



# 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 11-14 March 2025. These conferences provide an opportunity for you to meet with your child/ward's teachers to discuss their academic progress, strengths, and areas for growth.

We encourage you to invite your child/ward to be part of these meetings if possible as it can confirm the importance of their attitude and approach to school work. We encourage all parents and guardians to sign up and attend these conferences, as your involvement plays a significant role in your child/ward's success.

**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.

We are continuing our focus on fostering good self-management skills in three particular areas: uniforms, punctuality and phone usage.

**Uniforms:**

It is important that students plan ahead and come to school with their correct uniform for the day, for example they must bring their OFS PE uniform on the days they have Physical Education (PE).

**Punctuality:**

It is a valuable life skill and as such we are also working on self-management when it comes to getting to class on time.

**Phone Usage:**

This is another area where we expect students to employ good self-management. Phones are not allowed to be used between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:30 pm at school. We encourage students to follow the phone use rules allowing time for focused learning and face to face interactions.

As parents and educators, we can play a vital role in modelling and fostering self-management skills in our students/children. We encourage you to talk to your child about these skills. 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.

**Arin Mares**  
Middle School Principal  
[arin\\_mares@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:arin_mares@ofs.edu.sg)

## From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

We warmly invite all parents and guardians to our Artificial Intelligence (AI) Parent Workshop, presented by Mr. Mathieu Doods, High School Teacher, and Ms. Neisha Pratt, High School Deputy Principal. The details of the workshop are:

Date: Monday, 10 March 2025  
Time: 9:30 am – 11:30 am  
Venue: Parent Lounge  
(Level 4 of the Administration building)

Please visit the following web page for more information as well as to register your attendance: <https://www.ofs.edu.sg/events/2025/ai-parent-workshop/>

## MS Book Week





## Deputy Principal's Message



Quarter 3 marks a period of forward planning for our parents and students. Our Grade 8 students are currently engaged in the crucial process of selecting their courses for Grades 9 and 10. All course selections must be finalized by Tuesday, 11 March 2025. These decisions are significant, as they lay the foundation for students' future academic pursuits and career paths. As Steve Jobs famously stated, "The only way to do great work is to love what you do," and we encourage students to consider this as they make their choices.

We were also delighted to connect with many of our Grade 5 families during the recent Grade 5 Orientation Evening. We trust that you are all excited about your children joining the Middle School in August 2025. Comprehensive information regarding the Middle School curriculum is available on the OFS Dashboard. Ms. Mares, the Middle School Principal, will also be visiting Grade 5 students later this semester to address any questions they may have.

Beyond the MY-MUNOFS XV conference, we continue to integrate Model United Nations principles throughout our curriculum. Our Grade 8 students are currently preparing for their upcoming conference, where they will discuss and debate issues related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Our Grade 7 students will be focusing on Equitable Access to Resources. These important topics foster a deeper understanding of the global landscape and empower students to recognize their role in environmental preservation and the protection of human rights. We extend our best wishes to all participating students.

*(Hayley Brian – Middle School Deputy Principal)*

[hayley\\_brian@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:hayley_brian@ofs.edu.sg)

## OFS Tigers



Congratulations to all the Middle School OFS Tigers who represented the school in ACSIS Season 2 sports and achieved these remarkable results:

11U Boys Badminton D1 ACSIS Champions and Gold Medalists  
11U Girls Badminton D1 ACSIS Champions and Gold Medalists

11U Boys Football D3 ACSIS Bronze  
11U Girls Football D2 ACSIS Bronze

12U Girls Basketball D1 ACSIS Champions  
12U Boys Basketball D1 ACSIS 5th

12U Boys Cricket D1 ACSIS 6th

14U Girls Table Tennis D1 ACSIS Champions  
14U Boys Table Tennis D1 ACSIS Champions Team and Gold Medalists  
14U Boys Table Tennis D1 ACSIS Bronze Medalists

14U Boys Football D2 ACSIS – 6th  
14U Girls Football D3 ACSIS – 6th

14U Girls Netball D3 ACSIS – 4th

14U Girls Volleyball D1 ACSIS – 6th  
14U Boys Volleyball D1 ACSIS – 7th

16U Boys Basketball D1 ACSIS – Champions and Gold Medalists  
16U Girls Basketball D2 ACSIS – Champions and Gold Medalists

16U Boys Rugby D2 ACSIS – 5th  
16U Girls Touch Rugby ACSIS – 6th

MS ACSIS Swimming  
5 Golds 2 Silvers, 2 Bronze and 3 new ACSIS Records

*(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)*

## MS Grade 5 Parent Orientation Night



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## Grade 8 Camp

The Grade 8 Camp took place from Monday, 10 February to Friday, 14 February 2025. The students were full of excitement from the very beginning as they attended their respective activities. These included the kayaking adventure, which was a wonderful opportunity to learn about the mangrove ecosystems on Pulau Ubin. Students also went to Lee Ah Mooi Nursing Home – a provider of care and support to the elderly. The students showed incredible respect and sensitivity in their conversations, playing board games, giving short performances and even painting fingernails, much to the delight of the residents. Visiting Forest Adventure and doing the high elements courses was an opportunity to overcome their fears and prove to themselves that they were more courageous than they previously thought. Lastly, bowling and Wild Wild Wet were wonderful activities for the students to enjoy each others' company and deepen relationships. This culminated with a barbecue and disco on the final night which saw the campers having great fun with their peers. Overall, the Grade 8 students had a challenging yet rewarding camp and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

*(Aidan Spencer – Camp Organiser)*





## Celebrating International Mother Language Day at OFS

On Thursday, 20 February 2025, Middle School students joined the entire school community in celebrating International Mother Language Day, embracing the beauty of linguistic and cultural diversity. Throughout the morning, students stopped by booths in the Atrium and Senior Block to write messages in their mother tongues, took photos with themed props and frames, and engaged in interactive activities centered around language appreciation. The atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm as students took the opportunity to celebrate their own languages while discovering the uniqueness of others. The event was met with great enthusiasm, reinforcing the importance of mother tongues while fostering a deeper appreciation for different cultures within our community.

*(Ivan Zhou – SAL Mother Tongue)*



## Model United Nations Club

The MUN Club has been busy over the last few months with conferences at Stamford American International School and United World College South East Asia. The highlight was no doubt our own Middle School conference in late February, which saw OFS welcome 450 students from 20 schools, including from Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand and Taiwan. During the Opening Ceremony, students heard from Aaron Connelly, the Asia Diplomatic Editor of The Economist, who addressed recent shifts in global politics and the impact these changes will have on achieving peace and security for all. Students also heard from Anika Riedweg in Grade 8 who sang a beautiful rendition of John Lennon's Imagine. During the two days, students worked hard to address current global humanitarian, developmental and security related issues. Middle School students honed their speaking and listening skills as they considered multiple perspectives on complex issues.

*(Hanna Ucko Neil – MS MUN Coordinator)*

