



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 busy and successful start to semester two. 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 the Middle School Administration goals is to be approachable and accessible to both parents and students. You will often find us 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 all started and I encourage all students to get involved if they have not already.

We celebrate both Languages Week and Book Week this semester. 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 helps students explore their love of reading and its importance in their education. As an avid reader myself, I can not 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.

We also hosted a parent talk on "Helping Students to Become Good Digital Citizens". The talk covered several key points on parents modelling good phone use for kids, helping parents to be more involved with their child's online life, and limiting phone time. We are strict with our Middle School rules that phones cannot be seen between 9:00 am and 3:30 pm. If we do see a phone it will be kept in the office and can be picked up after school. These rules help students to stay more focused on school work and face to face relationships. Students also know that there is a phone available in the Middle School office if they need to call their parents at any time.

I am excited about the semester 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
Middle School Principal
arin_mares@ofs.edu.sg

From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

Exciting News! The OFS Parent Association is now on Instagram! Follow us at [ofsedu.pa](https://www.instagram.com/ofsedu.pa) for updates on our events and ways to get involved. Stay connected and be part of our school community online.



The Academic Calendar for the 2025-2026 school year is now available on our website. Stay informed about key dates, holidays, and important events. Please visit <https://www.ofs.edu.sg/calendar/> to view or download the calendar.

Middle School Languages Week



Languages Week at OFS Middle School was an exciting celebration of linguistic diversity. This year it was themed around "The Little Prince" novel and its numerous translations representing all of our languages at school. Throughout the week, students participated in hands-on activities, including readings of this beloved tale in various languages, inspiring writing activities to reflect on making the world a better place, and screenings of short films in our OFS languages. The highlight of the week was our Multicultural Dress Day, where students and staff wore their cultural outfits. The auditorium came alive with vibrant cultural activities and dances, showcasing the rich tapestry of languages represented at OFS.

(Eileen Pallaris – 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 in 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 already had a number of exciting events this semester, such as our wonderful Languages Week and Cultural Dress Day, celebrating the vibrant and diverse communities of our school. Our Book Week is also a fantastic opportunity for students to delve into the literary world and ignite their imaginations. In addition, we look forward to the upcoming Grade 8 Camp and grade level excursions, providing students with the opportunity to apply their learning in real-world settings.

This time of the year also sees our students looking towards the future. Our Grade 8 students will start to choose the 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 conducted our 'Grade 5 Parent Orientation' session, on Thursday, 6 February 2025. If parents have any further questions, please reach out to the Middle School office any time (ms-stu-advisors@ofs.edu.sg).

Gong Xi Fa Cai to all our OFS families.

(Hayley Brian – Middle School Deputy Principal)

hayley_brian@ofs.edu.sg

OFS Tigers

Congratulations to these students who have been appointed captains of the ACSIS Season 2 OFS Tigers Sports Teams:

Badminton:

- 11U Girls - Captain Lakshita Singhi
- 11U Boys - Captain Siddhartha Awasthi
- 19U Girls - Captain Zhou Qiantong
- 19U Boys - Captain Aditya Bhansali

Basketball:

- 12U Girls - Captain Ashwathi Menon
- 12U Boys - Captain Rei Yoshida
- 16U Girls - Captain Tejaswini Prasad
- 16U Girls - Vice Captain Aishwarya Mishra
- 16U Boys - Captain Matteo Young
- 19U Boys - Captain Joshua Li
- 19U Boys - Vice Captain Ivan Shishkin

Cricket:

- 12U Boys - Captain Aqeel Boltwala

Football:

- 14U Girls - Captain Reem Alqahtani
- 14U Boys - Captain Thomas Wailes

Netball:

- 14U Girls - Captain Saisha Grover

Rugby:

- 16U Boys - Captain Sri Kona
- 19U Boys - Captain Martin Cesbert

Swimming:

- 19U - Captain Jill Meines
- 19U - Vice Captain Naya Verma

Tennis:

- 19U - Captain Taichi Akasaki
- 19U - Vice Captain Syed Rayyan Ali

Touch:

- 16U Girls - Captain Noam Yoskovitz
- 19U Girls - Captain Melissa Lucas

Volleyball:

- 14U Girls - Captain Romane Levitte
- 14U Boys - Captain Aditya Surana

Best wishes to you and your teams for a successful Season 2 of sports!

(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)

Global Recognition: FIDE Gold School Award for OFS

We are proud to announce that Overseas Family School has been awarded the prestigious FIDE Gold School Award. This title represents global recognition of OFS commitment and success to introducing students to the benefits of chess as an educational tool.

This achievement highlights not only the importance of chess as a tool for intellectual and personal development but also the passion and enthusiasm of our students, teachers and the wider school community. Dana Reizniece, Managing Director of the World Chess Federation and a former Finance Minister of Latvia, presented the award on behalf of the FIDE Chess in Education Commission on 12 December 2024.

(Dijana Dengler/Philipp Ziegler – Chess Coaches)



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Grade 6 Science - Experiencing the properties of Dry Ice

As an introduction to the Grade 6 Unit on "Matter and Change", Grade 6 students had an opportunity to explore the unique properties of Dry Ice. Dry Ice is a very cold substance which sublimates (turns directly from a solid to a gas) when placed in a warm room. Students were able to: make a spoon 'sing', quickly make ice from water, coloured bubbles, see a self-inflating balloon, low/frictionless motion amongst other tasks. The key concept is Change and the students will use models to explain the behaviour of matter and how it changes.

Throughout their studies, students will seek to answer Inquiry Questions including:

- What is matter?
- What is the model for particle arrangement in solid, liquid and gas?
- What change can happen to matter?
- How does the arrangement of particles account for the properties of matter?
- Can the particulate model account for all behaviour of matter?

(Stephen Foster – SAL Sciences)





Model United Nations Club

In the last two months, our Middle School MUN Club members have attended two Model United Nations conferences, CENTMUN at Tanglin Trust School in December and SAISMUN at Stamford American International School in January. Our students continue to get more and more experience in these settings, becoming increasingly confident when speaking about solutions to global and complex issues. It is great to see the connections they make with students from other schools and the friendships that are built as they discuss issues ranging from corruption in sports to climate change. Congratulations to Namit, Arjun and Giansh for being recognized as the best speakers and most diplomatic delegates in their committees at Tanglin. At SAIS, we saw Shamyak, Rohan, Ivaan and Arshiya receive similar awards for their conference contributions. Well done! Next up is a conference at UWCSEA East and our own MY-MUNOFS XV conference at OFS, where we expect to welcome 400 students from 20 schools, including from international schools in Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand and Taiwan.

(Hanna Ucko Neil – MS MUN Coordinator)

