Germany)

LAB University of Applied Sciences (Finland)

Leiden University (Netherlands)

Maastricht University (Netherlands)

Minerva School of Art (Netherlands)

Nuova Accademia Di Belle Arti (Italy)

Polimoda University (Italy)

Politecnico Di Milano (Italy)

Politecnico Di Torino (Italy)

Semmelweis University (Hungary)

Tierärztliche Hochschule (Germany)

Universidad Europea De Madrid (Spain)

Università Cattolica Del Sacro Cuore (Italy)

University of Debrecen (Hungary)

University of Paris (France)

University of Twente (Netherlands)

University of Vienna (Austria)

Vrije Universiteit (Netherlands)

Warsaw University (Poland)

Warsaw Technical University (Poland)

IRMAK SCHOOLS

Leading the way

to the best Universities
of the world



CANADA

McGill University

McMaster University

Queen's University

University of British Columbia

University of Toronto

Wilfrid Laurier University

York University

RUSSIA

Moscow State Institute of International Relations

AUSTRALIA

Swinburne University of Technology

Please [click here](#) to view the presentation of all acceptances for 2022-2023 academic year.

International Tests

The SAT, administered by the College Board, is an entrance exam used by most colleges and universities around the world to make admissions decisions. The purpose of the SAT is to measure a high school student's readiness for college, and provide colleges with one common data point that can be used to compare all applicants. Since 2016 Irmak has been the biggest international SAT Test Center in Turkey, welcoming hundreds of Turkish and foreign students from many different countries.

Physics Unlimited
Premier Competition
(PUPC) is an individual
exam administered by
Princeton University
that challenges
students to apply their
knowledge and skills
at a deeper level than
in conventional high
school physics problems.
Physics Unlimited
provides opportunities
for students to learn
physics and math while
exhibiting their problem
solving skills. Irmak
became the only center
in Turkey to host PUPC
Exams for the applicants
since 2020.





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