**HISTORY OF OUR SCHOOL**

Our school started its educational activities on September 12, 1994, in the old building of Mecit Ataklı Middle School, following the Ministry of National Education’s letter dated August 23, 1994 (230/130). Due to the insufficient physical capacity of the existing building, with the contributions of the school’s parents, the governorate, and philanthropist Nejat Sarlıcalı, the school temporarily moved to Kıvanç Sarlıcalı Primary School in Ayvalık center during the 1996–1997 academic year. After the completion of the school construction on Ayvalık - Şirinkent Road, owned by the Ministry of National Education’s Directorate General for Secondary Education, the school moved to its new building in the 1998–1999 academic year and continued its educational activities.

Our indoor sports hall, which covers 1450 square meters and has a seating capacity of 150, is equipped with heating, cooling, and solar energy systems. The hall, which became operational in 1999, was the first indoor sports hall in the district. It was allocated to our school with the approval of the Governor’s Office dated March 9, 2010 (06815). With the contributions of the School Family Union and philanthropists, a Turf Field was opened on May 21, 2010.

A grant of 57,000 TL was received from the South Marmara Development Agency, enabling the opening of the Z Library on January 21, 2014. The library was enriched with 350 new books, 100 audio books, and 50 tactile books. Between September 2015 and March 2016, the school underwent seismic strengthening.

With a grant of 19,000 TL from the Ministry of Youth and Sports under the Youth Projects Support Program-2018, the “Ayal Ali Kuşçu Coding and Robotics Workshop” was opened to provide students with coding and software education, as well as the opportunity to participate in projects and competitions.

Under the same program in 2018, a grant of 180,000 TL was provided for the project “Ayal Overcomes Barriers.” This project aimed to ensure that disabled students, parents, and citizens could access all areas of the school. As part of this initiative, a 10-person, 4-stop disabled elevator was installed.

In the 2021/2022 academic year, the Defne-Muhtar Kent Education Foundation invested 275,000 TL to establish the STEM Workshop. The workshop was created by renovating the old heating system building in the school yard, transforming it into a living space for students to engage in scientific, artistic, and educational activities. The workshop was equipped with 10 Arduino Uno RFID kits, 10 sets of 6 Solar-Powered Robot Education Kits, 3 Smart Home Kits, 10 Microbits, 1 Virtual Reality Headset, 1 Drone, 1 3D Printer, 1 Camera Microscope, and 1 high-performance computer system, all made available for students.

Our school was designated as a special program and project school by the Ministry of National Education with approval dated April 5, 2021 (23585143). On December 27, 2021, a Cooperation Protocol was signed with Sabancı University to implement project-based learning models in STEM and Language education.