



Overseas Family School Middle School

Master Policy:

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

Principal's Message

Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences:

Our Middle School Parent-Student-Teacher conferences are scheduled for 12-15 March, 2024. These conferences provide an opportunity for you to meet with your child's teachers to discuss their academic progress, strengths, and areas for growth. We encourage you to invite your child to be part of these meetings if possible as it can confirm the importance of their attitude and approach to school work. I encourage all parents and guardians to sign up and attend these conferences, as your involvement plays a significant role in your child's success. An email was sent home outlining the sign up procedures.



Learning Self-Management:

Middle school is a critical time for students to develop essential self-management skills that they will continue to use in their future academic and personal lives. Learning to manage time, responsibilities, relationships and emotions is key to success both in and out of the classroom. In the Middle Years Program (MYP) we teach the Approaches to Learning (ATL): Thinking, Communicating, Social Skills, Self-management, and Research. Many of these ATLs relate directly to the skills needed in self-management.

At this age, students are beginning to take on more independence and responsibility for their learning, and personal friendships. Encouraging them to find ways to stay organized, prioritize tasks, set goals, and manage conflict and emotions empowers them to navigate challenges and find success both academically and personally.

As parents and educators, we can play a vital role in modeling and fostering self-management skills in our students/children. By providing guidance, support, and opportunities, we can help them develop the confidence and resilience needed to thrive in Middle School and beyond. I encourage you to talk to your child about these skills. Have a look at their school bag (if you dare) and talk about organization, give them some tasks at home so they can learn to take care of themselves, discuss their homework and how they will approach it and most importantly, talk to them about their friendships and relationships at school. How are these going? How are they managing them? How are they learning to manage their changing emotions? From my experience as a parent and educator, these questions can often be met with resistance – this is part of the growing independence, but at this age, I believe students are still looking for advice and help. It can all feel new to them and they are unsure of the right path to take. It is important that we approach these issues with patience and encouragement.

Through our Health and Social Education program (HSE) led by our Homebase teachers, we address such issues as resolving conflict with friends, staying organized and how to be a good digital citizen. This program aims to impart practical skills for students at this important time in their lives. Please let me know how we can better partner with you to foster these self-management skills at school.

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

From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

The annual **Global Picnic**, an international fair where all the families in the School get together to celebrate as one international community, will take place on **Saturday, 20 April 2024**. This is a great opportunity for you to represent your country by bringing popular traditional food to your country table, performing a musical or dance number which represents your country, or sharing an activity from your culture.

Come and represent your homeland, and together, let us make this fair a success! Email the Parent Association at parent_association@ofs.edu.sg to find out more.

Further information regarding the Global Picnic is also available on the school website: <https://www.ofs.edu.sg/about/pa/events/global-picnic/>

Book Week





Deputy Principal's Message



Quarter 3 continues to be a time of looking ahead for our parents and students. Our Grade 8 students are currently selecting the courses they will study in Grades 9 and 10. All selections must be made by Monday, 11 March 2024. These are important decisions which will pave the way for students' future studies and careers. As Steve Job once said "Have the courage to follow your heart and intuition".

It was also lovely to meet so many of our Grade 5 families during our recent Grade 5 Orientation Evening. We hope that you are all looking forward to joining the Middle School in August. Please see the OFS Dashboard for more information about the Middle School curriculum. The Acting Middle School Principal, Ms. Mares will also be visiting Grade 5 students later in the semester to answer any questions they may have.

In addition to our MY-MUNOFS XIII conference, we continue to explore the Model United Nations through our curriculum. Our Grade 8 students are currently preparing for their conference where they will discuss and debate issues related to the 'UN Sustainable Development Goals' and our Grade 7 students will be focussing on 'Equitable Access to Resources'. These are important topics that help our students to understand the world in which we live and their role in preserving the environment and protecting the rights of others. We wish them the best of luck.

(Hayley Brian – Middle School Deputy Principal)

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MY-MUNOFS XIV

In early February, MUN Club students had the opportunity to attend our 14th Middle School Model United Nations conference (MY-MUNOFS XIV). Organised by a dedicated High School team of students, the conference hosted more than 25 schools, including ones from the US, Malaysia, India, Cambodia, Indonesia and Thailand. Surrounded by students from different countries, our students engaged in diverse topics related to humanitarian affairs, security concerns, emerging global threats and artificial intelligence. For the first time, students were also allowed to participate in the Historical Committee simulating a League of Nations crisis. During the Opening Ceremony, students heard from Dr. Ian Storey from the Insitute of Southeast Asian Studies about critical challenges to our region and were dazzled by Tasuku Ebitani playing "Summer" by Vivaldi. Students developed their confidence and leadership skills, and honed their public speaking, research and negotiation skills during the conference weekend.

(Hanna Ucko Neil – MS MUN Coordinator)



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Middle School Celebrates International Mother Language Day!

We had a fantastic celebration of International Mother Language Day in our atrium! Our students showcased the incredible linguistic and cultural diversity of our community through writings and art in their native languages.

A big thank you to our teachers and maintenance team for their support, and a round of applause to our students who shared their heritage. This event was a beautiful reminder of the rich cultural tapestry that enriches our school.

Let us keep celebrating our diverse voices and the unique stories they have to tell.

(Zhou Yufan – SAL MS Mother Tongue)





OFS Tigers

The OFS Tigers Middle School athletes have had an exciting Season 2 of ACSIS sports with every team showing progress and improvement with 10 of our Middle School teams securing podium and medal positions.



- Volleyball and Table Tennis are new sports introduced at OFS and have enjoyed wonderful success in their first ever season of ACSIS competition;
- **Volleyball**
 - o The 14U Girls Volleyball Team are ACSIS Champions in their inaugural season competing amongst the international schools of Singapore.
- **Table Tennis**
 - o 14U Boys are ACSIS Champions while the 14U Girls are the Silver medalists and runners up.
- **Basketball**
 - o The 12U Boys have topped the league table, were undefeated and have been crowned ACSIS Champions!
 - o The 12U Girls first team have finished as ACSIS Silver medalists.
- **Badminton**
 - o 11U Boys are ACSIS Silver Medalists with the 11U Girls Team as the Bronze Medalists.
- **Cricket**
 - o Despite all the rain interruptions that forced some very late finishes, our Cricketers are ACSIS champions and gold medalists!
- **Swim Team**
 - o The combined boys swim team finished as the bronze medalists at their ACSIS Championships vaulting 6 positions up the rankings list from last season!
- **Football**
 - o 14U Girls came from behind and managed to secure 4th place, while our 14U Boys team finished 7th.
- **Netball**
 - o The Netballers have also shown steady improvement and progress finishing 6th in their division.

A truly remarkable set of results for our Middle Schoolers with immense respect for the team captains, coaches and supporting chaperones to help our teams be amongst the very best in Singapore International Schools!

(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)

Grade 7 NEWater and Edible Garden City



The Grade 7 students recently enjoyed visits to both NEWater and Edible Garden City as part of their MUN IDU unit where they are learning how to solve the resource challenges that populations around the world face. At NEWater, they learnt about the fascinating history behind Singapore’s three national taps – NEWater, rainwater harvesting, and imported water. Through interactive experiences, they analyzed water usage patterns at both individual and city levels. The highlight of their visit was a walk through the Deep Tunnel Sewerage System and the factory where reverse osmosis is used to purify and treat the water. This complemented the 7-day water pledge that the Grade 7s have participated in recently limiting the length of their showers. This has hopefully resulted in a changed attitude towards a precious and finite resource.

Students were also taken to Edible Garden City. They were given a tour of the farm and learnt about the edible plants that grow well in Singapore. They were made aware of the vital role of urban farming in Singapore. Concepts like indoor farming, food security, biodiversity, and soil health came alive during their tour. They explored the wartime garden, learnt about the role of earthworms and attended a workshop on growing their edible plants. Students carried home a pot with a fresh stem cutting, ready to nurture their edible plants.

The combination of the solutions that they learnt about will be applied in their upcoming MUN conference.

(Jessica Purchase – SAL Individual and Societies)

Renewable Energy (Solar Power) at OFS

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/lys-energy-solutions_lys-energy-powers-up-overseas-family-school-activity-7049673854146789376-1VB_

As part of the unit on ‘Energy – Its Impacts and Limitations’ Grade 7 Science students have been able to look at renewable energy applications first hand by observing the LYS Energy Solar Power system installed at OFS.

The system installed in March 2023 uses state-of-the-art photovoltaic cells which can produce a remarkable 1,250.23kWp of power.

Students were able to view generation of the electricity and variation with sunlight intensity by viewing the real time information display in the school atrium.

Students will produce a presentation of their findings into ‘Our Future Energy Needs’ and related UN Sustainability Goal #7 “Affordable and Clean Energy” to ‘ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all’.

(Stephen Foster – SAL Sciences)

