GALATASARAY LİSESİ

GALATASARAY HIGH SCHOOL
LYCÉE GALATASARAY
1481 - 1868 - 1923

School Profile
2026-27

School Principal
Prof.Dr.M.Reşat Dabak

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THE HISTORY: Located in Istanbul, Galatasaray traces its educational tradition to 1481, when an institution was established on the present site of Galatasaray High School to prepare young men for high-level public service. It is one of the oldest educational institutions of its kind and remains highly selective in admission.After serving the Ottoman state for more than three centuries, the school was modernized in 1868 and adopted the French secondary education system. Until the end of World War I, Galatasaray educated students from the many religious and ethnic communities of the Ottoman Empire, including Turks, Greeks, Armenians, Jews, Levantines, Bulgarians, Arabs and Albanians.

The graduates went on to become prominent statesmen, educators, bureaucrats, writers, and intellectuals in Turkey and abroad.Following the establishment of the Republic of Turkey in 1923, the school took its present name, **Galatasaray Lisesi**, and became co-educational in 1965. Since 1992, it has been part of an integrated K12 educational system comprising Galatasaray Primary School, Galatasaray High School and Galatasaray University.

Over five centuries, Galatasaray and its graduates have played an important role in Turkey's educational, cultural, intellectual, and public life, creating an active alumni community both in Turkey and internationally.

Galatasaray High School's Principal is Professor Dr.M.Reşat Dabak. He is a medical doctor who is a professor of Medicine at Haseki Medical Research University in Istanbul. He is an alumni of the Galatasaray High School. The Principal of the High School is an honorary member of the Board of the Galatasaray Sports Club which has twenty five million supporters, about thirty two percent of the population.

OVERVIEW

- Established in 1481, one of the most influential and the oldest public high school in Turkey
- Birthplace of the well known Galatasaray Community that includes the Galatasaray University, the Foundations and the Galatasaray Sports Club.
- Five centuries of uninterrupted education.
- Offers **tuition free, public** high level education**.** The **school admittance rate of 0.03%** admits 100 students each year from the top 500 of over one million candidates in the National High School Entrance Exam (LGS). Per year approximately 50 eligible students continue to the High School from the Galatasaray K-12 middle school.
- Diploma equivalent to the French Baccalaureate after an agreement with the French Minitry of Education in 1992.
  Co-educational *boarding school*. dedicated to internationalism in education, aiming at developing global citizens.
- **Total students: 712 (315 girls, 307 boys). 407 boarding students** (167 girls and 240 boys).
- Class size: 20-25 students
- Education period five years, one year French preparatory and four years high school
- University placement ratio: 100%
- *Foreign languages: French, English, Italian*
- Project partner in the European Community Lifelong Learning Projects and Comenius Educational Projects
- New graduates may continue their higher education at Galatasaray University, where 25% of the enrollment quota is reserved for them, subject to examination
- Alumni are represented by 17 Alumni Associations: 9 in Turkey, and 8 in Europe, North America and South Africa.

SCHOOL CAMPUS

Galatasaray gave its name to its neighborhood, which is the busiest historical, cultural, shopping and leisure center of İstanbul. The campus extends over an area of 27,000 square meters with its historical building, its auxiliaries, gardens and sports ground**.**

FACULTY

Out of 65 **teachers,** 18 **are French,** 46 **are Turkish and** 1 **Italian. French teachers are assigned to Galatasaray by the French Ministry of Education and the Turkish teachers pass through interviews by the school administration before being appointed.**

CURRICULUM

Galatasaray does not offer AP, IB, or Honors courses, although its classes are taught at a highly advanced level. It follows a rigorous MEB curriculum and is considered one of Turkey's most academically challenging public high schools. It is also the only public high school in Turkey with the privilege of designing its own curriculum.

The five-year program begins with an intensive French preparatory year, followed by a demanding curriculum taught largely in French. The school provides ***tuition-free education and optional boarding, attracting talented students from throughout Turkey regardless of socioeconomic background***.

Galatasaray combines Turkish and French curricula and prepares students to meet French Baccalaureate standards. Under a 1992 protocol between France and Turkey, its diploma is recognized as equivalent to the French Baccalaureate. Turkish Literature, Geography, History, Ethics, and Art are taught in Turkish, while French Literature, Philosophy, Psychology, Logic, Economics, Geometry, Mathematics, and Sciences are taught in French. Students also study English and may study Italian.

Students complete approximately 40 hours of coursework per week and graduate with advanced proficiency in both Turkish and French. Some students independently take AP examinations in preparation for applications to universities in the UK, the Netherlands and other countries.

GRADING SYSTEM

Galatasaray does not report student rank. *Attributes the Inan Kirac Academic Excellence Award to the top three students with the highest GPA. The school grades* are based on a scale of 0 through 100 where **50** is the passing grade. GPAs are calculated by multiplying grades by the number of course hours in each course. Students are given grades each semester and the final course grade is an average of the two semesters (except for the pandemic two school years). **None of the courses are given special weight.**

An Honors student must obtain an average of 70% and High Honors students must obtain 85%. It should be pointed out that the **grading system is strict and the academic standards are extremely rigorous** compared to other high schools in Turkey. The curve system is not used either in grading individual exams or in the GPA calculations. Top students are recommended for the school Honor Society by their peers and are then voted by the faculty based on additional criteria such as leadership, character, community participation, and if they are exemplary students.

GRADING SCALE TABLE out of 100

5= 85.00 - 100.00 Very Good- A	3= 60.00 - 69.99 Average - C	1= 0.00 - 49.99 Fail - E
4= 70.00 - 84.99 Good - B	2= 50.00 - 59.99 Pass - D	

JUNIOR UNWEIGHTED GRADE DISTRIBUTION FOR CLASS OF 2026

Grades	90-100	85-89.99	80-84.99	70-79,99	60-69,99	50- 59.99	0-49,99
No of Students	82	24	10	16	2	0	0

CLASS OF 2026 UNWEIGHTED GRADE DISTRIBUTION BY CORE COURSES

	No of Students	90-100	85-89.99	80-84,99	70-79,99	60-69.99	50- 59.99	0-49,99
FOREIGN LANGUAGE (FRENCH) 5hrs	134	26	23	15	39	23	6	2
SECOND FOREIGN LANGUAGE (ENGLISH) 4hrs	134	95	4	13	10	8	3	1
TURKISH GRAMMAR & LITERATURE 5hrs	134	98	14	11	5	4	2	0
RELIGION AND ETHICS 2hrs	134	132	2	0	0	0	0	0
VISUAL ARTS/MUSIC 1hr	134	119	2	7	4	1	1	0
PHILOSOPHY 2hrs	134	107	13	1	2	5	6	0
HISTORY 2hrs	134	119	6	3	5	1	1	0
ELECTIVE MATHEMATICS 6hrs	134	92	10	5	12	8	5	2
ELECTIVE CLASSICAL ETHICS 1hr	20	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
ELECTIVE GEOGRAPHY 4hrs	86	61	8	4	10	1	2	0
ELECTIVE PHYSICS 4hrs	48	27	3	8	4	5	1	0
ELECTIVE CHEMISTRY 4hrs	48	32	4	3	7	1	1	0
ELECTIVE THIRD FOREIGN LANGUAGE (ITALIAN) 2hrs	86	45	12	10	14	3	1	1
ELECTIVE BIOLOGY 2 hrs	48	34	8	0	5	1	0	0
ELECTIVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORTS 2hrs	86	86	0	0	0	0	0	0
ELECTIVE CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT, INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS 1 hr	86	73	11	2	0	0	0	0

2025 COHORT	SAT EBRW	SAT MATH
STUDENTS	9	9
MEAN	651	759
RANGE	500-770	640-800

CLASS OF 2025	
AP SCHOLAR WITH DISTINCTION	**1**
AP SCHOLAR WITH HONORS	**6**

SAT (9 TEST TAKERS)	MIDDLE 50%
EBRW	**620 - 650**
MATH	**38 - 39.5**
MATH	**750 - 760**
READING	**31 - 36**
WRITING	**33 - 37**

2022 SAT COHORT			
SECTION	**25TH-75TH**	**MEAN**	**# STUDENTS**
EBRW	650 - 710	667	12
MATH	780 - 800	746	12
TOTAL	**1380 - 1510**	**1424.2**	**12**

GRADUATES

Every year approximately **20** percent of the graduating class choose to study abroad. The ones wishing to study in Turkey earn places at the top ranking universities, with top scores in the National Entrance Exam, **YKS**. The school has a very strong academic record, with the highest proportion of its students proceeding to prominent universities in Turkey, France and the rest of the world.

US Amherst College, Bates College, Berklee College of Music, Brown University, Bryn Mawr College, Boston University, Bowdoin College, Columbia University, Cornell University, University of Chicago, Dartmouth College, Davidson College, Drexel University, Franklin&Marshall College, Grinnell College, Lafayette College, Northwestern University, Johns Hopkins University, Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Purdue University, Rose-Hulman University, Savannah College of Art, Stanford University, Swarthmore College, Tulane University, University of Oregon, University of California at LA (UCLA), University of Southern California (USC), University of Michigan, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of Pennslyvania, Vassar College, Washington University in St.Louis, Williams College, WPI Worcester Polytechnical Institute, Yale University **CANADA** University of British Columbia (UBC), University of Toronto, McGill University, University of Waterloo, Western/Huron University **HONG KONG** City University of HK, Polytechnical University of HK, HKUST (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology) **SINGAPORE** Yale/NUS **EUROPE** Bocconi University, Sorbonne Universités, ESSEC, ESMOD, Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques(Science Po,KU Leuven, Universite de Strasbourg, Universite de Lyon, Ecole Polytechnique de Lausanne EPFL, Universitat Wien,TU Delft, TU Eindhoven, Erasmus Rotterdam, Tilburg University **UK** Bristol University, Imperial College, King's College, Manchester University, Oxford University, UAL, University College London UCL

Galatasaray students ranking in the first 25,000 out of 2 million in the National University Entrance Examination 2026

Rank	1-10	11-100	101-500	501-1,000	1,001-5,000	5,001 10,000	10,001 25,000	Total
Students	2	9	19	12	62	40	45	189

Total 129/133 entered the Turkish Nat'l University Entrance Exam from the Class of 2026

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

School clubs are student-run. There are over 40 clubs, and participation is strongly encouraged. Freshmen are urged to explore different clubs to discover interests that may guide their future choices. Following a pause during COVID-19, competitions and activities such as Debate, Model United Nations (MUN), and TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye) have resumed with renewed enthusiasm. The school magazine, *Galeta*, published its first print edition in 2022. Students have won gold medals in the International Math and Chemistry Olympiads, British Biology Olympiad and Mendeleev Chemistry Olympiad. The School Choir is also very active. Throughout the academic year, Galatasaray hosts scholars, diplomats, and politicians. Each year, ***juniors organize*** the renowned Galatasaray Culture and Art Festival each may, featuring well-known local bands, school bands, and guests from other schools.

TRADITIONS *"Studying at Galatasaray means that every student is a sibling to each other*. It provides a distinctive experience due to the presence of different cultures from all over Turkey. Every student ends up accepting each other as they are. I have a lot of siblings from different cultures here. We all share our experiences, cultures, and habits without any prejudice," *wrote Yaşar Kaan Sönmez (GSL 155).*

He continued: "A community formed by students in the same grade becomes a 'Devre.' We, all Devre members, complement, develop and teach each other our cultural beliefs and traditions, and learn to understand each other regardless of our different races, nationalities, genders, or religions. We always help each other. This help is not restricted to lessons and classes. It's for life purposes. We all share our family and social problems with our siblings and get advice from them."

These words reflect Galatasaray's longstanding tradition of ***brotherhood, sisterhood, mutual respect, and acceptance****. This bond extends well beyond graduation, regardless of age, status or geographic location. Students leave Galatasaray with a lasting sense of belonging, curiosity about different cultures, and a commitment to supporting their communities.*

ALUMNI Among the alumni of Galatasaray,there is Professor Dr.Daron Acemoglu *who won the Nobel* Prize for Economics two years ago. He is the third Nobel Prize winner from Turkey who is a professor at MIT.There are numerous Prime Ministers, eight Foreign Ministers, and scores of other Cabinet Ministers and Undersecretaries in *the state administration* since the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey. Numerous pillars of Turkish literature have studied in the school, as a result, Galatasaray has been the place where diverse Turkish literature movements were conceived. A special place should be reserved to Galatasaray alumni who join the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. *They constitute an important body in the Diplomatic Corps* and the number of those that have reached the Ambassadorial rank exceeds one hundred. Furthermore, in1905, Ali Sami Yen, a senior at Galatasaray founded the Galatasaray Sports Club which has a world renowned reputation The Club has a series of significant traditions still connected to the High School such as the Club Chairman always being a graduate of the school. As well as notable Turkish alums, Yitzak Ben-Zvi (second President of Israel), King Zog of Albania, Prime Minister of Syria Suphi Bereket are amongst the historical alumni.