



Overseas Family School

Middle School

Master Policy:

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

Principal's Message

One of the highlights of Middle School life is our Global Concert. On Friday, 4 October 2024, all Middle School students came together to perform songs and dances, representing different cultures from around the world. The energy and enthusiasm were infectious. This event served as a reminder that our diversity makes us stronger, and through understanding and embracing each other's cultures, we can create a more inclusive and supportive community.

A special thanks to all the teachers who helped organize this event, and to the students whose hard work in the many weeks leading up to the concert was all worth it. The concert was not just about entertainment; it was an opportunity to learn, connect, and grow as a school. I am incredibly proud of everyone who participated!

We will be hosting our Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences soon. These sessions are good opportunities for you to meet your child's teachers, discuss academic progress, and work together to ensure your child's success. We believe in the power of partnership between home and school, and these conferences are an essential part of that relationship. This is also the time to celebrate your child's achievements and identify any areas where they may need additional support. Please take advantage of this opportunity to ask questions, share insights, and collaborate with our teachers to help create the best learning environment for your child.

At the close of this month, we will see our end of Quarter break. I want to take a moment to wish all of our families a relaxing week off. Whether you are traveling or staying close to home, I hope you find time to relax and recharge. The holiday break is a great chance for students to reflect on their hard work, take some time off, and return with renewed energy.

Arin Mares
Middle School Principal
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Grade 8 Understanding Disease

OFS Grade 8 students begin their MYP Sciences course by looking at present and past infectious diseases. In the "Understanding Disease" unit, students will look at how scientists study the causes of disease and how disease can be avoided and prevented. The key concept of relationships and related concepts of interaction and consequences will allow the students to discover how 'invisible' microorganisms can cause epidemics and pandemics, how some diseases have been eliminated, and how others are making a comeback. Recent experiences with COVID-19 will allow the students to relate to past and present problems of health and well-being and gain a better scientific understanding of microbiology.

(Stephen Foster – SAL Sciences)



From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

Every OFS student received a present from the PA on Children's Day, 4 October 2024, along with a special note from our school founder, Ms. Irene Wong. We hope all the children had a great celebration.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the PA events, please write to us at parent_association@ofs.edu.sg. Stay safe and stay healthy.



Deputy Principal's Message



It has been an excellent start to the academic year with well-established routines; with all new families, students and staff comfortably settling into OFS Middle School. We enjoyed seeing so many parents attending our new parent orientation morning and Middle School Curriculum talks last month, enabling them to gain a better understanding of the IB MYP Framework. We hope to share more information with parents in our upcoming Grades 6-10 parent workshop later this month, and during the Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences, taking place from 22 to 25 October 2024.

The first quarter is a great time for students to set new academic goals and continue their development from the previous year. Grades 7 and 8 students are familiar with the Middle School and the IB MYP framework. Grade 6 students are rapidly adapting to the special learning environment within IB MYP, creating a positive impact on the school. Establishing good organisation and self-management skills will enable students to establish effective routines and manage their time well.

It has been a busy first quarter for students with many exciting activities taking place. These include preparations for the Middle School Global Concert held on 4 October, the Grade 8 Speech competition, the Homebase Locker competition and the upcoming Grade 6 Camp. We look forward to an action packed Quarter 2.

(Hayley Brian – Middle School Deputy Principal)

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Winner
Shreyasi Sudharshan
Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition

Speech Competition



OFS Tigers



OFS Tigers Captains

ACSIS Season 1 of Academic Year 2024-2025

Congratulations to these OFS Tigers selected as Captains of the ACSIS Season 1 sports to lead our competitive sports teams:

Cricket

KOTIAN Samarth – Captain

Football

SONOGUCHI Nozomi – Boys 19U Team Captain

KOBAYASHI Hayate – Boys 19U Team Vice Captain

PAGADALA NAIDU Diya – Girls 19U Team Captain

BALAJI Asha – Girls 19U Team Vice Captain

TIGKAS Christos – Boys 16U Team Captain

CHOW Li Xuan – Girls 16U Team Captain

Rugby

CESBERT Leon – Boys 14U Team Captain

Swimming

MEINES Jill – Team Captain

VERMA Naya – Team Vice Captain

Touch Football

FORBES Claire – 14U Girls Team Captain

MARKOV Mirella – 12U Girls Team Captain

Volleyball

SIM Sheryan – Boys 19U Team Captain

CUNNINGHAM-BURLEY Latisha – Girls 19U Team Captain

SEN Anoushka – Girls 19U Team Vice Captain

GRUBER Amitai – Boys 16U Team Captain

BHASIN Netanya – Girls 16U Team Captain

"Greatness starts Somewhere - Greatness starts Here"

(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)

65th National Inter-School Team Chess Championship

OFS Middle School chess teams performed exceptionally well, winning several Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in the International Schools category and further demonstrating OFS' strength in chess. Special mention to Tanisha Singh (5 Points) and Akshaj Roy (5P) for being top-scorers in their respective teams.

Big congratulations also to OFS U10 chess team for winning Singapore's 65th National Inter-School Team Chess Championship, held on 3 September 2024 at Rulang Primary School. Well done Ashwath Kaushik, Abhigyan Jha, Dang Khoa Nguyen and Isaac Ziegler.

Once again congratulations to all 27 Middle School students for giving your very best during the full-day chess championship against Singapore's Best. You have displayed great sportsmanship and made us very proud.

(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Zieger – Chess Coaches)

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National Youth Achievement Awards



We are excited to expand our pilot National Youth Achievement Awards participation for Grade 8. Nearly one hundred students have signed up to participate in this initiative, which is Singapore's equivalent of the Duke of Edinburgh awards. Students will be expected to engage in activities that build their appreciation and understanding of physical and mental health, stewardship of the environment, and they will learn how to be of service to others in the school and local community. Students will be able to use many of the school organised activities to fulfill their commitments.

However, it is also an opportunity for them to get involved and become more engaged members of the community. As the first week of NYAA began, students had already participated in a beach clean-up with the Service Club, and reached out to the Elementary School students through the Reading Buddies Club.

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



Reading Buddies Club



First Aid Club



Beach Clean Up



NYAA Awards



New Staff

HOLDEN LAURA

Language and Literature Teacher

When I was five years old, I befriended a new classmate who had just moved to the USA from Saudi Arabia. I distinctly remember one of our first conversations in the school library, in front of a globe that was usually just decoration. She showed me where her home country was located in relation to Michigan, and my fascination with learning about cultures, languages, people, and places around the world was born. I have had the pleasure of working in the exciting field of international education for 29 years now and love the diversity that each day brings. I'm thrilled to have just arrived in Singapore to join the amazing team here at OFS and look forward to contributing to our community.



PORTILLO LUCAS

PHE Teacher

My name is Lucas Portillo, and I am half Brazilian, half Singaporean Chinese. I am currently a part of the Middle School PHE team, a Grade 6 Homebase teacher, and I coach Tigers and Enrichment sailing. I am not new to OFS, as last year I was actively involved in the Tigers and Enrichment programs. Outside of work, I enjoy all things sports, with a particular passion for rugby union, bodybuilding, and street skateboarding. I am also starting to get into triathlon and participated in Trifactor 2024, a local triathlon, over the summer. I love spending time with my pet cat as well. I am looking forward to contributing more to OFS and continuing to support and engage with the students.



TAM DANIEL

Mathematics Teacher

Hello everyone at OFS! My name is Daniel Tam, and I am thrilled to join the OFS family as a Middle School Mathematics teacher. I am from Singapore with a deep appreciation for education. I have always been passionate about nurturing young minds and helping students discover the beauty and practicality of Mathematics. I am excited to connect with the OFS community, both students and fellow educators, and to contribute to the positive and inclusive culture that OFS is known for. When I am not teaching, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, and exploring the vibrant culture and cuisine of Singapore. I look forward to getting to know everyone and working together to support our students in their academic and personal growth.



TAY CAROLYN

Sciences Teacher

Hi, my name is Carolyn Tay and I have recently joined the Middle School Science team. I am a returning Singaporean who has lived in Massachusetts, USA, for the past ten years. For most of this time, I taught Middle School Science in Private and Public Schools. My main role was to spark excitement and curiosity about Science through an inquiry-based approach. As part of holistic student development, I am one of the Gardening Club supervisors. I hope to bring students closer to nature and help them enjoy the many benefits of getting their hands dirty. Sustainability and environmental science are my passions, and I am looking forward to adding value to OFS!



WONG BETHANY

Language and Literature Teacher

Hello, I am Bethany, and I am excited to join the Middle School Language and Literature and SPP English team. I was born and raised in Hong Kong and relocated to Singapore two years ago. My journey in education began in Hong Kong, where I taught English and served as a Homebase teacher at a girls' school. I furthered my expertise with a Master's degree in Education (Psychology) from the UK, focusing on language learning and development and positive mindset. This background fuels my passion for enhancing the learning experiences of my students. Before moving to Singapore, I also worked as an academic advisor, assisting students with boarding school applications, personal statements, and exam preparations. Outside of work, I love practicing yoga, reading, and sewing. As I continue to explore Singapore, I am looking forward to discovering its diverse culinary offerings and exciting new places with my family. I am eager to contribute to the OFS community and collaborate with both students and parents.



MS Peer Mentor



Drama Classes