



Overseas Family School High School

Master Policy:

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

Principal's Message

I am delighted to welcome all our new and returning High School (HS) families to Overseas Family School. I hope those new to Singapore are beginning to settle in and that their children's attendance at OFS is helping that process. It was lovely to host our HS Back to School Night on 25 August 2022 in person, and I hope all our families found it informative.



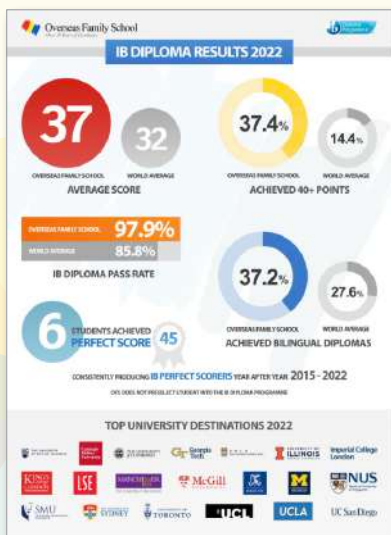
I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate both our 2022 IB Diploma and IGCSE students for their outstanding results. The fantastic outcomes are testament to the hard work and dedication given by our students, parents and teachers and is certainly something we are very proud of. I hope this success inspires all our students to keep working towards their goals and realise their full potential.

The beginning of the academic year is always exciting and much work has already begun to create a range of learning experiences, student events, and activities. This semester we will be able to perform our Internationalism Celebration 'Culturefest' to a live audience. We also have a dedicated MADD week (Music, Art, Drama and Dance) as well as our TedX event. Our competitive sports program is well underway with OFS Tiger's training in a range of sports as well as the new exciting enrichment activities offered under our OFS Outdoor Program, where students are learning to sail, paddle board, kayak or wall climb.

The success of OFS students is primarily achieved through the positive partnership between the parents, student and school. In keeping with this idea, you will soon be receiving letters about our forthcoming in person Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences taking place in late September. I strongly encourage parents and guardians to attend these conferences, preferably with your child/ward, to ensure direct feedback and future planning for success.

If you ever have any concerns or comments about the school, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at my email address (vanessa_mconville@ofs.edu.sg) or by phone (6738 0211 Ext 601).

Vanessa McConville
High School Principal



IB Diploma News – Education For Life

MAY 2022 IB RESULTS

I would like to take the opportunity to celebrate the wonderful IB Diploma results in our first newsletter of the academic year.

The IB measures to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic effects were again in effect for the May 2022 cohort. Distance learning, flexibility in assessments and the development of two routes for students to be awarded the IB Diploma were some of the options made available. The IB's dual route for grading meant that schools in some countries sat the IB Examinations, whilst others were awarded grades on the basis of their school coursework. At OFS, all our students but one were assessed using the Examination route and the results were our best to date.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Firstly, congratulations to the six students who achieved a perfect score of 45 for their IB Diploma.

May 2022 IB Diploma Results
Achievers of the IB Diploma with 45 points

LEE Soo	LEE Sungbin	JHINGAN Anshul	MAHAJAN Hetal	SIL Aditya	SRIDHAR Nivedita

- Another six students narrowly missed out on this mark and were awarded the IB Diploma with 44 points.

May 2022 IB Diploma Results
Another 6 OFS Students scored 44 IB Diploma points

BALAJI Adithya	DEY Malvika	IYER Ananya	KARKHANIS Sanjana	MUN Seojun	SHIN Yebin

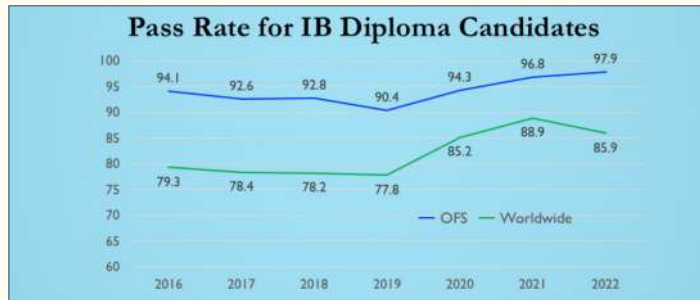
- 70 students, 37.4% of the OFS cohort, scored 40 or more points
- 71 students were awarded the IB Bilingual Diploma
- The average point total for IB candidates continues to be well above the Worldwide averages





These results are very impressive, especially as OFS has an open entry policy; all students entering Grade 11 are encouraged to enter the IB Diploma program if they choose to do so. This is different to the majority of schools, both in Singapore and worldwide, that preselect students into the Diploma program.

- Given that, it is very pleasing to see that the pass rate for OFS IB candidates this year was 97.9%, which is the schools best result to date.



Extended Essay (EE): The First Submission for the EE was on Sunday, 21 August 2022. Over the next few weeks, EE supervisors will be giving feedback and advice regarding areas that students can improve. The deadline for the Final Submission for the EE is Friday, 21 October 2022 at 11:00am.

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS): CAS activities continue this semester, although operating under the new normal required by the Social Distancing protocols. The vast majority of students will complete their CAS requirements by the end of Semester 1. Check with the CAS Coordinator Ms. Arin Mares-Manton (a_mares-manton@ofs.edu.sg) if you have any concerns or questions.

GRADE 11 NEWS

Once again, there is a large cohort of students, with many enrolling for the full complement of IB courses. CAS is an important feature of the Diploma Core, and students need to balance their involvement across the three strands: Creativity, Activity and Service each semester. Students should aim to be regularly involved in each strand, ideally each week.

If you have any question regarding the IB Diploma and courses, please feel free to contact me at the school or at my email address (phillip_riordan@ofs.edu.sg).

(Phillip Riordan – IB DP Coordinator)

Junior High School News

A warm welcome to all of our Grade 9 and 10 students and families. We look forward to working with both your child and you to make this a very successful academic year.

The IB Learner Profile is the key for your child to gain a better understanding of themselves as students and people. It is in the Junior High School that we see the IB Learner Profile attributes truly flourish within our students. As the year progresses, you will also see a continued effort put towards developing your child's Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills. These are the skills we aim to develop throughout their High School journey.

Embarking on a new school year brings about a number of new challenges and we hope our IB MYP students will be "risk-takers" as they are asked to approach unfamiliar situations with courage and forethought. These "unfamiliar situations" could be encountered on a day-to-day basis: during their lessons, through curriculum learning, within their ECAs and Community Service Clubs, by independently engaging in their MYP Action, and of course, through the Personal Project. In Grades 9 and 10, your child will be pushed to explore new roles, ideas, and strategies (IB MYP: Principles into Practice, August 2008).

Congratulations to our Grade 11 students for their well-earned MYP Personal Project and outstanding Cambridge IGCSE results. By now, all students will have accessed their provisional IGCSE results via the Cambridge Assessment International Education results website. Come early October 2022, students will receive their final official certificates for both the IGCSE and IB MYP.

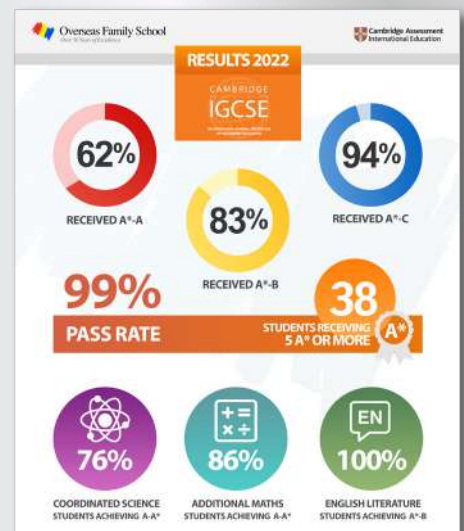
Should you have any questions regarding the IB MYP, IGCSE, or the Junior High School, please feel free to contact me (nathalie_bbrough@ofs.edu.sg) and/or Aida Blat-Palacios, Assistant MYP/IGCSE Coordinator (ab_palacios@ofs.edu.sg) and we will be happy to help.

(Nathalie Buckland-Brough – High School Deputy Principal and IB MYP/IGCSE Coordinator)

Key upcoming dates for the Junior High School:

GRADE 9 AND 10	September 2022: the first round of IB MYP summative assessment for all subjects will occur.
GRADE 10	August – October 2022: Students have completed their products and are now diligently working on their Personal Project reports with guidance from their Supervisor and Ms. Charlotte Kautt (PP Coordinator) and the Personal Project Support Group.

(Nathalie Buckland-Brough – High School Deputy Principal and IB MYP/IGCSE Coordinator)



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Academic Advisors News

EUCLID COMPETITION

On 6 April 2021, OFS offered our students the opportunity to participate in the prestigious Euclid Mathematics Contest in conjunction with the Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing, University of Waterloo. The Euclid is a mathematics contest for high school students written by approximately 19,000 students worldwide each year. Xu Hengtong and William Yao were awarded the highest scoring OFS participants in Euclid. They also scored Top 25% of global test takers. OFS will be offering the Euclid again in April 2023!



Xu Hengtong William Yao

(<https://www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca/contests/euclid.html>)

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

It's been a busy start to the academic year with top-ranked, highly competitive schools such as Barnard College, the University of Chicago and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) visiting. We have many more university visits lined up for students.

LION CITY FAIR

We are excited to announce that once again we will host over 80 universities from around the world including top-ranking

universities from the US, the UK, and Canada, such as Imperial, The University of Cambridge, the University of British Columbia, The University of Toronto, King's College at Overseas Family School on Friday, 16 September 2022 from 2:30pm to 5:00pm.

All students from Grades 9 to 12 are encouraged to attend. Grade 12 students and their parents are invited to attend the session from 2:30pm and Grade 9 to 11 students and their parents are welcome to attend from 3:30pm onwards.

This is an excellent opportunity to ask the university representatives critical questions about the admissions process, entry requirements, and how to write a good admissions essay.

(Tamana Chanrai-Hills – Academic Advisor)



Peer Mentors

The Peer Mentors are a group of students who wear red smiley t-shirts at the beginning of every semester, who help newcomers transition to OFS. Their main aim, with the support of Ms. Helen Green and Ms. Ornella Sienaускаite, our Student Welfare Advisors, is to "connect", "support", and "guide" new students, making sure no one feels disoriented when they first come to a new school.

On Monday, 8 August 2022 the High School Peer Mentor team played host to 59 new students in our Connect session.

The Connect session is a series of fun activities and icebreakers we conduct with the newcomers, where they get to connect with each other and Peer Mentors from their grade before school starts so that they have a familiar face to turn to on their first day.

Each newcomer has been assigned a Peer Mentor, who assists them during the first few weeks of school. It is so much more than just a buddy system; the Peer Mentors have undertaken a commitment and responsibility to ensure the well-being and adjustment of those new to our school.

The Peer Mentors also supported the Grade 9 students in their transition to High School by conducting icebreakers for them on their first day in High School in their Homebases, to help them get familiar with their peers and teachers.

(Helen Green – Student Welfare Advisor, on behalf of Peer Mentors)



From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

HARI RAYA THEMED COFFEE MORNING

As part of our cultural diversity in OFS, the Parent Association (PA) invites all parents to celebrate with us Hari Raya themed coffee morning.

The PA's purpose is to exchange cultural experiences through organising different events during the academic year. Therefore, our next celebration will be Hari Raya, where we will give you the opportunity to know more about the traditions and customs of our Muslim community in this joyful celebration.

Come prepared to taste the vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes prepared with love to celebrate this special occasion, also get a beautiful hand design with henna and other hand crafts.

Event: Hari Raya Themed Coffee Morning

Date: Thursday, 15 September 2022

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Venue: Parent Lounge (Level 4 of Administration Block)

Please join in this wonderful celebration and register your attendance by signing up on the OFS webpage.

<https://www.ofs.edu.sg/events/2022/hari-raya-themed-coffee-morning/>
Warm wishes on this special occasion. Selamat Hari Raya!!!!

Come and join us to make all preparations for this and other events possible as part of our PA volunteering group. Send us an email at parent_association@ofs.edu.sg.



Debating

Several students participated in the Harvard Debate Program (Spring and Summer sessions). Vedika Gandhi, Li Siye and Sargun Bajaj also represented OFS at the annual MOE-ACJC Intercollegiate Debating Championship. Below are some of our Debate Team's reflections on the different activities they have participated in:



The Harvard Debate Program ran across three consecutive weekends, each dedicated to new activities. The first week instructed students about the claim-warrant-impact structure of debate. The second week was dedicated to practice debates, and Round 1 of the qualifying debates. The last week was dedicated to Round 2 of debates for the qualifiers. We learnt to research both sides of the motion to predict what may come up during rebuttals.

I found this experience very valuable as not only was I able to enhance my debate, critical thinking and communication skills but I was also able to meet other aspiring debaters who shared a similar passion. The program was inclusive of all levels of debaters so all students felt comfortable.

At times, I found it hard to convince the judges that my claim was better but I quickly overcame that by seeking tips from my peers and the judges. Sometimes the program felt quite fast-paced and I struggled slightly with that, but otherwise I would strongly recommend the experience.

(Parthivi Koganti – Grade 11)

I have participated in two debating competitions; the MOE-ACJC Intercollegiate Debating Championship and the Debating World Cup – Summer League. Both were very enriching experiences and they allowed me to learn many new skills that I can use in debating. I would like to thank OFS for giving me this opportunity.



(Sargun Bajaj – Grade 11)



I had the chance to compete in two more contests after my first OFS tournament. I had a fantastic experience altogether and felt like my rigorous higher-order and critical thinking skills had improved. Moreover, I improved my capacity to structure more well-informed arguments and better organise my thoughts during debate.

(Vedika Gandhi – Grade 10)

(Marion Vlok – English teacher, teacher in charge of Debate)

Competitive Sports Program "OFS Tigers"



Welcome to all the new students to our school and to our sports teams! The Competitive Sports Program "OFS Tigers" is thrilled with the overwhelming number of students who have signed up to try out for the teams. Congratulations to all who were selected for pre-season and in season training.

We have introduced early morning strength and conditioning sessions in the gym, added additional coaches to support the bigger teams as well as introducing additional practice sessions for the Basketball and Swim Teams.

We are very encouraged by the improved standards and quality of athletes selected to represent our school and our team. Commitment is key and with practice sessions well underway, we look forward to competing in the ACSIS League, ACSIS Championship events and a number of invitationals coming very soon.

(Gil Levy - Head of Competitive Sport)



Physical Health Education (PHE) News

The High School PHE department has created a lifelong movement experience for students across Grades 9 to 12. The fitness test is no more! Through this experience, students will be cognisant of their development in a number of components of fitness. Each semester, they will identify their individual strengths and areas to work on without the pressure of assessment. Our hope is for all OFS students to engage in and enjoy moving throughout their lives.



(Richard Petherick – PE teacher on behalf of the PE team)

