



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. The start of term is always filled with the energy of new classes, reuniting with old friends, welcoming new ones, and diving into fresh opportunities.



This year, we are deepening our focus on digital learning through a one-to-one device policy, where students bring their own devices from home. To support this shift, we are launching school-wide Google Drives and Google Classrooms to keep learning streamlined and accessible. Students have all been given an OFS Google Drive and are signed up to their Google Classrooms. I encourage parents to learn their child's Google password so they can view their Google Classrooms and calendars.

Additionally, all students will participate in our new Digital Literacy course. This curriculum is designed to equip them with essential modern skills, including: technical fundamentals, touch typing, research strategies, academic integrity, and responsible habits for harnessing AI tools effectively.

To ensure a secure environment, our updated Device Policy has been sent home with your child. We view technology as a powerful tool to enhance learning, but we are equally committed to intentional use—when technology does not serve an educational purpose, we turn it off. Keeping our students safe, focused, and balanced remains our top priority.

Another area of focus is helping our students stay organized. Beginning the year with strong organizational routines will set your child up for long-term success. We believe that a strong partnership between school and home is the best way to keep Middle School students on track with their responsibilities. To help with this, we are happy to announce that we will be launching our new Middle School Homework Diary. These are available in the school shop soon and will definitely help our students to get more organized.

Here are three simple tips to help your child stay organized at home:

- **Use the MS Homework Diary:** We encourage your child to track daily assignments, project deadlines, and key dates. This small daily habit prevents last-minute stress.
- **Set Up a Dedicated Study Space:** Create a quiet, clutter-free area at home for homework. Keeping this zone free from phone notifications and social media distractions makes a massive difference in focus.
- **Organize the Night Before:** Work with your child to pack their bag each evening with the correct books, completed homework, and PE gear. Label all personal items so misplaced belongings can quickly find their way back to their owner.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. Let us make this a fantastic year of growth, learning, and success together.

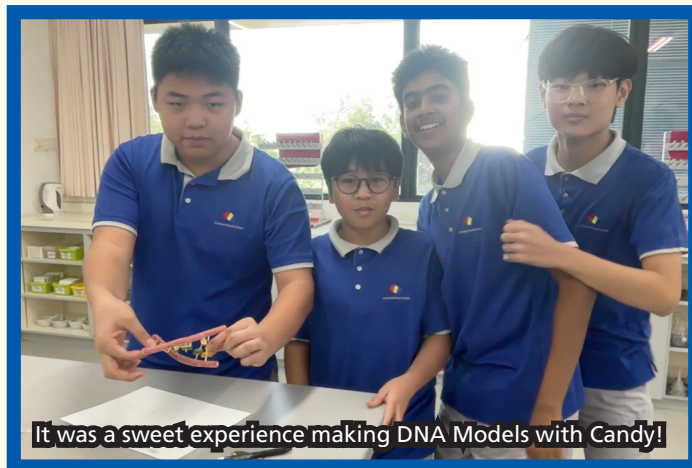
Arin Mares

Arin Mares
Middle School Principal
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Orientation Week



What a way to start the school year! Our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders kicked off Orientation Week with action-packed team-building challenges run by the PHE team. From tug-of-war and monster ball to hula hoop relays and cone flips, students had a fantastic time building team spirit and making new friends.



It was a sweet experience making DNA Models with Candy!



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 our 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 Dashboard.

The start of the year has been busy and productive, with the return of our clubs, Tigers training, and Enrichment programs. Through these classroom and extracurricular activities, we hope to help our students become balanced, principled, and risk-takers. We're 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)

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2026 UK Junior Mathematical Challenge (JMC) and Olympiad (JMO) Results



OFS Middle School students achieved outstanding results in the 2026 UK Junior Mathematical Challenge (UKMT-JMC). On April 30, 125 Grade 6 and 7 students participated, with more than 70% receiving awards: 40 Gold, 22 Silver, and 26 Bronze Certificates. The JMC, organised by the UK Mathematics Trust, challenges students with engaging mathematical problems and attracts more than 200,000 participants worldwide.

Congratulations to Daisuke Miyauchi (7.08 Schirmer), who received Best in Year 7, and Jiwon Yoon, who earned both Best in Year 8 and Best in School. Both qualified for the prestigious UK Junior Mathematical Olympiad (JMO), placing them among only 1,200 students worldwide to reach the qualifying score. Daisuke went on to receive a Certificate of Merit for his impressive JMO performance.

Our students also excelled in other mathematics competitions. Jungwoo Ha received a Certificate of Merit in recognition of his impressive performance in the 2026 UKMT Cayley Mathematical Olympiad. Varenja Chand (7.06 Aumentado) and Advay Singh (7.06 Aumentado) each received a Bronze Award in the Singapore Mathematical Kangaroo Contest, while Advay also earned an Honorary Mention in the Singapore and Asian Math Olympiad.

Congratulations to all our students, teachers, and families for these remarkable achievements!

(Roderick Abcede – SAL Mathematics)

Athletics Department

Tigers are back! We are thrilled to launch another exciting season of Tigers sports as our student-athletes prepare to represent OFS in ACSIS competition! Trial turnout across all sports was fantastic, with our Middle School athletes bringing incredible energy and focus to the courts and fields. It has been inspiring to see our students so happy and active, doing what they love. As rosters take shape, our focus shifts from trials to building strong friendships, supporting one another through every win and challenge, and fostering a positive, inclusive team culture. Go Tigers!

(Bruce Shang – Head of Athletics)

From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

Welcome back! After a two-month summer break, we returned to school in August. The students are settling back into their routines, and we hope our new parents are also getting to know the school and our community better. September will be another busy month for the PA. 5 September is Teachers' Day in Singapore, and we would like to take this opportunity to wish all our teachers a very Happy Teachers' Day! Thank you for your hard work, patience, and everything you do for our children.

On 10 September, we will have a Police Talk for parents, giving us a chance to learn more about safety and life in Singapore, the place many of us now call home. Everyone is welcome to join. We are also planning a series of parent workshops for different age groups, covering topics such as parenting, communicating with teenagers, supporting children through school and exam stress, and improving communication between parents and children. If you are interested, please feel free to register or email us for more information. We hope to see many of you at our upcoming events!

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Supporting Your Child Through the Back-to-School Transition: A Guide for Parents

The start of a new academic year always brings a special kind of energy to campus: new shoes, new timetables, new faces in the hallway. This year is even more full of change than most: our returning students are settling into new grades, our new families are finding their footing at OFS for the first time, and our elementary students are stepping into Middle School for the very first time.

Whichever category your child falls into, one thing holds true across all of them: **transitions take adjustment, even happy ones**. As counsellors, we want to share a few thoughts on what this looks like at home, and how you can support your child through it. It is Normal for Excitement and Anxiety to Coexist.

A child can be genuinely excited about a new school year and still feel nervous underneath it; these two feelings are not contradictions, they show up together more often than not. This is true even for students who “have done this before.” A returning student moving into a new grade may face a reshuffled friend group or a new set of teachers; a certain quiet uncertainty can creep in even when everything looks familiar on the surface.

For our elementary students moving into Middle School, the shift is bigger: a larger campus, moving between classrooms, more independence, and, often for the first time, being the youngest in the building again after being the oldest last year. And for our new families, your child is doing all of this while also building an entire social world from scratch. Naming this for your child (“it makes sense to feel a bit of both excited and nervous”) can be more reassuring than trying to talk them out of the nervous part.

What You Can Do at Home

Ask open, low-pressure questions. “How was school?” often gets a one-word answer. Try something more specific and open-ended instead: “What was one small good thing that happened today?” or “Who did you sit with at lunch?” These invite more than a yes or no, without feeling like an interrogation.

Keep routines predictable. When a lot is changing at school, predictability at home (regular mealtimes, a consistent bedtime, a familiar weekend rhythm) gives your child a steady base to return to.

Resist the urge to fix every social hiccup immediately. Friendship shifts, awkward first weeks, and the occasional “no one sat with me today” are a normal part of settling in. It’s tempting to want to solve it right away, but often what your child needs most is to feel heard first. Try listening and validating before jumping to solutions; you can always follow up with a teacher or counsellor if a pattern continues.

Give it time. Settling in socially and academically genuinely can take several weeks. A slow start is not a sign that something is wrong. When to Reach Out for Extra Support

Most settling-in nerves ease naturally within the first few weeks. It may be worth reaching out to your child’s counsellor if you notice:

- Ongoing reluctance or resistance to going to school, beyond the first week or two
- Changes in sleep, appetite, or mood that persist
- Your child avoiding talking about school altogether, or seeming withdrawn
- Physical complaints (stomach-aches, headaches) that tend to cluster around school days
- Your own gut sense that something feels off, even if you can’t quite name it

You know your child best, and you don’t need to wait for something to feel “big enough” before reaching out.

We are Here to Help

Our counselling team is always available to support your child, and you, through these transitions, whichever stage of the OFS journey your family is in. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to your child’s school counsellor at any point in the year, not just when something feels like a crisis. We’re just as glad to help with the small bumps as the bigger ones. Here is to a wonderful start to the year for every student, new and returning alike.

(Daniel Tan – Middle School Student Counsellor)

First Day Activities





New Staff

HOOK JASON

Visual Art

I am from the United States of America. I enjoy music and art. Last year, I was in High School and now I am in Middle School. Before that I taught in Malaysia for ten years at a university and an international school. My favorite local food is Chicken Rice! I enjoy travelling too! When I was a student, I studied pottery and calligraphy in Japan. Last year, I travelled to South America. I visited Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world and enjoyed the food in South America. When I am not teaching, I like bicycling and walking my dog. If you go to Pasir Ris park, maybe you will see me there!



COULTER NICHOLAS

Visual Art

I am delighted to join OFS as the new MS Visual Arts teacher this term. Over the past 18 years, I have taught in international schools across Southeast Asia, most recently at the International School of Brunei. I am returning to Singapore with my wife, having lived here previously for 12 years, so this feels very much like coming home, while my twin sons have headed back to Australia after finishing their IB. I come from a background in film and photography, and from this term onwards, building student self-efficacy and enjoyment in the arts is a core tenet of my teaching. Amongst the many activities on offer this year in Middle School, our Year 8 students will engage in the "Mythical Beasts" unit, where they will explore creative direction with Generative AI in their work, building iteration and exploration of its potential from their traditional drawings. I look forward to meeting the OFS community and contributing to the Visual Arts programme in the years ahead.



BROECKX MICHAELA

Dutch Mother Tongue

My name is Michaela Broeckx, and I am delighted to join the OFS community as a Dutch Mother Tongue teacher. My teaching philosophy is centered on playful, participatory learning, where students build knowledge together by connecting new information to what they already know. I am deeply committed to ensuring that every child receives the challenge and support they need to thrive in their language development. I look forward to partnering with students and parents this year to nurture your children's linguistic richness and cultural connection. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or fun ideas, as I am eager to begin this journey together.



PARK SOO JUNG

Sciences

Hi everyone! My name is Soo, and I am a new Middle School Science teacher. My interest in Science began in Middle School during my Earth Science class, so I know how important these years are for students. I hope to inspire my students to enjoy Science and deepen their curiosity about the world around them. A little about me: I am Korean American and a mom of two lovely toddlers. Outside of teaching, I enjoy traveling, trying new food, and spending time with my family. I am excited to meet everyone and become a part of the OFS community!



TEE KELLY

Language & Literature

My name is Kelly Tee and I am originally from the heart of the American South-where sweet tea flows like water- I grew up in a family of educators who instilled in me a lifelong passion for learning. That spark led me to earn my undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Multiple Abilities and Special Education. My teaching adventure began 14 years ago as a math interventionist in Alabama, took me across the globe to Nairobi, Kenya, and ultimately brought me to the vibrant island of Singapore. Overseas Family School has been my home for the past eight years, and I could not be prouder to be part of this community. Having watched many of these students grow since 5th grade, it is a privilege to guide them into the next chapter here in Middle School.



PEGUM KATE

Language & Literature

I am excited to be joining the Middle School Language & Literature team this year, after seven years in our Elementary School. This is my eighth year at Overseas Family School, and I have previously taught in England and Malta as well as here in Singapore. I have always loved reading and am passionate about sharing that love of literature with my students. I am looking forward to discovering new stories, ideas and perspectives with them this year!



TAN PATRICIA

Learning Support Teacher

With over 10 years of experience working with neurodiverse children, I find it incredibly fulfilling to support each child as they grow, progress and reach their milestones in their own time and in their own unique way. I am trained in Special Educational Needs and passionate about creating a supportive environment where every child feels understood and empowered to learn. Outside of school, I enjoy spending time outdoors and connecting with nature. You will often find me by the beach with a good book or cycling. Most of all, I just love hanging out with my two wonderful teenagers!



AYGUAVIVA LONGRES AUDREY

Spanish Acquisition

"¡Hola OFS! I am Ms Ayguaviva, and I could not be more excited to teach Middle School Spanish this year! My goal is to make learning a new language practical and full of cultural discovery. When I am not teaching, you will usually find me spending time with my loved ones, reading or practising Pilates. I am looking forward to a wonderful year ahead—¡nos vemos pronto!"



LI YINGZI

Digital Literacy

Hi ! I am Ying. Students call me Ms. Li or Li Laoshi. I am delighted to join the OFS community! Originally from Shenzhen, China, I bring 11 years of teaching experience in Singapore, including 9 years in IB international schools. I hold a Master's degree in Teaching Chinese as an International Language from NTU and am a Google Certified Educator. I believe every student possesses unique talent and the potential to shape a future beyond our imagination. I look forward to helping them enhance their digital competencies this year!

