

2024-2025 Academic Year August Seminar Period



As part of Açı's "learning school" culture, we left behind an intense and enjoyable August seminar period with all our new and existing academic and administrative staff.

Our orientation process continued efficiently with our newly joined teachers, and they were given the opportunity to get to know our practices that reflect Açı Schools' philosophy, mission and vision via planned trainings-sessions-and workshops. In addition to the in-service training program that will continue throughout the year, our experienced teachers, academic leaders and school administrators will continue to mentor our new teachers and support them to get used to our school culture.

In addition to the training program prepared for our new teachers, many of the trainings that we routinely plan every year for the departments, based on the observations of the management team and the suggestions of our teachers through surveys, were completed in August. In-service training programs planned according to needs are added to our calendars to be completed during the year.

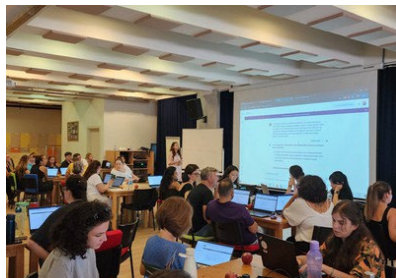
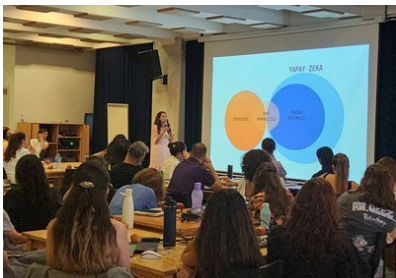
We would like to share with you the content and titles of the trainings that started in the August seminar period and continue throughout the year:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Açık Schools Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Our efforts to integrate artificial intelligence into our curriculum have been ongoing for some time, with a series of comprehensive trainings and reviews aiming to equip both our students and teammates with the necessary skills and knowledge. With our goal of a holistic approach, we will create our “Artificial Intelligence Policy” with the guidance of Dr. Şebnem Özdemir, an expert in her field, who has carried out many projects, within the framework of a work schedule starting in August and extending throughout the year. This policy and work schedule includes workshops covering not only technical aspects, but also important topics such as adaptive applications to education, ethics, security and the wider implications of AI.

Key Focus Areas of our Policy

- **Ethics and Artificial Intelligence:** To internalize the importance of ethical considerations in AI and help our students and all stakeholders understand the moral implications of AI technologies and the responsibility that comes with their development and use,
- **Security:** To raise our students’ and all stakeholders’ awareness about the potential risks of artificial intelligence and the protection of artificial intelligence systems,
- **Governance:** To be able to discuss AI policy and governance with our students and all stakeholders, providing insights into how AI is regulated and the impact of these policies on society,,
- **Advantages and Disadvantages** To gain a balanced perspective by emphasizing the advantages and disadvantages of artificial intelligence and to enable our students to critically evaluate technology and its role in our future. We would like to thank Assoc. Prof. Dr. Şebnem Özdemir for her contributions.



Assessment and Evaluation

This year we continued our trainings on “Assessment and Evaluation” in the K12 dimension with Prof. Dr. Oğuz Başokçu, an expert in assessment and evaluation, with whom we have been collaborating for some time. Our teachers had the opportunity to discuss various assessment and evaluation practices with Mr. Oğuz to better understand and support each student's learning journey. The session covered a variety of areas, including

- **Formative and Summative Assessments:** Using both types of assessments effectively to monitor student progress and guide instructional decisions, preparing effective questions,
- **Data-Driven Decision Making:** Read and use data from assessments effectively.
- **Differentiated Assessment:** Applying methods of adapting assessments to meet the diverse needs and abilities of our students, promoting equity and inclusion in the classroom
- **Exit Outcomes:** Structuring the assessments that will be used to measure the academic competencies that our students are expected to have in a certain field while completing a level.

Students are expected to have in a certain field while completing a level. With this training, we aimed to provide more effective assessment practices in line with each student's individual learning style and pace, and to improve our strategies with different reading and techniques:

To evaluate the outputs of our education and training practices and to plan the necessary development and improvement activities throughout the process.

Providing more personalized and meaningful feedback to students,

Identifying areas where students may need additional support or enrichment, Ensuring that all students are given the opportunity to reach their full potential.

We would like to thank Prof. Dr. Oğuz Başokçu for his contributions.



Creative Drama

Our teachers, who selected this training through a survey, participated in a dynamic and inspiring creative drama training given by Mr. Hasan Nami Güner, an expert in drama education, with whom we have worked together before.

By working together on the basic areas of creative drama education such as “Trust and Harmony–Awareness–Introduction to Role and Body Language/Expression–Teamwork–Improvisation and Role Play”, we firstly help our teachers to contribute to their own individual goals and through them our students, Build trust and cooperation with peers, Develop more self-awareness and empathy, Develop communication skills through the effective use of body language and expression, Strengthen their teamwork skills and help them learn to collaborate more effectively, We aimed to help them gain confidence in improvisation and role-playing, and to continue to develop creativity and adaptability by developing different techniques.

We thank Mr. Hasan Nami Güner for his contributions



Stres Management & Work Psychology

In a session led by Ms. Leyla Varan Sartore, our teachers who chose this training addressed the key psychological factors that shape our interactions, stress management and our overall outlook on life. The main goal of the program was to raise awareness about these dynamics and provide practical strategies to manage them both in the classroom and in everyday life

Key Focus Areas:

- **Exploring Our Perspective:** Personal perspectives and their interactions with others,
- **Communication Dynamics:** Factors that maintain and enhance communication dynamics,
- **Stress Management:** Managing stress in various situations, recognizing sources of stress and maintaining resilience in the face of adversity,
- **Perspectives on Life:** Recognizing what can shape perspectives on life,
- **Introduction to Transactional Analysis:** An introduction to the basic concepts of Transactional Analysis, a psychological theory that helps individuals understand their behavior and interactions, gain new perspectives on ourselves and others, and apply these insights for a happier and more productive life.

We would like to thank Ms. Leyla Varan Sartore for her contribution.



Process Management

Our school managers participated in a comprehensive training focusing on key aspects of effective process management, led by Mr. Reha Abi and Ms. Suzan Ünver Özkök, with whom we have collaborated on different occasions before.

Through this training, our managers had the opportunity to discuss different techniques to effectively manage processes, time and responsibilities, applying the strategies we have learned from them in our ongoing efforts to improve operational efficiency.

Training Highlights

- ♦ **Process Management:** Practical analysis of the importance of clear and well-defined processes in achieving our goals, exploring different techniques in advanced process management,
- ♦ **Process Orientation:** Seeing each task as part of a larger process, understanding how different roles and actions contribute to overall success,
- ♦ **Timing:** Increase productivity, reduce stress and better plan and execute activities,
- ♦ **Delegation:** Effectively assigning tasks to the right people, trusting and empowering others to take on responsibilities

We would like to thank Mr. Reha Abi and Ms. Suzan Ünver Özkök for their contributions.



Creative Reading and Writing

Our collaboration with Dr. Nilay Yılmaz, an expert in creative literacy, continued this year as well. This training ensures that our educators are skilled in the latest techniques to foster creativity in reading and writing, enabling them to deliver enriching and effective lessons.

By integrating innovative reading and writing techniques into our curriculum, we care that our students develop strong literacy skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

The planned training supported the following three separate objectives.

- **Creative Writing and Reading Workshop:**

Aiming to transfer creative writing and reading techniques directly into lesson plans and daily learning, this workshop focused on practical tools and strategies to encourage students to think critically and develop their creativity. By incorporating these reinforced techniques into the teaching process, we aim to improve our students' ability to express themselves creatively and engage deeply with texts.

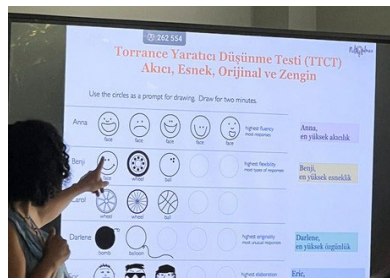
- **Silent Book for 3rd Grade Program:**

In this workshop, we continued our work on silent books, which we aim to include in the 3rd grade curriculum next year. Telling stories with only pictures and no text, silent books encourage students to interpret visual clues, improve their storytelling skills and develop a deeper understanding of narrative structure. This project represents an approach to literacy that develops imagination and interpretation skills.

- **Middle School English Department Creative Writing Techniques:**

By focusing on engaging and age-appropriate literature, we aim to develop our students' writing skills while fostering a love of reading. This workshop, in which we developed age-specific creative writing techniques in middle school, helped us to develop different techniques.

We would like to thank Prof. Dr. Nilay Yılmaz for her contribution.



Psychodrama

Teachers who chose to participate in this training attended a transformative psychodrama training led by Deniz Altınay, an expert in the field with whom we have previously collaborated. This training was programmed as an ongoing training during the year. This training, which includes sociodramatic and psychodramatic experiential work, is designed to equip our educators with deeper insights into their personal and professional development, as well as to develop their ability to connect and support our students in different ways.

Highlights of the Training

- **Starting the Academic Year and Motivation:** Focusing on starting the academic year with a positive and motivated mindset,
- **Personal Goals and Education:** Incorporating exercises into life that help to set and clarify personal and professional goals,
- **Intimacy, Empathy and Communication:** Developing intimacy and empathy skills in interactions through psychodramatic methods,
- **What Challenges Us and What We Want to Leave Behind:** Identifying challenges that may hinder development and activities and adopting healthier, more constructive behaviors and attitudes going forward,
- **Our Commitment to Emotional and Social Wellbeing:** Creating a nurturing environment with motivation, empathy and effective communication.

Our collaboration with him will also continue with him providing supervision to the entire guidance unit of Açı Schools. We thank Ms. Deniz Altınay for his contributions.



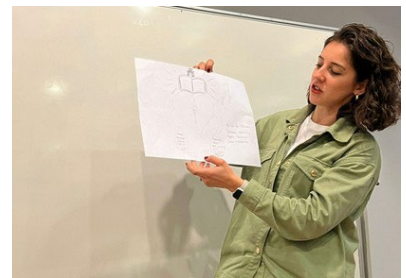
Working on Mathematics Curriculum

In line with our goals, we have been collaborating with Mr. Dr. Özer Öztürk for some time. This year, we continued our work with Dr. Özer Öztürk in the K12 dimension.

These are the goals of our work :

- ♦ Enriching our mathematics program,
- ♦ Learning different question solving techniques,
- ♦ Developing processing skills,
- ♦ Deepening our curriculum,
- ♦ Exploring the dynamics that put domain skills to work,
- To enrich the program in line with the individual differences of children.

We will continue to work with Dr. Özer Öztürk throughout the year. We thank him for his contributions.



Safety and Emergency Trainings

As in every year, within the scope of AKUT and OHS, all of our colleagues whose certificates were due for renewal under the sub-headings of search and rescue, first aid and fire, and all of our stakeholders who have recently joined this training process have completed their training in the summer period and received their certificates with up-to-date information.

