



Overseas Family School Middle School

Master Policy:

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

Principal's Message

A very warm welcome to all our returning and new families at OFS Middle School.

We have started the Academic Year 2023-24 with lots of fabulous opportunities created for our students. The newly formed Middle School Student Peer Mentor group was well under way supporting and welcoming all our new students during break and lunch times.

We have already had our orientations for the staff, students and parents, including our Middle School Curriculum Night held on Thursday, 31 August 2023. The Grade 6 Camp in Sentosa has been organised for 18 to 22 September, with camps for Grade 7 and Grade 8 to follow. The OFS Tigers have Season 1 trials and team selections, enrichment activities, lunchtime and after school clubs are also in full swing.

The Middle School Internationalism Celebration: Global Concert 2023 rehearsals have also started, with a variety of groups offering great representation of regions around the world. The Global Concert 2023 will be showcased in the OFS Auditorium on Thursday, 5 October 2023 at 6:30pm.

Communication has always been an important facet of our open partnership with our parents. At Middle School we have an 'open door policy' where you can email, telephone or drop by in person. In the Middle School office we have:

Mr. Michael LEE, Middle School Principal
Mrs. Hayley BRIAN, Middle School Deputy Principal
Mr. Aidan SPENCER, Middle School Student Advisor
Mrs. Hanna UCKO NEILL, Middle School Student Advisor/MUN Coordinator

Ms. Angie LIM, Middle School Secretary
Ms. TUEN Choy Wan, Middle School Secretary
Our group email is: ms-stu-advisors@ofs.edu.sg

OFS Tigers:

Mr. Gil LEVY, Head of Competitive Sport

Enrichment Program:

Ms. Joyce CHEE, Admissions and Enrichment Director
Mr. TAN Jian Ji, Enrichment Program Coordinator
Ms. Lyn QUEK, Enrichment Program Coordinator

Let's make this academic year, a successful one for everyone to remember!

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

Useful links

OFS Website/Dashboard: <https://www.ofs.edu.sg>
Middle School: <https://www.ofs.edu.sg/schools/ms/>
Middle School Faculty: <https://www.ofs.edu.sg/about/faculty/ms/>
OFS Parent Association: <https://www.ofs.edu.sg/about/pa/>
ACSIS (for OFS Tigers): <https://www.acsis.sg>



From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

The Parent Association (PA) invites all parents to join us for a Hari Raya (Eid) themed Coffee Morning. Come along and learn more about the traditions and customs from our Muslim community.

Date: Thursday, 14 September 2023

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Venue: Parent Lounge (Level 4 of Administration Building)

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

Peer Mentor Program – Academic Year 2023-2024

This year, Middle School students saw the start of the Peer Mentor program, which was established to help new students transition smoothly into our community. Many of our students come from other schools, countries and continents, and it can be a nerve-racking experience starting anew in a foreign environment. Having a team of dedicated OFS students showing the new students the ropes and making them feel welcome helped to turn nerves into excitement. During our Welcome Session, the students got to know each other through various activities, including a scavenger hunt around campus. The Peer Mentors continued to support the students, alongside their appointed 'buddy', for the first few weeks. They could easily be spotted wearing their bright yellow shirts. Many of our Peer Mentors remember their first days in a new school and embraced the opportunity to lend a helping hand. We will continue to develop this program and encourage all students interested to come and talk to us in the Middle School office.

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

Sports News



OFS Tigers has seen its greatest number of student sign ups for the Middle School 12U, 14U and 16U teams.

The quality of our student-athletes has improved significantly and as a result so has the standard. A number of teams will move up the ACSIS Divisions playing against stronger teams too. Being selected to the competitive teams is an honor in that students will be representing Overseas Family School, their sports specific teams and our competitive sports program (The OFS Tigers) in competing against some of the very best in the ACSIS Leagues and Championships this season.

Our 14U Rugby team has seen its biggest sign ups so far and we are so excited about their potential in their first competitive season for the Tigers. We are also excited to have been able to expand our competitive sports program in Season One through offering Volleyball and Pre-Season Basketball.

Season One is well underway and concludes on 18 November. Let's Go Tigers!

(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)



Deputy Principal's Message



Hello and welcome to our new and returning families to the Middle School. Our goal here is to create an environment where students feel safe and happy, while at the same time receiving an academically challenging and effective education. As a team, we are all dedicated to that goal and look forward to the exciting year ahead.

During the student orientation days, it was lovely to see our students getting to know one another through our Homebase and team-building activities. They also have the opportunity to show off their fantastic organisational skills through our locker competition. Good luck everyone!

We have welcomed many new families and students to Middle School this year and it was a pleasure to meet so many of you during the 'New Parent Orientation' morning. We also enjoyed seeing lots of familiar faces during the Middle School Curriculum Evening and hope you had the opportunity to speak with our Subject Area teachers to find out more about the IB MYP framework and curriculum. The presentation from the evening can be found on the OFS Parent Dashboard for those who were unable to attend. Also a big 'thank you' to all our Student Peer Mentor volunteers who helped to welcome the newest members of our family.

It has already been a busy start to the year with the resumption of our extensive lunchtime clubs and support program, as well as our after-school clubs, Tigers training and Enrichment Program. Through our classroom and extra-curricular activities, we hope to develop students who are balanced, principled and risk-takers, as these are 3 very important attributes of the IB Learner Profile. Communication is also a key attribute and we encourage parents and students to communicate frequently with us, so we can all work in close partnership.

(Hayley Brian – Middle School Deputy Principal)
hayley_brian@ofs.edu.sg

Student Matters – August 2023



The Middle School students have started the year with a flurry of activities. Becoming acquainted with their new classmates, teachers and timetables has only been a part of the many things that make

up the new school year. Homebase teachers took the first two days of the school year to work through the Health and Social Education Program (HSE), which focuses on helping the students get to know one another better and to develop their self-management skills. This has been further reinforced through grade level assemblies and outdoor team-building activities. Events on the horizon include the Locker Competition with winners being selected in the week of 4 September 2023, the Grade 6 Camp from September 18 to 20 and the Global Concert on 5 October 2023. We are all looking forward to an exciting and eventful first quarter.

As the Middle School Student Advisors, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Aidan Spencer or Mrs. Hanna Ucko Neill with regard to any concerns you may have about your child's welfare. Together with the teachers and Middle School Leadership Team, we will endeavour to provide the best support we can.

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



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New Staff

LEVI JABARI

Learning Support Teacher

Introduction:

We are thrilled to introduce our Integrated Therapy Learning Support Services at Overseas Family School. This initiative aims to meet diverse learner needs and promote educational inclusivity. Our team collaborates with students, teachers, and parents to enhance learning outcomes for all.

Self-Introduction:

I am Jabari Levi, and I am the newly appointed Middle School Learning Support Teacher (LST). With 18 years of experience in education, counseling, and leadership, I am equipped to guide students across various contexts and implement educational and psychological initiatives.

Background:

- Originally from Chicago, Illinois (USA), with a love for travel.
- Education from Miles College, Capella University, and Augusta University.
- Notable achievements: Founder of iThinkSmartly (educational support) and SayNo2AVERAGE (youth mentoring).
- Inspired by 'Act or React', seafood enthusiast and uplifted by motivating films.
- Former college basketball player and coach, fueling my passion for sports.

I am eager to connect with students and parents, fostering a supportive and enriching learning environment. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or if there's anything I can assist you with. I am looking forward to a wonderful academic journey together.

Jabari Levi

Middle School Learning Support Teacher (LST)

Email: jabari_levi@ofs.edu.sg



BOESENBERG SARAH

Individuals and Societies

My name is Sarah Boesenberg, I am originally from the UK and New Zealand and have recently relocated to Singapore from Hong Kong. I have been teaching English and English for Academic Purposes for the past twenty six years. In my lessons, we used the IB MYP Individuals and Societies curriculum to create cross curricular links and it is this experience that I am drawing on to teach 'InSoc' at Overseas Family School. In Hong Kong, I initially taught in local schools but switched to an international school for the past thirteen years. I have been a Head of Year and oversaw pastoral care of Middle School aged students. In my spare time, I have played Gaelic football, lifted kettlebells and now enjoy running. I also enjoy exploring different cuisines and cannot wait to try out the taste sensations of Singapore. My seven year old daughter has also joined the OFS family and is loving her new school. We look forward to learning and growing together as we get to know both OFS and Singapore better.



HUTCHEON ANDREW

Physical and Health Education

Hi, my name is Andrew Hutcheon and I have recently joined the Middle School Physical and Health Education team. I am originally from Aberdeen in Scotland, however, I am not new to Singapore as I have been working here for the past 15 years. For most of this time I was teaching a Sport Management course at a local college called the Institute of Technical Education (ITE), where my main role was to teach and develop modules to equip the students for employment in the Sport and Fitness Industry. My main area of focus was to develop the Sport Science, Sports Coaching and Fitness Testing modules where my passion lies. As part of the holistic student's development, I also set up and coached the Judo CCA during my time at ITE, coaching students from beginners to competitive level. Judo along with football are my main sporting passions and I am looking forward to adding value to the OFS Team in this area when needed.



PARK ERIC

Mathematics

Hello, my name is Eric Park. I was originally from South Korea and found my second home in New Zealand when my family and I relocated there when I was 9 years old. Over the course of more than 21 years, New Zealand has been a significant part of my life. For the past 10 years, I have been deeply immersed in the realm of high school education, with five years dedicated to teaching in New Zealand and another five years in Singapore. Throughout this span of time, my focus has remained on teaching Mathematics across various curricula, including IB DP, IB MYP, NCEA, IGCSE, and AP. The diversity of these teaching experiences has enriched my understanding of pedagogy. I am genuinely thrilled to become a part of the OFS community, with a special enthusiasm for contributing to the Middle School Mathematics team. Beyond my professional life, I enjoy surfing, snowboarding, and indulging in martial arts such as Tae Kwon Do and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. I am eager to embark on this new chapter at OFS, ready to engage with students and colleagues alike. The vibrant and inclusive atmosphere of this community is truly exciting, and I am enthusiastic about establishing meaningful connections both within the classroom and through extracurriculars outside of the classroom.



SOINI MINNA

Finnish Mother Tongue

My name is Minna Soini, and I am the new Finnish Mother Tongue teacher at OFS. I am from Finland and have 16 years of teaching experience in a variety of educational settings. I am trained as a classroom teacher and have taught most grade levels in elementary schools in Finland. However, most of my teaching experience is from grades 1 and 2, as I am also a Kindergarten teacher. I have lived in Sichuan, China for four years, where I worked as a preschool teacher in Chengdu. I then spent four years in Cebu, Philippines, where I taught coding for kids. My husband and I have a 6-year-old son, and we have been living in Singapore for one year. I am a scuba diver and enjoy exploring the underwater life in Asia. I also enjoy traveling and all kinds of sports. Recently, I tried wakeboarding in Singapore and found it to be quite similar to snowboarding, which was one of my hobbies in Finland. I am excited to be part of OFS and the Mother Tongue team and look forward to working with you all. Let's say "Moi" when we meet!





Middle School Student Orientation 2023-24

