



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 Middle School! First, I want to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our returning families back to Middle School. I also want 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 many 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 putting on a theater production as well. While the performance is not until the end of April 2026, auditions and rehearsals will begin soon to ensure we have a fantastic show!

We are excited to have some new faces in the Middle School office this year. Mrs. Lisa Youngson and Mr. Jonathan Wilkinson will be working as our Academic Coordinators supporting the Middle School students in their academics and behaviour. Mr. Daniel Tan and Ms. Laila Zaidi are here to support students as our Middle School Student Counsellors, looking after the wellbeing of our students. All are happy to have students drop by any time to have a chat or ask questions.

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 counsellors 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
Middle School Principal
arin_mares@ofs.edu.sg



New Parent Orientation

From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

This September, the Parent Association (PA) is delighted to organise a series of meaningful events for our parent community:

- **Singapore Law Talk for Parents** – Gain valuable insights into Singapore's legal landscape and how it affects families.
- **Half-Day Tour of Singapore** – Discover the city's hidden gems and enjoy quality time with fellow parents.
- **Happy Teachers' Day Celebration** – Join us in expressing our heartfelt appreciation to all the dedicated educators who inspire and guide our children every day.

We warmly invite all parents to take part in these enriching and enjoyable activities. More information will be shared closer to each event, so please stay tuned!

For any questions or to learn more about upcoming PA events, feel free to contact our PA Chairperson at: parent_association@ofs.edu.sg.



Deputy Principal's Message



A huge welcome to both our new and returning families! The new school year is officially underway, and we are absolutely thrilled to have you as part of our community. Our goal is to make the Middle School experience a truly special one, combining a safe and happy environment with a challenging and engaging education. We are dedicated to this mission and are looking forward to the exciting year ahead.

It was wonderful to see our students connecting with one another through their Homebase and team-building activities during our student orientation. A big thank you to our Peer Mentor volunteers who did an incredible job of welcoming the newest members of our family!

We also enjoyed meeting so many of you at the New Parent Orientation session and Middle School Curriculum Evening. We hope you had the chance to speak with our Subject Area teachers to learn more about our curriculum and the IB MYP framework. If you were unable to attend, you can find the presentation on the Middle School parent dashboard.

The start of the year has been busy and productive, with the return of our clubs, OFS Tigers training, and Enrichment Program. Through these classroom and extracurricular activities, we hope to help our students become balanced, principled, and risk-takers. We are also focusing on instilling great organizational skills, with our upcoming locker competition being a fantastic way for students to put this to the test!

Open communication is key to a successful partnership. We encourage parents and students to reach out to us frequently so we can work together to ensure a great year for everyone.

(Hayley Brian – Middle School Deputy Principal)

hayley_brian@ofs.edu.sg

Peer Mentor Program

The school year kicked off with plenty of excitement as students settled into new classes and routines. One of the most valuable parts of this year's transition was the Peer Mentor Program, which pairs experienced Middle School students with those who are new to OFS. From the very first day, our Peer Mentors were ready to welcome classmates, show them around, answer questions, and share advice about life in Middle School. Just as importantly, they offered friendship and reassurance, helping new students feel they had someone to turn to as they found their feet. Their efforts created a supportive atmosphere where everyone could begin the year feeling confident and included in our school community.

Orientation activities added to the sense of connection, with a mix of assemblies, team-building sessions, and sports that made the first week both welcoming and fun. These experiences gave students the chance to collaborate, form new friendships, and enjoy being part of the OFS community. The energy and enthusiasm on display highlighted the importance of communication and teamwork as students began the new academic year together.

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



Master Policy:

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

New Academic Coordinators

WILKINSON JONATHAN

Academic and MUN Coordinator

Hi! I am Jonathan and I am excited to be stepping into the roles of Academic and MUN Coordinator this year. I have been part of the OFS community since 2023, teaching Language and Literature and SPP. The best part of teaching for me is seeing students grow in confidence, share their ideas, and approach learning with curiosity. My previous roles in assessment, curriculum, and extracurricular programs have given me a broad perspective that continues to guide how I support student learning. Outside of school, life is busy with my wife and our two daughters. I enjoy reading, watching movies, and following my favourite sports teams. I look forward to supporting the academic learning and wellbeing of our students, as well as guiding the continued growth of MUN at OFS.



YOUNGSON LISA

Academic Coordinator

My name is Lisa Youngson and I am proud to be entering my 14th year at Overseas Family School. I am originally from Scotland where I started my teaching career and have also had the opportunity to teach in Western Australia. My professional passion lies in the field of Design and I have previously served as the Subject Area Leader for both Middle and High School Design. I continue to teach the IB Design course to Grade 11 and 12 students in the High School. Outside of the classroom, I enjoy travelling and running, although I must admit, I run more for enjoyment than speed! This year, I am excited to take on the role of Academic Coordinator. In this capacity, I will be responsible for organising ECAs, coordinating a variety of school events, planning and participating in camps, overseeing assemblies, and supporting the pastoral care and discipline of Middle School students. I look forward to working closely with students, staff and families to support our vibrant school community. My door is always open and I welcome the opportunity to connect with you throughout the year.



Educational Intervention Services



Welcome Back to School: A Fresh Start for Learning

As we begin another exciting academic year, the Educational Intervention Services team are thrilled to welcome all students back to our school community. This year promises new opportunities for growth, discovery, and personal development. The MS intervention team are prepared to support each student's unique learning journey, creating a warm and inclusive environment where everyone can feel valued and motivated to achieve their full potential.



Educational Intervention Services: Supporting Every Student's Success

Our school's Educational Intervention Services provide targeted support for students needing additional academic assistance. These programs include small group sessions, individualised learning plans, and personalised academic counselling. By identifying students' learning needs early, we help bridge learning gaps, boost confidence, and ensure every student can thrive academically. Please reach out to our Learning Support Teachers if you would like to know more about these services!

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

New Parent Orientation





New Staff



SIROIS CAMILLE

French Acquisition

Hello, my name is Camille, and I am excited to join the Language Acquisition department at OFS as a French teacher. Originally from Québec, the French-speaking part of Canada,

I have had the opportunity to teach in South Korea, Vietnam, Canada, and now Singapore, where I am beginning my third year. I particularly enjoy introducing French to students who are new to the language, helping them not only learn to communicate but also discover the rich culture that comes with it. Outside the classroom, I enjoy running and cycling, which give me the chance to continue discovering new places around Singapore.



ZAIDI LAILA

Student Counsellor

Once an OFS student and 13 years later delighted to be back as Middle School Student Counsellor! Mental wellbeing and psychology are at the heart of my work, and because I

once walked the same path as our students, I understand the challenges they face and can truly relate to the unique journey of an OFS student. I look forward to supporting them in building resilience, balance, and confidence!



WILKERSON NICOLE

Language & Literature/Teacher Librarian

I am so excited to be teaching at Overseas Family School this year! I am teaching Language and Literature, as well as working as the teacher librarian. I am from the United

States - I was born and raised in San Francisco, and have spent the last nine years teaching and working as a library media specialist in Idaho. I love reading and writing, and my goal is to develop a love for literature in each of my students.



AUMENTADO RITZ

Mathematics

Hello! My name is Ritz Aumentado, and I am thrilled to join the school community. I hold a Bachelor of Secondary Education and am passionate about teaching Mathematics. I

love making Mathematics engaging and helping students build confidence in their learning. My goal is to create a positive and supportive space where all students feel valued and encouraged to learn. It has been a wonderful start to the school year, and I am looking forward to all the learning and growth ahead!



WEDDERBURN ELEANOR

Theatre

Hi! I'm Eleanor Wedderburn — but everyone calls me Miss Ellie. I trained and worked at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London and have taught Public Speaking and Theatre in Education for many years. One of my own, glowing performance reviews was as Nana the dog in Peter Pan! As Stanislavski said, "There are no small parts, only small actors." I have a grown-up son who studied in Singapore before completing his IB in France and

heading off to university. I now share my life with a rescued tabby cat who is too polite to catch mice and firmly believes she is human. I am passionate about nurturing creativity and helping students discover their own unique voices. I believe theatre is the art of turning stories into magic — and magic into memories. After 14 years teaching in a secondary school in France — and several other countries before that — I am delighted to be back in Singapore and am looking forward to my first year at OFS and all the magic and memories to come.

OFS Tigers



We are so excited to welcome the OFS Tigers teams back to school in preparation for our fourth year competing in ACSIS, national and international level sports.

Over the past three years – the OFS Tigers have established themselves as one of the most formidable sporting outfits in Singapore across 15 sports and fielding over 100 teams across six main age groups throughout each year.

It was a very busy Summer in the pool for OFS with two OFS Tigers swimmers competing internationally and OFS hosting three international teams on our campus, supporting them in their preparations for the World Aquatics Swimming World Championships.

Tia Steere was selected to represent Singapore on the Singapore National Team at the 47th Southeast Asian Age Group Aquatics Championships held in the World Aquatics World Championship pool. Having turned 12 only a few days prior and having to compete in the 13 year old category - Tia is now, not only the fastest 12 year old in Singapore - but also the fastest 12 year old in all of South East Asia in both the 50m and 100m Breaststroke. She was impressive with significant improvements in personal best times leading to #3 place finish in Southeast Asia amongst the 12 year olds on both the 200m Breaststroke and 800m Freestyle.

Jill Meines competed at the Dutch Nationals. Her third time competing in Amersfoort, Holland, saw her reach the podium twice. Taking the Silver medal in the Women's 4x200 Freestyle relay and a bronze medal in the Women's 1500m individual freestyle, Jill is now ranked amongst the Top 3 best swimmers in her age group in both Singapore and the Netherlands.

OFS was honoured to welcome and host the national swim teams of Chile, South Africa, and Israel—featuring Olympians and world-class swimmers—who trained in our pool and gym ahead of the World Aquatics 2025 Swimming World Championships. Amongst them were 6x Olympian Kristel Kobrich of Chile, double World Champion Anastasiya Gorbenko of Israel and World Champion and double silver medalist Pieter Coetze together with bronze medalist Kaylene Corbett, who are both South African. OFS was also visited by the incredible Mr. Osamu Itoi of Japan who was crowned World Masters Champion in the 50m and 100m Backstroke.

This 2025-2026 year of competitive sport is all set and promises to be faster, bigger, stronger and even better! Wishing all the OFS Tigers a fun, safe and successful season!

(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)