

FRIENDS SCHOOLS – Ramallah / El-Bireh

School Profile 2016-2017



HISTORY

Founded in 1869, the Friends School began as a training school for girls and is now divided into a coeducational lower school (historic Friends Girls School) and upper school (historic Friends Boys School). Emphasizing academic rigor and holistic development, the Friends School teaches that students have a responsibility to their society, and the school values the Quaker principles of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, service, tolerance, and equality.

The Friends School has long been a fixture in the cultural and educational landscape of Palestinian society and has played a significant role in the development of a liberal, tolerant, and economically viable community. Friends School alumni have been instrumental in creating economic, social, and political improvements in Palestine, becoming top leaders and decision-makers in the Palestinian government, business, and nonprofit sectors.

The Friends School is owned by Friends United Meeting of Richmond, Indiana, and licensed by the Palestinian Ministry of Education. Launching its IB Diploma program in 1999, the Friends School is the only International Baccalaureate-accredited school in Palestine.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The Friends School uses the curriculum mandated by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and enhances it with courses developed specifically for the school, such as the weekly ethics course, which stresses the school values of service, peace, equality and tolerance. In the lower grades, most of the instruction is in the Arabic language, and students take English as a second language from kindergarten. As students progress through the school, additional courses taught in the English language are added. By the time a student reaches the 9th grade, coursework is given in English. All students enroll in the same classes until the 11th grade.

In the 11th grade, the majority of students choose to enroll in the International Baccalaureate Diploma program. Some students elect to complete IB Courses and CAS hours to graduate with the IB Certificate.

TAWJIHI EQUIVALENCY

The Tawjihi exam is the Palestinian national post-secondary school examination that helps determine university admission and course of study. Although students have the option of completing their studies in the Arabic language to prepare for the Palestinian Tawjihi, no students in the class of 2017 have elected to do so. However, some students enroll in IB classes but choose not to take the IB exams at the end of their senior year. These students are still required to take the Theory of Knowledge class and complete CAS hours, but in place of IB examinations, they take SAT Subject Tests to obtain the Tawjihi equivalency.

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COMMUNITY

All Friends School students are Palestinian and live in or near the Palestinian city of Ramallah, located ten miles north of Jerusalem. The upper school enrolls more than 500 students, approximately 20% of whom are Palestinian-American. Around one-third of Friends School students identify as Christian while two-thirds identify as Muslim. Approximately 20% of students receive some form of financial aid. Up to 10% of faculty and staff are international; 90% are Palestinian.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

IB Profile	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total Students in Class	96	90	95	90	93
Number of Diploma Candidates	56	61	62	66	67
Pass Rate	97%	92%	92%	94%	91%
Ramallah Friends School Highest Score	42	43	43	44	43
Ramallah Friends School Average Score	33	34	33	33	32
World Average Score	30	30	30	30	30

SAT 1 Score Summary 2400*	Middle 50%	Mean
Critical Reading	390 - 520	459
Math	490 - 590	529
Writing	410 - 550	491
Total	1300 - 1620	1479

*For the class of **2016**. **45 students** in the class of 2016 took SAT 1 prior to graduation. Scores include both native and non-native English speakers.

SAT 1 Score Summary 2400*	Middle 50%	Mean
Critical Reading	300 - 470	397
Math	400 - 510	459
Writing	370 - 480	431
Total	1090 - 1450	1287

***20 students** in the class of **2017** took the old SAT 1 prior to March 2016. Scores include both native and non-native English speakers.

SAT 1 Score Summary 1600*	Middle 50%	Mean
Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	450 - 540	490
Math	510 - 620	530
Total	920 - 1160	1020

***33 students** in the class of **2017** have taken the new SAT 1 as of June 2016. Scores include both native and non-native English speakers.

CLASS OF 2016 OUTCOMES

Post-Secondary Plans

Four-year college or university: 89%
Two-year college: 3%
Language year: 4%
Other gap year: 4%

Matriculation by Country/Region

Canada: 9%
Europe: 16%
Middle East & Turkey: 5%
Palestine: 39%
United Kingdom: 4%
United States: 17%
Other: 1%

CLASS OF 2017 PROFILE

Class Size: 121

IB Diploma Candidates: 90%
IB Certificate Students: 8.3%
Tawjihi Equivalency: 1.7%

College Application Plans by Country/Region

Canada: 23%
Europe: 39%
Middle East & Turkey
(including Palestine): 41%
United Kingdom: 33%
United States: 45%
Other: 1%

GRADING & RANKING

The school calendar has two semesters. Each semester is divided into two marking periods. The grades of these two marking periods equal 70% of the semester grade. The mid-year and final exams are worth the remaining 30% of the semester grade. The semester grades are recorded on the transcript.

A cumulative grade point average is not calculated. The final semester averages are weighted based on the number of hours the course meets each week. Due to the varying tracks of study available to students, and an educational philosophy dedicated to encouraging student cooperation and minimizing academic competition, the Friends School does not rank students.

GRADING SCALE

A+ = 100-97	A = 96-90
B+ = 89-87	B = 86-80
C+ = 79-77	C = 76-70
D+ = 69-67	D = 66-60
F = 59-0	

CLASS OF 2017 GRADE DISTRIBUTION (2015-16 ACADEMIC YEAR)

	A+	A	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D	F	Total Students
Arabic A HL	-	-	2	18	1	20	5	9	1	56
Arabic A SL	-	-	5	8	1	5	-	2	1	22
Arabic B HL	-	20	4	5	3	6	-	1	1	40
Arabic Ab initio SL	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	3
Biology HL	2	15	10	8	6	3	2	2	-	48
Biology SL	-	2	2	5	1	12	4	18	2	46
Business HL	-	5	4	11	5	6	1	2	1	35
Business SL	2	13	4	10	-	6	1	5	-	41
Chemistry HL	1	7	6	9	4	1	4	-	2	34
Chemistry SL	-	1	2	5	1	8	2	3	3	25
Economics HL	-	3	2	3	-	4	-	-	1	13
Economics SL	-	4	1	18	4	6	1	5	3	42
English A HL	-	4	3	7	3	2	2	1	-	22
English A SL	2	11	2	3	2	2	-	-	1	23
English B HL	1	30	8	17	3	10	2	5	-	76
Film HL	-	2	-	4	1	2	1	1	-	11
Film SL	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	3
Math HL	-	3	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	8
Math SL	2	14	6	15	11	14	5	12	3	82
Math Studies SL	1	-	2	4	3	3	2	10	6	31
Physics HL	1	1	-	4	4	1	1	1	3	16
Physics SL	-	-	1	1	5	3	3	1	3	17
Psychology SL	8	10	1	3	2	2	2	1	1	30

MATRICULATION HISTORY (2013-2016)

CANADA

Carleton University*
Concordia University
McGill University
Queen's University
Ryerson University*
Saint Mary's University*
University of British Columbia*
University of Ottawa
University of Toronto*
University of Waterloo*
Wilfrid Laurier University*
York University*

EUROPE

Barenboim-Said Akademie
CEU Cardinal Herrera University
Charles University*
Conservatorium Maastricht
Czech Technical University
Delft University of Technology*
Eastern Mediterranean University*
Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne
Erasmus University College
Erasmus University, Rotterdam School of Management
HAN University of Applied Sciences
Jacobs University*
Lomonosov Moscow State University
Marist College Italy
Near East University
People's Friendship University of Russia
Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences
Universiteit Utrecht
University College Maastricht
University of Debrecen
University of Groningen

MIDDLE EAST

Al-Quds University*
American University of Beirut*
American University of Madaba*
American University of Sharjah*
An-Najah National University*
The Arab American University
Bard College at Al-Quds University*
Bethlehem University*
Birzeit University*
German-Jordanian University
Hebrew University of Jerusalem*
Lebanese American University
Technion Institute of Technology
University of Jordan
Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar*

OTHER

American University of Nicaragua
Bilkent University

UNITED KINGDOM

Bangor University
Cardiff University*
Coventry University*
Hult International Business School*
Kingston University*
Lancaster University
Loughborough University
Plymouth University
SOAS, University of London
University of Bath
University of Birmingham
University of Brighton*
University of Chester
University of East Anglia
University of Exeter*
University of Hull
University of Kent*
University of Manchester*
University of Reading
University of Surrey
University of Sussex
University of Westminster

UNITED STATES

Appalachian State University
Bard College
Bradley University
Brigham Young University*
Bucknell University
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
College of William and Mary
Columbia University
Connecticut College
Davidson College
Earlham College*
Emory University
Florida International University
George Mason University
The George Washington University
Guilford College*
Hanover College*
Harvard University*
Hendrix College
High Point University
Illinois Institute of Technology
Indiana University at Bloomington
Kenyon College*
Knox College
Loyola University Chicago*
Macalester College
Manchester University
Marist College
Massachusetts Institute of Technology*
Middlebury College
Northeastern University
Occidental College
Pennsylvania State University, University Park
Saint Louis University
Saint Mary's College of California
St. Olaf College
Stanford University*
The University of Akron*
The University of Memphis
University of California, Berkeley*
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of South Florida
University of Toledo
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Utica College
Valparaiso University
Virginia Tech*
Wesleyan University

*multiple students have matriculated