



Overseas Family School

Middle School

Master Policy:

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

Principal's Message

Welcome to the start of another exciting year in the Middle School! First, I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our returning families back to Middle School. I would also like to extend the same welcome to our new families as well as new Grade 6 students who have joined us from our Elementary School.



This year the Middle School offers a lot of fun and meaningful opportunities for students. Our Peer Mentors have been working hard to help all of our new students settle in and find friends. The OFS Tigers competitive sports are well underway and offer a great opportunity for our students. The Enrichment Program offers many interesting and new programs for students to try and continue to sharpen their skills. We also have several clubs and activities at lunch and after school, for students to join. Clubs, Sports and Enrichment are a great way to meet new friends, relax, learn new skills and try something new. I encourage all students to get involved. We are also excited that the Middle School will be performing the musical "Annie Jr." this year. While the performance is not until the end of April 2025, auditions and rehearsals have already begun to ensure we have a fantastic show!

The start of the year is always an exciting time of new classes, old friends, new friends and opportunities. It is a good time to focus on getting organized and establishing strong habits that will carry students throughout the year. It is important that school and parents partner together to help our students stay on top of their responsibilities. Here are some tips to help your child stay organized:

- Use a planner: Whether that be a digital one or a paper one, encourage your child to write down and note deadlines and bigger projects in a planner. This simple habit can make a big difference in staying organized.
- Set up a Study Space: Creating a quiet, clutter-free space at home to study can help students focus. Having this space free from the distraction of phones and social media is also very important.
- Organise your bag: Helping your child to organize their bag the night before can help them to have the right equipment, homework and PE uniform for the coming day. Labelling items can also help if things get lost to make sure they can be returned to their owner.
- Check in Regularly: Having regular conversations with your child about their work and what they are learning and excited about and the challenges they are facing can really help.

In the Middle School, the administrators and student advisors along with the teachers are here to help. We want to partner with you as parents so that your child can get the most out of their Middle School experience.

Arin Mares

Arin Mares
Middle School Principal
arin_mares@ofs.edu.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 enjoy the food and activities prepared for you.

Date: Thursday, 12 September 2024
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Venue: Parent Lounge
(Level 4 of Administration Building)

Please sign up via the link below:

<https://www.ofs.edu.sg/events/2024/hari-rama-themed-coffee-morning/>

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.

Club Fair





Deputy Principal's Message



Hello and welcome to our new and returning families to the Middle School. Our aim 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. Also a big thank you to all our Peer Mentor volunteers who helped to welcome the newest members of our family.

It was a pleasure to meet so many of our parents during the 'New Parent Orientation' morning and the 'Middle School Curriculum Evening'. We 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 Middle School Dashboard for those who were unable to attend.

It has already been a busy start to the year with the resumption of our clubs, OFS Tigers training and Enrichment Program. Through our classroom and extra-curricular activities, we hope to develop students who are balanced, principled and risk-takers. Organisation is another key attribute we hope to instil in our students, and our locker competition will be a fantastic opportunity for students to put this skill to the test. Finally, communication is of utmost importance and we encourage parents and students to communicate frequently with us so we can all work in partnership.

(Hayley Brian – Middle School Deputy Principal)

hayley_brian@ofs.edu.sg

Science Class



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Peer Mentor Program – Academic Year 2024-2025



We started the academic year with several activities, leadership opportunities and fun. Our Peer Mentors did a fantastic job introducing themselves to new students as the year began, helping everyone feel

at ease and welcome on their first day in a new school. It was great to see the new students make even more friends during two fun-filled orientation days, which included assemblies, information sessions and sports activities. All these activities helped to develop our students' collaboration and communication skills. Our Health and Social Education (HSE) program focus for Quarter 1 is Organisation. Building and developing organisation skills is key to success in Middle School. Our HSE program will support our students with tools to make the most of their academic and extra-curricular commitments. Organisation is especially important for our Grade 6 students, who face new routines, processes and expectations. Working together on organisation skills, sharing best practices and useful tips will ensure that we are off to a strong start to the year.

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



OFS Tigers



The theme for our OFS Tigers Sports teams this year is "Greatness Starts Somewhere". With over 1200 students trying out for 13 ACSIS Season 1 Sports, the OFS Tigers look set to build on the momentum from last year's success with many teams being promoted up to higher and higher divisions.

Greatness Starts Somewhere

Greatness starts with a dream, with motivation,
with taking a risk

Greatness starts with early alarms, with sacrifice, with setbacks,
Greatness starts with passion, unwavering support,
with a dedicated tribe,

Greatness is earned, it's contagious and it starts with you,
Everyday, Every minute, Every moment,

Greatness starts somewhere - Greatness starts here
(Swimming SA Campaign 2020)

Wishing all involved with our competitive programs a happy and successful ACSIS Season 1!

(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)

2024 UK Junior Mathematical Challenge (JMC) and Junior Mathematical Olympiad (JMO) RESULTS

On April 26, 188 Grade 6 and 7 students took part in this year's UK Junior Mathematical Challenge (UK-JMC) which is run by the UK Mathematics Trust of the University of Leeds and supported by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries. The UK-JMC is a lively, intriguing multiple choice question paper which is designed to stimulate interest in mathematics in large numbers of students worldwide. It is another very successful year for OFS Middle School as way more than half of the participants received an award, with 44 Gold, 38 Silver and 33 Bronze Certificates. Students from across the UK and worldwide took the UK-JMC this year, and the top 6% were awarded a Gold Certificate, the next 13% Silver, and the next 21% Bronze.

Also for the second year in a row, Kartik Goel (8 Salwana) was invited to participate in the UK Junior Mathematical Olympiad (UK-JMO) June 12 and received a Certificate of Distinction based on his impressive performance. Only about 1200 students out of more than 200,000 participants worldwide were invited to participate in the Olympiad. The JMO is a two-hour paper consisting of in-depth, challenging problems requiring full written solutions. Jungwoo Ha (7 Chapman) also received the Best in Year award for his performance in the UK-JMC.

Congratulations to all the awardees and participants for this remarkable achievement as well as their teachers who helped them prepare for these events. Your school, parents, and teachers are all proud of you!





New Staff

RIZAL BIN BAHAROM

Intervention Leader

Hi, my name is Rizal and I have recently joined the Middle School team as an Intervention Leader. The Middle School now has an educational intervention team and we are so excited to work with the students, teachers and families. I am Singaporean and I have been in the education industry, mainly in special education, for the past 15 years. I have taught and contributed in the local schools, intervention centres, and international schools in Singapore. I believe that everyone deserves to learn in the way the person learns best and that learning is a life-long process. Everyone has different levels of intelligence and showcase their modes of intelligence differently, so we should celebrate strengths and no judging! Football is my sporting passion (Liverpool FC is life!) and I have recently picked up cycling as a form of leisure activity with family and friends. I love watching movies and like to discuss movies with my family after we watch them. I can play a few musical instruments too and I would love to play in a band again one day. I am looking forward to working and playing together with the Middle School team and students, and may this year be filled with fun and positive learning experiences for everyone!



CHOW ROSITA

SPP Design Teacher

Hi, I am Rosita Chow. I am very happy to have joined the international family of OFS. I am a SPP Design teacher in the Middle School. Originally from Hong Kong, I moved to Singapore 15 years ago. I have worked in advertising, education, and the public sectors. Four years ago, I happily returned to the classroom and have taught English learners from various backgrounds in both local and international schools. I delight in helping students express themselves with improved language skills, and now, through their design projects. I am an avid language learner and have attempted to learn six languages so far. I find that communicating in a new language or, to begin with, stringing words together is both challenging and fulfilling. I am particularly fascinated by the linguistics of my native language, Cantonese. I look forward to working with my colleagues and students at OFS. May our curiosity continue to fuel our learning.



COSTA-LOW ELINOR

SPP Sciences Teacher

Hi, I'm Elinor Costa-Low and I have joined the Middle School Science team as an SPP teacher. I have just returned to Singapore after 6 years in the Netherlands where I was teaching at the British School in the Hague. An additional role while there was being responsible for all sustainability ECAs including our school allotment (and chickens!), a student-run eco-business and supporting the Eco student leader as well as 'green' CAS projects. Prior to that I was working in Singapore at the British Council for 9 years, but started my career in Brighton in the U.K. I am British, but with a Dutch mother and still have links to the Netherlands as that is where all of my close family currently live. In my free time, it is mostly dog walks, meeting friends, Netflix series and reading or crafting (my husband is Brazilian so we seem to barbecue rather a lot too). Thank you to all for a warm welcome – it is lovely to be back in Singapore.



MACIEL DA HORA FRASSON LUCIANA

Portuguese Mother Tongue Teacher

My name is Luciana Frasson, and I am a Brazilian from the state of Paraná. I am a teacher with 20 years of classroom experience. I currently live in Singapore, where I moved in 2021. I hold a degree in Pedagogy, with specializations in Psychopedagogy and Neuroscience Applied to Education. I have always been fascinated by the teaching process and have dedicated my career to understanding and improving how students learn. Moving to Singapore has presented both significant challenges and incredible opportunities. Here, I have been able to expand my horizons and learn new educational approaches, further enriching my role as an educator. My passion for education extends beyond the classroom. I believe that every child has unique potential, and it is my mission to help them discover and develop this potential. I continuously seek innovative ways to engage and inspire my students, always aiming to make learning a meaningful and enjoyable journey.



JOACHIM SUKANYA

Learning Support Teacher

Hi, my name is Suki and I am from Singapore. I am new to OFS and was previously working as an educator in a local special education school. I enjoy working with students with diverse learning needs and believe that with the right support, each student is capable of reaching their potential. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, running and nature. I look forward to learning and growing as an educator and individual over here in OFS.



FOO IVY

Learning Support Assistant

Hi, my name is Ivy Foo and I am a proud Singaporean. I have been in the field of education for more than 40 years and this is my 32nd at OFS. Prior to OFS, I taught at a local primary school as a relief teacher. I have taught in the Kindergarten all these years and this year I joined the Learning Support Team in the Middle School. I feel extremely fortunate to be part of OFS. I look forward to working with the Middle School students this academic year. In my spare time, I enjoy reading and shopping, and like a true blue Singaporean, I enjoy eating! On weekends, you will find me travelling around Singapore enjoying my favourite cuisines.

