



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 Internationalism Celebration. On Thursday, 9 October, all Middle School students came together to perform songs and dances, representing the different cultures that make up our student body. The energy and enthusiasm were amazing! This event serves 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.

I would like to give 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 soon be hosting our Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences on 28 to 31 of October. This is a good opportunity for you to meet your child/ward's teachers, discuss academic progress, and work together to ensure your child/ward's success. We believe in the power of partnership between home and school, and these conferences are an essential part of that relationship.

They are a time to celebrate your child/ward'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/ward.

As our Quarter break is near, I want to also 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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From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

The Parent Association (PA) wishes everyone a joyful Children's Day filled with laughter and celebration! For those celebrating Deepavali, may this festival of lights bring happiness, prosperity, and treasured moments with your loved ones. Enjoy your well-deserved term break and create wonderful memories during this special time!

UKMT-JMC and JMO RESULTS

On 2 May 2025, a total of 155 Grade 6 and 7 students participated in this year's UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge (UKMT-JMC). It has been another highly successful year for the OFS Middle School, with approximately 80% of our participants earning an award:

45 Gold, 43 Silver, and 35 Bronze Certificates. The UKMT-JMC attracts students from across the United Kingdom and around the world each year, with the top 6% of participants receiving Gold, the next 13% Silver, and the following 21% Bronze.

Several of our students also qualified for the UKMT Junior Mathematical Olympiad (UKMT-JMO), held on 11 June 2025. We are delighted to share that Jungwoo Ha and Anjaney Sehgal were awarded Certificates of Distinction, while Aanya Jaiswal and Gayul Cho received Certificates of Merit in recognition of their impressive performances. Out of more than 200,000 UKMT-JMC participants worldwide, only about 1,200 students were invited to take part in this prestigious Olympiad, which consists of a two-hour examination requiring full written solutions to complex mathematical problems. Both competitions are organized by the UK Mathematics Trust at the University of Leeds, a leading institution renowned for promoting excellence in mathematics education worldwide.

We extend our warmest congratulations to all participating students and awardees. The school community, together with parents and teachers, takes great pride in your outstanding achievements.

(Roderick Abcede – SAL Mathematics)



MS Curriculum Night





Deputy Principal's Message



The school year is off to a fantastic start here at OFS Middle School! With our routines firmly in place, it has been wonderful to see all our new families, students, and staff settle in so comfortably.

It was a pleasure to welcome so many of you to our New Parent Orientation and Middle School Curriculum talks last month. We hope these sessions gave you a clearer understanding of the IB MYP Framework. We will be sharing even more information at our upcoming Grade 6-10 parent workshops and during the parent-student-teacher conferences from 28-31 October 2025.

The first quarter is the perfect time for students to set new academic goals and continue their personal growth. Our Grade 7 and 8 students are already familiar with the Middle School and IB MYP Framework, and it has been exciting to watch our Grade 6 students quickly adapt and make a positive impact in the school community. Developing strong organizational and self-management skills now will help them build effective routines and manage their time well throughout the year.

It has been a whirlwind of activity this quarter! Our students have been busy with exciting events, including preparations for the Middle School Global Concert on 9 October, the Grade 8 Speech Competition, the Homebase Locker Competition, and the unforgettable Grade 6 Camp. We cannot wait to see what Quarter 2 has in store!

(Hayley Brian – Middle School Deputy Principal)

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66th National School Team Chess Championship

Congratulations to all 104 OFS students from Elementary, Middle and High School for competing in the 66th National Inter-School Team Chess Championship, held on 13 and 14 September 2025 at Overseas Family School. In total, the OFS Middle School students scored a fantastic 12 Gold and 4 Bronze medals, becoming the most successful International School. The OFS U12 Girls Team won Gold in the International Category and even climbed the winner's podium in the most prestigious overall national category, winning 3rd Place overall in Singapore.

For U12 Girls: Riyanishi Nigam, Mihika Gupta, Aanya Jaiswal and Lakshita Singhi showed great teamwork, encouraging one another throughout, even after losing a game.

Further Gold medalists (International Category) were U12 Open: Abhigyan Jha, Ehsan Manas, Dang Khoa Nguyen, Philip Ramos and U14 Girls: Anaisha Kalsi, Yashika Desai, Siddhika Aggarwal.

Regardless of trophies and medals, OFS is particularly proud of all its students who displayed fantastic sportsmanship, resilience, patience and a passion for the game.

(Philipp Ziegler and Dijana Dengler – Chess Teachers)



Grade 6 Camp

At the end of September, our Grade 6 students enjoyed their grade level camp. The first day of camp was spent in Sentosa, having fun at the Luge, Hydrodash, and an Incredible Race. On days 2 and 3, students enjoyed kayaking, pitching their own tents and the highlight – an evening campfire at Pasir Ris Park. We are super proud of our Grade 6 students for being excellent campers, showing such resilience, collaboration and courage. They all had a lot of fun, made some great friendships and learned a lot in the process. Well done!

(Jonathan Wilkinson and Lisa Youngson – Middle School Academic Coordinators)

Locker Competition Winners

A big congratulations to the winners of this year's Locker Competition!

- Jiang Jiaying (7.04)
- Aarya Verma (6.06)
- Olve O'Connor (6.06)

Their lockers stood out for being well-organised and creative, while still remaining practical and easy to use. Some lockers were decked out with lights, others showcased Harry Potter themes, and many featured original and effective ways to organise school life.

Thank you to everyone who participated. It was fantastic to see so many Middle School students taking pride in their lockers and showing how a small space can reflect both responsibility and creativity.

(Jonathan Wilkinson – Academic Coordinator/MUN Coordinator)



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OFS Tigers



OFS Tigers Captains use their leadership skills and abilities to empower the team to meet their goals. They motivate, inspire and create an environment for each team member to feel included, respected, valued and to be active participants. These captains are expected to be responsible, reliable and thorough with their tasks and model behaviors as ambassadors representing the school, the team and themselves in competitive sports and as valued by the IB Learner profile. Congratulations to the OFS Tigers Captains who have been recognized by their peers, teammates and coaches to lead their respective OFS Tigers Competitive Sports Teams in ACSIS Season 1.

Badminton

12U Girls - Zheng Yuxuan

12U Boys - Sachit Sardana

14U Girls - Riana Singh

14U Boys - Samarth Yadagiri

Cricket

14U Boys Cricket - Ivaan Gajjar

Cross-Country

Cross Country MS Girl - Wen Jiani

Cross Country MS Boy - Elias Drissi

Cross Country HS Girl - Srishti Sethi

Cross Country HS Boy - Eric Tabardel

Football

16U Boys - Peter Kormanyos

19U Girls - Asha Balaji (C) and Adiya Tripathi (VC)

19U Boys - Caio Figueiredo Rosa

Netball

12U Girls - Irene Fajardo Martin

Rugby

14U Boys - Charles Forbes

18U Boys - Jordan Spencer

Swimming

19U - Jill Meines

Touch Rugby

12U Girls - Hansini Thrupthi Ashok

14U Girls - Reem Alqahtani

Volleyball

16U Girls - Claire Forbes

16U Boys - Makoto Sumiyoshi

19U Girls - Rony Weinstock

19U Boys - Amitai Gruber

"OFS Tigers - Where the Best Get Better"

(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)

Educational Intervention Services: Managing Homework

Helping a Middle School student manage their homework can be a challenging but rewarding process. Middle School is a time of increased academic demand, and organizational skills are key. Here are four effective tips to help them succeed.

1. Prioritize and Break Down Assignments

Teach your child/ward to prioritize their work by focusing on what is due first or what will take the most time. Help them break down large projects into smaller, manageable steps. For example, a book report can be divided into reading the book, creating an outline, writing a first draft, and so on. This makes the task less intimidating.

2. Establish a Dedicated Study Space

A consistent, distraction-free study area is crucial. This space should be well-lit and equipped with all the necessary supplies, like pencils, paper, and a calculator. Minimize distractions by keeping phones, video games, and the TV out of the area.

3. Use a Visual Planning System

Middle School students have multiple classes, making organization tough. A visual planner, calendar, or digital application can help them track assignments and deadlines. Color-coding subjects can also make the schedule easier to read and follow. This teaches them to be responsible for their own workload.

4. Incorporate Frequent Breaks

Sitting for long periods can be hard, especially for students with attention issues. Use a timer to set clear work periods (e.g., 20-30 minutes) followed by short, scheduled breaks. During breaks, encourage a quick physical activity, like a stretch or a walk, to help them re-focus and manage their energy.

(Rizal Bin Baharom – Head of Intervention/Middle School Intervention Leader)

Grade 8 Speech Competition



Congratulations to Shankar Akhila for completing the high altitude trek to the Valley of Flowers in the Himalayas at 4300m/14,107ft.



New Staff

WONG SHARLYN

Learning Support Teacher

My name is Sharlyn and I am excited to join OFS as a Middle School Learning Support Teacher. My journey working with the diverse needs community has been profoundly enriching and rewarding. Upon graduating with a Psychology degree from the University of Queensland, I worked as a disability support worker in Brisbane, Australia and taught in Hokkaido, Japan. Prior to joining OFS, I held the position of a senior educational therapist in a private therapy clinic. These experiences have deepened my passion for supporting students with a wide range of learning needs. I believe that all children should have the opportunity to access education that meets their unique needs. Outside of school, I love immersing myself in music and theatre, discovering new cafes, getting lost in a good book, and travelling to explore different cultures. I look forward to collaborating with students, families, and staff to provide every learner the skills and strategies to manage their thinking and learning differences.



TAN DANIEL

Student Counsellor

Hello everyone! I am Daniel and I am excited to join the school as the new Middle School Student Counsellor. My role is simple, I am here to listen, support, and help students find their way through school life, whether it is challenges with learning, friendships, or just the ups and downs of growing up. I believe every student has their own story, and sometimes all it takes is a good conversation to make things clearer.



MONCAYO BOU MIREIA

Spanish Acquisition/Theatre

Hello! My name is Ms. Mireia. I am originally from Barcelona, and I teach Spanish and Theatre in Middle School. Since I was a little kid, I have always dreamed of becoming a teacher, which is why I studied Education at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. I have always loved traveling and discovering new cultures. During my studies, I joined exchange programs in England and the USA to further develop my English language skills. I also had the chance to spend a semester at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland. My strong interest in international education later led me to specialize as a TEFL teacher. Alongside teaching, I studied Dance and Theatre at the Coco Comin School in Barcelona, and I remain active in the performing arts with experience in Ballet, Jazz, and Contemporary dance. I am very excited to be part of the OFS community, and I look forward to sharing my passion for languages, the arts, and global learning with my students. I wish you all a fantastic academic year!



UYS HERMAN

Design-Technology

I am Herman Uys, a Design & Technology teacher passionate about creativity and innovation. I believe learning should be engaging, practical, and fun—and I enjoy helping students develop skills that prepare them for the future while encouraging them to think outside the box.



RICHARDSON STEPHEN

Language and Literature

I grew up in a small town in Nova Scotia, Canada, where my love of reading began back in Grade 9, thanks to an English teacher who showed me that books could be whole new worlds to explore. That moment stuck with me and is one of the reasons I became a teacher. For the past twenty years, I have taught in many different countries across Asia, and I have seen how stories can bring people together no matter where they are from. In my English class, I want everyone to feel confident sharing their own ideas and to discover the power of stories for themselves. Outside of school, I enjoy reading science fiction and fantasy and traveling, because both fuel my imagination and remind me why I fell in love with exploring new worlds, whether in books or in real life.



SCHIRMER JENNY

Mathematics

Hello! My name is Jenny Schirmer, and I am excited to be part of the OFS community. I am originally from Norway and Sweden, and outside of school I enjoy spending time in nature, reading a good book, and discovering new coffee shops. As a teacher, I especially love teaching Mathematics because of the way it connects to real life. Mathematics is something we use every day, and I enjoy helping students see how it can support them both in and outside the classroom. I love creating opportunities for students to think deeply, become more independent, and strengthen their problem-solving skills.



PIETERSE NADINE

Sciences

Hello! I am Ms. Pieterse, but my students usually call me Ms. P. I am excited to be the new MYP Science teacher! I have had the incredible opportunity to teach around the world—in Cambodia, China, and Costa Rica—which has given me a wealth of international experience to bring into the classroom. Beyond teaching, I have also worked at boarding schools in China and Germany, and I believe learning happens both inside and outside the classroom. I am passionate about Student Voice and love helping bring student ideas to life. Collaboration is important to me, and I enjoy creating learning experiences that connect science to the real world. When I am not teaching, you will probably find me with a good book and a cup of coffee—or out chasing a little adrenaline through scuba diving, motorbiking, or canyoneering!



SAN MIGUEL JEM

Sciences

My name is Jem San Miguel, and I joined OFS as a teacher in January this year. I have been teaching Science for several years, and I am so happy to continue this journey here at OFS. I believe that building strong, respectful relationships with my students is essential. By understanding them as individuals, I can better support their learning in both academics and in developing skills that prepare them for the real world. It is truly a pleasure to be part of the OFS community, and I look forward to contributing to our shared goals in education.

