



Overseas Family School High School

Master Policy:

To maintain a happy, safe and effective school for overseas families living in Singapore

Principal's Message

As the second quarter progresses, I notice that the students have settled into excellent work and study habits, which teachers are pleased to see. Our students are enthusiastic, committed and showing maturity in establishing a friendly rapport with their teachers.



In recent assemblies and in the Homebase program, we have been addressing such issues as taking responsibility for your own actions and self-discipline in all aspects of life – inside and outside the classroom.

OFS semester examinations begin on Monday, 26 November 2018. Each course has an examination which is worth 30% of the semester grade. This reinforces the fact that continuous assessment during quarters 1 and 2 (assignments, projects, tests and oral presentations) forms 70% of the semester grade. High School students are permitted to take study leave, with parent/guardian written permission, during the examination period. A letter to this effect has been posted home.

Please note that after the examination period classes will continue, as normal, to the end of the first semester on Friday, 14 December 2018.

Grade level meetings and Homebase time in the month of November will focus on revision skills, examination techniques and relaxation tips, to promote balance in students' lives.

On Tuesday, 29 January 2019, we will hold our Grade 8 Parents' Curriculum Night, and then on Wednesday, 13 February 2019, our Grade 10 Parents' Curriculum Night. These evenings provide detailed explanations of the programs students will follow through both Junior and Senior High School. In the meantime, you are most welcome to speak with any of our Academic Advisors about High School courses. If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to call 6738 0211 or email me (suzanne_bentin@ofs.edu.sg).

Suzanne Bentin
High School Principal



MYP Personal Project News

On 26 October 2018, the Personal Project Exhibition took place and the Grade 10 students experienced the peak of their IB MYP journey. During the morning, the Grade 10 students spent their time decorating their booths and preparing to display their products. Students displayed a lot of pride and interest not only in displaying their products but also in understanding themselves. They showed ownership and belonging, comfortably and with pride. The students definitely lived up to demonstrating IB Learner Profile attributes of being 'Inquirers' and 'Communicators'. One of the High School Mathematics teachers, Mr. Eugene Burger, aptly complimented, "This year's Personal Project Exhibition was an encouraging display of amazing potential that lies within each of our students. Their projects give a sense of hope for a beautiful and more efficient future."



To carry on the tradition from last year, a few High School teachers decided to create a product and display them in the exhibition to showcase their passion along with the Grade 10 students. They also wanted to experience challenges in creating a product to allow them to be a better mentor to their students. Ms. Gerlinde Schaumann was one of the High School teachers who decided to work on their passion project. Her project involved organising backpacks and educational supplies for underprivileged students in Indonesia and East Timor.



The exhibition was open to the entire school community. It was a tremendous success to see everyone coming together and enjoying the culminating project of our Grade 10 students. Visits by Grade 5, 8 and 9 students, an international school from Malaysia and parents meant the students took plenty of questions; parents invariably commented on the expertise they had acquired and excellent communication skills when questioned.

(Trapti Trivedi – Personal Project Coordinator, with Asmi Shukla & Hunar Singh – Grade 11)



IMPORTANT DATES

26 November – 4 December 2018:
Semester Examinations

7 December 2018 (evening):
United Nations Celebrations

29 January 2019 (evening):
Grade 8 Parents' Curriculum Night

13 February 2019 (evening):
Grade 10 Parents' Curriculum Night



MYP Personal Project



IB Diploma News – Education For Life

IB LEARNER PROFILE

The IB Learner Profile unifies the principles across all IB programs. There are 10 attributes listed within the Learner Profile, three of which are described in more detail below:

Inquirers: We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

Coursework projects, investigations, and the Extended Essay target this attribute.

Knowledgeable: We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

Course content, Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) target this attribute.

Thinkers: We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

Course content, TOK and CAS target this attribute.

IB DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

The following is a list of the conditions for failing to meet the requirements for an IB diploma.

These codes apply to all candidates:

- Total points are less than 24
- Total HL points are less than 12
- Total SL points are less than 9
- A grade E has been awarded for either EE or TOK
- A grade of 1 or N (no grade) in any subject
- Grade of 3 or below has been awarded four or more times
- Grade of 2 has been awarded three or more times
- CAS requirements have not been met

GRADE 12

IB Registration

- Students have been given the registration approval forms for the May 2019 examination session. The signed forms should have been returned to the school by 26 October 2018.
- Late registration fees apply to subject changes after Thursday, 15 November 2018. Refund of fees will not be given for registration withdrawals after this date.

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)

- Students should be finishing their CAS program this semester.

Extended Essay (EE)

- The final submission deadline for the EE has passed and students will be meeting with the EE supervisors over the next few weeks to complete their final reflection.

GRADE 11

IB Courses

- Students should now have a good understanding of the nature of each course they are taking, along with an understanding of the expected level of achievement.
- Time management and organisational skills are crucial to success throughout the program.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the IB Diploma Program, please feel free to contact me at my email address (phillip_riordan@ofs.edu.sg), or Mr. Simon Dench (simon_dench@ofs.edu.sg).

(Phillip Riordan – IB DP Coordinator)

Junior High School News

26 October 2018 was an important evening for us in the Junior High School as we had our Personal Project Exhibition, coordinated by Ms. Trapti Trivedi.

The Personal Project reflects an MYP student's initiative and ongoing research on a topic of their choice, with a focus on one of the Global Contexts. The Personal Project embodies the skills and processes developed throughout the five years of the IB Middle Years Program.

During our Personal Project Exhibition, our Grade 10 students shared with the OFS community the work they did over the last eight months, which included the truly personal piece of work they created. On this special occasion, our students clearly demonstrated the IB Learner qualities of being "Communicators" and "Inquirers" as they confidently expressed their natural curiosity, the research skills they developed, and their enthusiasm for their project.

The Personal Project Exhibition was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all of our Grade 10 students' excellent effort. A special thank you goes out to all of the Middle School and High School teachers, who were supervisors to our Grade 10 students, a role which is crucial to our students' successes.

For Grade 8 and Grade 9 students, visiting the exhibition is the start of their upcoming Personal Project journey. Formal planning sessions for Grade 9 students will take place, with teacher support and guidance, throughout Semester 2.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the curriculum program in the Junior High School, please do not hesitate to communicate them to me at my email address (nathalie_bbrough@ofs.edu.sg).

(Nathalie Buckland-Brough – Deputy Principal & IB MYP/IGCSE Coordinator)

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Model United Nations News

Model United Nations (MUN) is in full swing this year, with more opportunities for youth to develop key 21st Century skills. In September 2018, 30 High School students attended the 3-Day MUN conference at UWCSEA, building their research, public speaking and organisational skills across a range of committees from beginner level to advanced. On 20 October 2018, twelve of our club members attended the first SASMUN at the American School in Woodlands, taking part in specialist committees such as Security Council, Advisory Panel, and Crisis Committees. These high-end committees challenged our students to strengthen their critical thinking and collaboration skills.

Our own, very large and international, MUNOFS XI, took place at OFS on 2 to 4 November 2018. With nearly 100 OFS High School students participating as Chairs, Presidents, Delegates, Attorneys,

and Judges, and 70 Middle School students, joined by over 400 students from other schools, MUNOFS XI was a powerful experience for practising their social, self-management, presentation skills and more. In addition, over 100 OFS students in MUN Admin club supported the conference, practising their organisation and management skills. These conferences really do provide great leadership development.

Look out for further updates from MUNOFS XI in our next newsletter.

(David Taylor – Dean of International Relations)



CAS & Community Service News - OFS Recycles!

The Recycling Club in the High School is working hard to make sure that all of the paper used in school gets recycled. Each week, a team of 25 students collects paper from every room in the High School from the handmade recycling bins provided by the club. This paper then gets sorted into three groups. Some of the paper gets used as printer paper for a designated recycled paper printer, some gets made into notebooks, and the rest is sent off for general recycling. It is the goal of the club that no paper just gets thrown away. The group estimated that they save a tree a month just by reusing paper. Students involved in the club in the past have often stated how much the club has changed their own personal use of paper.

(Arin Mares-Manton – CAS & Community Service Coordinator)

Library News

Recently, OFS purchased two online databases: EBSCOhost and GALE Cengage Learning. These are both accessible at home or on campus, through our OFS IP address. They are located on the **High School Library Website**. Both databases are great tools for conducting research and are of particular use to our IB Diploma students and our Personal Project students. They provide scholarly articles, journals and ebooks that are of a high caliber and quality. They offer translated works in over 30 languages, oral recordings, videos and images. There are also MLA citation tools, email and print options, as well as links to google drive. Our EBSCO options offer OFS The History and Science Reference Center as well as Explora for younger readers. GALE Cengage has the added versatility of databases of Global Issues in Context, Opposing Viewpoints, Biography in Context and National Geographic Kids. These databases are highly academic, from reputable publishers and used globally. When using these databases on your computer, I suggest using Google Chrome. If you have any questions, please email the teacher librarian (susan_lussenhop@ofs.edu.sg).

(Susan Lussenhop – Teacher Librarian)



59th National Inter-School Team Chess Championships 2018

1,048 students participated in the Championships which took place between 4 to 6 September 2018 at Northland Primary School. Our OFS Teams achieved great results in all age groups among the local and international schools. Overall, we were placed first in the International School Category, cementing OFS's position as one of the top Singapore schools in Chess.

International School category – Teams awarded with medals:

1. OFS: 9 medals (with 5 Gold)
2. UWC East: 6 medals (with 1 Gold)
3. NPS: 3 medals (with 1 Gold)
4. Global Indian International School: 2 medals (with 1 Gold)
5. UWC Dover: 1 medal

Congratulations to all our team members.

More details and photos from this tournament: <https://www.ofs.edu.sg/resources/strategy-games/ofs-chess/news/>

(Vasileios Parginos – Chess teacher)





Spirit Week

As Spirit Week here at OFS came to a close, the student body was packed with enthusiasm and the light hearted cheers of each and every Titan. With a theme as unique as "TWINS," you could feel student morale boost days before the series of events started. As the week kick-started with a friendly yet competitive game of dodgeball, the entire High School came together in exuberance to spend their lunchtime battling their fellow classmates. This was followed by a quick change of pace through a game of Kahoots, which acted as a reminder of the cleverly crafted theme. As the week progressed, the Student Voice members worked hard to put together the annual and much beloved Titan Olympics that had an excellent turnout, despite the scorching Singaporean sun. Finally, the week came to a close with Student Voice's signature OPEN MIC and dress up day where each person 'twinned' with a friend, and by no surprise at all was highly enjoyed.

Starting off Quarter 2, the all new 'Fall Fest' generated a great amount of student morale. With great music, food and



drinks, as well as some cleverly crafted game booths, the students clearly had a great time as they had the chance to spend time with their friends while taking in the autumn theme of the dance. Overall, it was great to see the enthusiasm displayed, as a real sense of togetherness was seen amongst the student body. And we can't wait to pass this tradition down to the future generations of Titans.

(Nandika Bhalla, Grade 12 – Student Voice Chief Publicist)



Sports News

We have seen a lot of basketball and football matches in the month of October. The girls' football team kicked off their season at home against GESS in a very competitive match and headed to an AIS tournament on 26 October 2018. That same week OFS hosted boys' football invitationals for 16U and 19U boys which follow on from very successful internal tournaments held the week prior. There are close to 80 boys in the basketball and football clubs. These internal tournaments serve as stepping stones for students going on to inter-school fixtures, as well as giving other students match experience.

The top flight boys' basketball teams had convincing wins in their initial matches and will endeavour to keep a clean sheet for the rest of the season. The 19U boys beat Pioneer Junior College 58-37.

(Jason Lawrence – Dean of Physical Advancement)



Victor Felicia looking to get his team in the lead at the recent tournament



OFS Badminton singles carnival on 18 October 2018. Around 120 G9 and G10 students play badminton this semester.

From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

DEEPAVALI THEME COFFEE MORNING

The Parent Association (PA) invites all parents to join us for a special Deepavali theme Coffee Morning.

Deepavali (or 'Diwali') is the Indian festival of light celebrated to mark the triumph of 'good over evil' and 'light over darkness'.

Event : Deepavali Theme Coffee Morning
Time : 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Date : Thursday, 15 November 2018
Venue : PA Lounge (Level 4 of Administration Block)

You will have the opportunity to design your own pieces of jewellery using clay, make glitzy and beautiful tea light holders with paper and etc. For more details, please refer to our website: <https://www.ofs.edu.sg/>.

In order to provide adequate craft supplies for this event please register your attendance by signing up on the OFS webpage: <https://www.ofs.edu.sg/info/parents/sign-up-1/>.

If you would like more information about this or other PA events, please contact our Chairperson by email: parent_association@ofs.edu.sg.