



Overseas Family School Middle School

Master Policy:

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

Principal's Message

It has been a great first few weeks in the Middle School, and I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know the students and families that make up our vibrant community. I would like to welcome all of our new families to OFS Middle School. Please know we are working hard to make sure your child has a good experience and settles in quickly. Our new Peer Mentor program is making sure all new students have a buddy and feel welcome and can integrate quickly into school life.

One of my primary goals is to be approachable and accessible to both parents and students. You will often find me out in the hallways and visiting classes and engaging with students during lunch. Building relationships is key, and I want students to feel a sense of connection and support.

Middle School is a time of exploration and discovery, and I believe in helping our students find their interests and passions. We are committed to providing a well-rounded international education that goes beyond the classroom. From extracurricular activities to creative MYP Action projects, field trips and camps we want to inspire a love of learning that extends beyond the textbooks. Our after school and lunch time clubs have started and I encourage all students to get involved if they have not already.

We celebrated both Languages Week and Book Week in January. During our Languages Week, students had the opportunity to reflect on the importance of learning a second or third language. Many are also growing up bilingually and are continuing on with our unique Mother Tongue program. In our very multicultural environment, Languages Week can be a very interesting week! Book Week saw students explore their love of reading and its importance in their education. As an avid reader myself, I cannot express enough the importance and power of reading in education. Reading opens up new worlds, challenges our creativity, and supports English language learning. I hope that students will continue to visit our library and find the joy of reading.

I am excited about the journey ahead and look forward to working collaboratively with all of our students and families. Please know my door is always open and I value our partnership.

Arin Mares
Acting Middle School Principal
arin_mares@ofs.edu.sg



From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

Chinese New Year Coffee Morning

The Parent Association (PA) invites all parents to a special Chinese New Year themed Coffee Morning, right after the auspicious Lion and Dragon Dance. The Lion and Dragon Dance will take place at OFS Basketball Court, from 10:30am to 11:00am.

Date: Thursday, 22 February 2024

Time: 11:00am – 1:00pm

Venue: Parent Lounge (Level 4 of the Administration Building)

Let us celebrate the Chinese New Year together and get to know its various traditions, and rituals. Watch out for more details to be shared on the PA webpage soon.

Languages Week – 22 to 26 January 2024

Languages Week 22 to 26 January 2024 was a great success. The theme this year was adventure with the IB learner profile of risk-taker as students need to take risks and go on an adventure around the world when learning languages. Students took part in OFS' first international film festival (OFSCARS). Our middle schoolers created short films in the languages represented at OFS displaying great creativity. Congratulations to all the directors and actors!



On our multicultural dress day, students and staff dressed up as adventurers or in their national dress. Students took part in cultural activities, sampled food, and participated in dances from all around the world.

Throughout the week students learnt daily facts about the many languages and cultures that we are exposed to at OFS. This culminated in a quiz where students were tested on their knowledge and won prizes. Our language students also created wonderful posters depicting our theme and learner profile.

(Eileen Coupin Pallaros – SAL Language Acquisition)





Deputy Principal's Message



Welcome back to all our students and families, we look forward to another exciting semester ahead. We are also delighted to welcome all our new families who have joined us this semester. It was great to meet so many of you during 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 anything.

We have a number of events taking place in February, including the Grade 7 excursion to NEWater and Edible Garden City where students will learn about equitable access to finite resources such as food and water as part of the Model United Nations Interdisciplinary unit. We are also looking forward to more exciting activities, such as the upcoming Grade 8 Camp.

This time of the year sees our students looking towards the future. Our Grade 8 students will start to choose which 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 will be conducting our 'Grade 5 Parent Orientation' session, on Thursday, 1 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

The 2023 Middle School Talent Show

OFS Middle School hosted our annual Talent Show competition last month. Over 90 groups of students auditioned and 14 were selected to compete in the show this past year. Acts ranged from solo instrumental performances to original compositions to cultural dances and more. The judging panel was made up of various teachers and administration who had the daunting task of selecting the 3 most outstanding performances. Grade 8 Myra Sharma (the overall winner from last year) walked away with the trophy for Best Dance in her amazing hoola hoop dance routine. Grade 6 Ruoxian Lim received the most votes for Best Instrumentalist for her lovely piano and vocal rendition of an Olivia Rodrigo piece. Finally, grade 8 Tasuku Ebitani won the over all Star Performer award for his beautiful performance of Vivaldi on the violin. The show was entertaining for all. We are lucky to have so much talent at OFS Middle School.

(Nora Patterson – SAL The Arts)



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Middle School Peer Mentors



It was a great first week back in Middle School! We want to thank our cheerful Middle School peer mentors who dedicated their time and energy to ensure that our new students felt comfortable and welcome in Middle School. Moving to a new country and school can be daunting, and knowing that your peers support, care for, and want to build friendships with you makes it much easier. Our Peer Mentoring program is gaining strength, and we encourage all interested Middle School students to get involved in the future. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Ms. Ucko Neill about upcoming opportunities to support your peers and make new friends.

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





UWCSEA Conference – Saturday, 20 January to Sunday, 21 January 2024

The Middle School MUN Club attended a conference at UWCSEA in January. The conference focused on helping students understand the impact of conflict and the actions needed to foster peace. Our 30-student strong delegation did very well engaging in complex topics centred on security trends, environmental challenges, the use of Artificial Intelligence and urgent humanitarian interventions. We were particularly proud to have one of our own Grade 8 student, Hamreet Kaur, chairing a committee.

(Hanna Ucko Neill – MS MUN Coordinator)



Sports News



Congratulations to our OFS Tigers Middle School Students nominated and selected as Captains for the ACSIS Season 2 sports teams. Your leadership, commitment and passion for the game and school stands out and models the values we promote within Overseas Family School. Best of luck in leading our teams to be the best that we can be.

Go Tigers !!!

Basketball

12U Captain – RANDHAWA Arjun Singh [6Chen]

Cricket

12U Captain – SEHGAL Anjaney [6Nocete]

Football

Captain – WAILES Thomas Edward [8Barnard]

Netball

14U Captain – GUPTA Dhriti Ananya [8Chapman]

Table Tennis

U14 Captain – BHANDARI Prisha [8Droze]

(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)

Dry Ice

