

Gyeonggi Suwon International School

Suwon, South Korea



One of Korea's first schools authorized for the full IB continuum, pairing American-rooted rigor with a faith-based ethos on a Suwon hillside campus.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	61/100
Academic outcomes	64/100
University placement	62/100
Prestige & heritage	60/100
Alumni network	58/100
Facilities	66/100
Transparency	55/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

GSIS sits in a narrow part of the Korean market: a day school in Suwon, founded in 2006, teaching in English from age 3 to 18, and authorised for the full IB continuum while retaining an American academic frame. That combination matters. Plenty of international schools in Korea offer the IB Diploma; far fewer run PYP, MYP and DP under one roof. Wikipedia’s note that GSIS is one of only two schools in South Korea accredited by the IBO for all three programmes gives it real distinction. For families who want a single, coherent 3-18 pathway rather than a patchwork of curricula, GSIS earns a place on the shortlist at once.

The average annual day fee across the full age range is **\$28,410**, which places it in the serious international-school bracket without pushing into the most expensive Seoul pricing.

The school’s defining feature is not only its curriculum mix but its ethos. GSIS states plainly that its community is rooted in the Christian tradition and that worship is integral to school life. That is not a decorative values statement; it is a structural part of the school’s identity. Parents need to read that with care, because the fit question is straightforward. For families who want a school with an explicit moral and spiritual framework, this is a *clear differentiator*. For families who want a strictly secular environment, it is a reason to look elsewhere. The context supplied here labels the school non-religious, but the school’s own published description is unmistakably Christian in tone and practice. That tension does not disqualify GSIS; it does make due diligence essential.

What puts GSIS on a shortlist is the blend of continuity, academic seriousness and a campus life built around a defined communal ethos rather than a generic international-school promise. It holds WASC accreditation, IB World School status and EARCOS membership, which gives parents a useful external check on quality and regional engagement. The Suwon location also gives it a different profile from the capital’s better-known schools: *less socially performative*, more self-contained, and attractive to families who value stability over cachet. The student who thrives here is one who wants structure, breadth and an *all-through* school experience, and who does well in a community with expectations around character as well as attainment. This is not the choice for a family shopping purely for metropolitan prestige. It is the choice for parents who want a *coherent 3–18 IB route*, a defined ethos, and a school that knows exactly what it is.

STRENGTHS	TRADE - OFFS
• Offers both an American curriculum with AP courses and an IB Diploma Programme, giving families flexibility over college-track pathways. • WASC accreditation provides an external quality benchmark recognised by US universities and other international schools. • Located in Suwon, Gyeonggi Province, the school serves the growing expatriate and returnee community around the Samsung and tech-industry corridor south of Seoul. • Single, purpose-built campus consolidates elementary through high school on one site, simplifying logistics for families with children of different ages. • Established as a not-for-profit international school under Gyeonggi provincial education authority, which anchors its long-term institutional stability.	• Location in Suwon means a longer commute for families based in central Seoul, a practical constraint for dual-career expatriate households. • As with most Korean international schools, admission is legally restricted to foreign-passport holders or students with sufficient time spent overseas, narrowing eligibility for Korean nationals. • Editorial rank of 1114 suggests the school has limited independent profile or global recognition outside the local expatriate market. • Public fee schedules and detailed results data are not readily available on the school's own site, making cost and outcome comparisons harder for prospective parents.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is open at multiple entry points from kindergarten through Grade 12, subject to available seats. Non-Korean or long-term-overseas status is generally required under Korean regulations governing international schools. The process typically involves an application form, prior school records, English (and sometimes math) placement assessment, and an interview for older applicants. Competitiveness varies by grade level and is generally moderate rather than highly selective, reflecting demand from the local expatriate and Korean-returnee population in the Suwon-Gyeonggi tech corridor.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_ee8bf6e3d9.