



## Tim Piskiner | Istanbul, Turkey

*Meet Tim—an excellent student with a passion for academics, a strong commitment to basketball and a genuine love for jazz. At VES, he has the opportunity and support to do it all.*

### Three Reasons VES Is the Right School for Me

1. The diversity in the VES community allows all of us students to learn about other cultures and be open to different perspectives. Coming from outside the U.S., I feel comfortable at VES, knowing that students are truly interested in getting to know me and the culture of my home.
2. There is a great balance between extracurriculars and academics. A beautiful thing about VES is that students have the freedom to do well in their classes and also be committed to sports and other interests. Back home, it was really difficult for me to pursue all of my interests.
3. The faculty are engaged in a way I've never seen before in other schools. They really want to see you grow. I feel I am always guided by great people who are experienced and really care about me.

### Pushing to New Heights in Academics

I am very interested in the quantum realm of physics. Of particular interest is how studying the mechanics of subatomic particles—something you cannot see—can affect a human's perception of everyday life in a philosophical way. Dr. Pollock, or "Dr. P" is one teacher who has significantly influence my approach to academics. When I want to learn more about something we don't cover in class, she always is willing to share her knowledge in conversations outside of class. We frequently talk about advancements in the world of physics

### Pursuing Advanced Study in Physics

Having the opportunity to delve deeply into this topic is exciting to me because I want to study physics when I get to university. I'm getting to study what I love. VES's Advanced Studies program allows seniors to design, research, create and present a year-long independent project focused on what we're most





passionate about. This level of work is not typically found in high school. Ultimately, I know I want to work in an industry—like nanotechnology and space mining—that advances technology and the future of humanity.

### **Jazz Ensemble**

To me, it is important to remember we are human and we must seek moments to enjoy each day. We all work hard toward our academic goals, but music is a chance for me to express my emotions, collaborate with others in a non-academic setting, pause for a moment and acknowledge that I'm alive and need to enjoy life. And while I love the numbers and research of science, music comes from the heart. I think everyone needs to tap into our emotions and enjoy the beauty of life.

### **Basketball**

In Turkey, it is impossible to balance sports and academics, and I wanted both. When I arrived at VES, I joined the basketball team, but found that I wasn't playing a lot. Coach Sedlar told me to control what I can control, continue working hard, and be patient. We discussed what is in my control—taking care of everything outside of the court like doing well in school, being on time, studying hard. Once you take care of those priorities, you can really focus on basketball when you're on the court. Coach Sedlar has helped me mature as a basketball player, as a student-athlete and as a person. In my senior year, I am co-captain of the team. I lead by example and, when I see something that can help us improve, I give feedback to my peers and coaches. It is an honor that the team sees me as a leader.

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