



Overseas Family School Middle School

Master Policy:

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

Principal's Message

Happy New Year everyone! A warm welcome back to school and a very special welcome to all our new families. Let us make 2023 a memorable year together.

Semester 1 concluded with a very entertaining Talent Show coordinated by Ms. Nora Patterson, the Arts Subject Area Leader and the whole Middle School Arts Team. Well done to everyone who participated, from the auditions, right through to the fabulous finale. It was such a difficult task for the judges to decide the winners, based on all the different talents we had on show.

Semester 2 has got off to a busy start with our New Parent Orientation morning and the many different lunchtime and after-school extra-curricular activities run by the Middle School for the students. The OFS Tigers teams are finishing off Season 2 and getting ready for the start of Season 3. We have had really successful seasons so far. The enrichment activities, including the outdoor education has been highlighted by our involvement with the inaugural Sail Grand Prix (Sail GP) in Singapore. Thank you to Mrs. Vanessa McConville, Acting Head of School and Mr. Steven Kennedy, Middle School Physical & Health Education teacher and OFS Head Sailing Coach for making this happen. What a wonderful experience for our students.

We also have some important academic transition information for our Grade 5 students in our Elementary School transitioning to Grade 6 and also for our Grade 8 students going to Grade 9 in our Junior High School.

Please check our social media posts, website (upcoming events) and Daily Gazette on the OFS Dashboard for updates on current and future events.

Have an excellent Chinese New Year. I wish you all good health, happiness and prosperity in the Year of the Rabbit.

Michael Lee
Middle School Principal
michael_lee@ofs.edu.sg



Grade 8 Field Trip – Gardens by the Bay and Marina Barrage



From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

Global Picnic 2023

The annual Global Picnic, an international fair where all the families in the school get together to celebrate being part of an international culture, will take place on Saturday, 29 April 2023.

We are in the process of contacting Country Coordinators of your nationality. A Country Coordinator works with the Parent Association and organises other parents of the same nationality to contribute to the food and activities tables. The first meeting for the Country Coordinators will be on Thursday, **16 February 2023**, from **10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** in PA Lounge, on Level 4 of the Administration Block. Please join us if you would like to volunteer to represent your country.

If you have any queries, please do write to us at parent_association@ofs.edu.sg. Stay safe and stay healthy.



Deputy Principal's Message



Welcome back to all our students and families, we look forward to another exciting semester. We are also delighted to welcome all our new families who have joined us. It was great to meet so many of you at our 'New Parent Orientation' session. We hope you are settling well into OFS and please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you need assistance.

We have already seen a number of events taking place, including the Grade 7 NEWater trip and the Grade 8 Gardens by the Bay and Marina Barrage trip where our students learnt about sustainability and natural resources as part of the Model United Nations Interdisciplinary units.

This time of year sees our students looking towards the future. Our Grade 8 students will start to choose the courses they will study in High School and beyond. Students and parents will have already received information from our High School team and we, at Middle School, are also here to support our students with these important decisions.

Our Grade 5 families will be starting to prepare to make the transition into Middle School. In addition to the 'MS Parent Information' presentation on the OFS Dashboard, we conducted our 'Grade 5 Parent Orientation' session, on Thursday, 2 February. If parents have any further questions, please reach out to the Middle School office any time.

Gong Xi Fa Cai to all our OFS families.

(Hayley Brian – Middle School Deputy Principal)

hayley_brian@ofs.edu.sg

Sail Grand Prix (Sail GP)



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Cyber Safety and Awareness – February 2023



The third quarter Health and Social Education (HSE) Program focuses on the theme of Cyber Safety and Awareness. This includes delving into the topics of responsible digital citizenship, cyberbullying, social media use, balancing digital media in our lives and being aware of online dangers. All the Middle School students have had a HSE lesson in the second week of the quarter where they were given the opportunity to engage with these topics in depth. There are two more HSE lessons to come in this quarter.

In addition, Homebases are given a new focus each week to explore and discuss among their classmates. In this way, digital issues are brought to the surface and responsible online practices are taught. Students will also have an opportunity to create cyberbullying posters in a Homebase competition and to share their own 'Cyber Stories' for display on the HSE notice board this quarter.

Lastly, a resource that might be helpful for parents is a link to a MS online workshop on the topic of 'Parenting in a Digital Age' which took place in 2021. The link can be found on the OFS dashboard and also below:

<https://www.ofs.edu.sg/media/clips/ms/MS-Introduction/Digital-Discipline-Parenting-in-a-Digital-Age-Webinar.mp4>

(Aidan Spencer and Hanna Ucko Neill – Middle School Student Advisors)



Grade 7 Field Trip





OFS Tigers



Congratulations to our OFS Tigers Captains and Vice-Captains who will be leading our Season 2 sports teams!

Football

14U Boys Football – Alexandre Camara

Netball

14U Girls Netball – Elyssa Thuan

OFS Tigers Season 2 is a short one with Christmas and Chinese New Year holidays taking place. OFS Competitive teams are doing well. Results to follow upon completion of the season.

Preparations for Season 3 Tigers Sports are underway with more sports across a wider range of age groups offered in line with the ACSIS (Athletic Conference of Singapore International Schools). In addition to the information on our school website OFS Tigers - Middle School Sports, keep an eye on your emails for dates, trials and sign ups which will be communicated from the PE Office.

(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)

Grade 8 Transition into High School

The month of February, for Grade 8 students and families, is a time to reflect and evaluate all possibilities and opportunities for the future. The transition from Middle to High School is an important part of your child/ward's academic journey; as such, selecting the right courses is very important and we are prepared to help you every step of the way.

Thank you for joining us at our Curriculum Night on 17 January 2023. All High School Curriculum Sheets have been uploaded to the OFS Dashboard for your convenience.

It was also a pleasure to meet your children during our Grade 8 student friendly presentations, we hope we were able to clarify the course selection process with them and clarify any misunderstandings or worries they may have had.

Please feel free to contact me, or any of the High School Administration Team, including our Academic Advisors, if you have any queries regarding your child's future in the High School.

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

MUN Club

The MUN conference season is in full swing! In mid-January, MUN Club students debated, negotiated and identified solutions to complex global issues during a Model United Nations conference at UWCSEA East. The debate was lively, and the students continued to build on their MUN experience and expertise while making new friends from Singapore and beyond. Four of the eight committees dealing with science and technology, decolonisation, drugs and crime, and human rights, were chaired by OFS High School students. This experience will be followed by a conference at St. Joseph's Institution International in early February, where our students have been given very advanced roles. All this before we host our very own Middle School Conference – MY-MUNOFS XIII, where OFS will host some 23 schools, including five delegations arriving from Malaysia, Cambodia and India. Our MUN Club students are now preparing their country and committee topic research in order to make the most of the conference.

(Hanna Ucko Neill – Middle School MUN Coordinator)

