

2022 FALL EDITION

OCSI CONNECTIONS



**WELCOME BACK
TO SCHOOL**

OCSI Connection
SY 2022-2023 | Fall
www.ocsid.org

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Congratulations to the Roe Family on your new addition



The Roe family added a new addition to their family on October 1st. Mrs. Roe will be on maternity leave until January. In the meantime, the other leadership team members will be taking on her responsibilities. If you see any member of the Roe family around, please take some time to congratulate them!



Elementary Principal Update

Sarah Turner



Growth Mindset

How many times have you heard elementary students say, "**I can't do it!**" Our natural tendency sometimes is to complain or even just to give up on doing hard things.

At OCSI, we want students to GROW as Learners - which means not only growing academically, but growing in confidence, motivation, and determination. This means having a growth mindset in all subject areas.

"God's word reminds us to, **"Consider it pure joy, whenever you face trials of many kinds."** (James 1:2) Whether it's homework, friendship issues, or whatever challenges come up, I want OCSI students to have a growth mindset about it - and not forget to ask for help when they need it!

Some tips on helping your child have a growth mindset from our SEL Curriculum (Friendly):

1. We can **decide to have a growth mindset**. Instead of telling ourselves "I can't" we can say: "I can do it!"
2. We can **develop and grow our growth mindset**. As we take on challenges and work through struggles, we increase our growth mindset. God's promise is that He will work all things together for good. This gives us hope, peace, and determination because of our faith, not in ourselves, but in Him!
3. **Who we are today does not define who we will be tomorrow**. God gives us the power to transform. We can change, we can learn, and we can grow!

Elementary



Learning Trips

- 3rd graders went to the Southeast Botanical Gardens
- 4th graders went to Nature Mirai to explore the mangroves
- 5th grade will go ice skating
- K and 1st grade will go to Comprehensive Park
- 2nd grade will go to Neo Park

On-Campus Learning

PreK visits the health room

The PreK students took a learning trip to the Health Room. Dr. Rodriguez taught the students about the different instruments she uses, about safety and hygiene, and about the careers of doctors and nurses. This trip may have inspired some future doctors and nurses!



PREK HEALTH ROOM VISIT

Secondary Principal Update

Dan Pallmann



Back to school

While it was nice to have Summer Break, it feels good to be back in school.

Students have been getting used to new classes and classmates-- there are a few new teachers as well!

We have had a busy start to the year; here are a couple highlights:

+ Both Middle and High school started off the year with their "Friendship Friday" activities. These events serve to not only welcome new students to our family, but to help students get to know each other better.



+ On September 22nd, PTF helped to host a College Information Coffee Talk. This was a great time to go over the college application process and some important things for students to work on before they graduate.

If you missed it, the slides are available via OCSI's website.

Secondary



Sports

The past two years have been difficult for our sports program. While we have done the best we can, we are looking forward to a year that will have less COVID restrictions and allow us to play more competitors.

First Quarter saw both Cross Country and Girl's Volleyball teams compete at a strong level. You can read more about these teams on pages 9-10.

As we move into Second Quarter, we look forward to Boy's and Girl's Basketball starting up.

PSAT/NMSQT

Students in grades 9-11 recently took either the PSAT or the NMSQT. 9th graders take the PST, or Preliminary SAT.

10th & 11th graders take the NMSQT, or National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. This exam helps student become eligible for the National Merit Scholarship (sorry, just for US Citizens).

Both of these tests help to prepare students for taking the SAT.

While the SAT is not always required (check university requirements), it is highly recommended for students to take.



Director of Teaching Update

Brad Skarin



Learning isn't only for Students

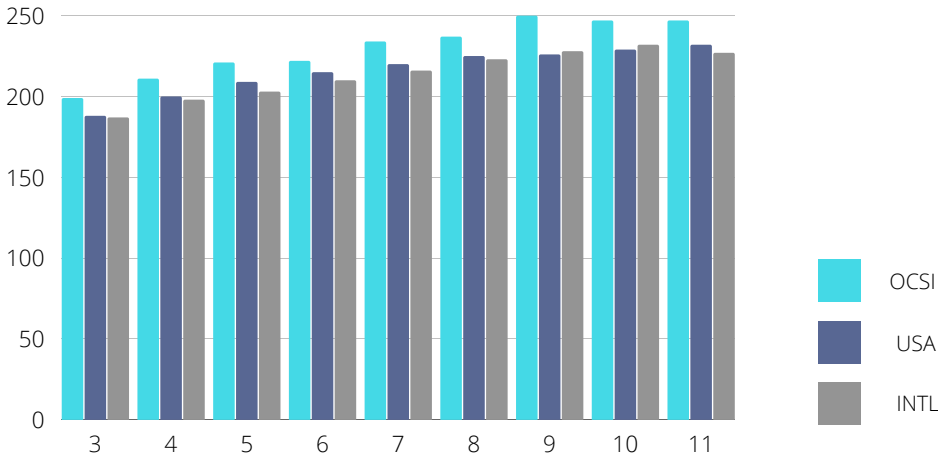
As professional educators, we want to grow as faculty and staff in our teaching methods and instructional strategies. This year in professional development we are mainly focused on learning differentiation strategies, using rubrics effectively, and backwards designed planning. OCSI also has a number of teachers working on advanced degrees, and we just passed the 50% mark on teachers holding a Masters degree or higher.

Japan Council of International Schools

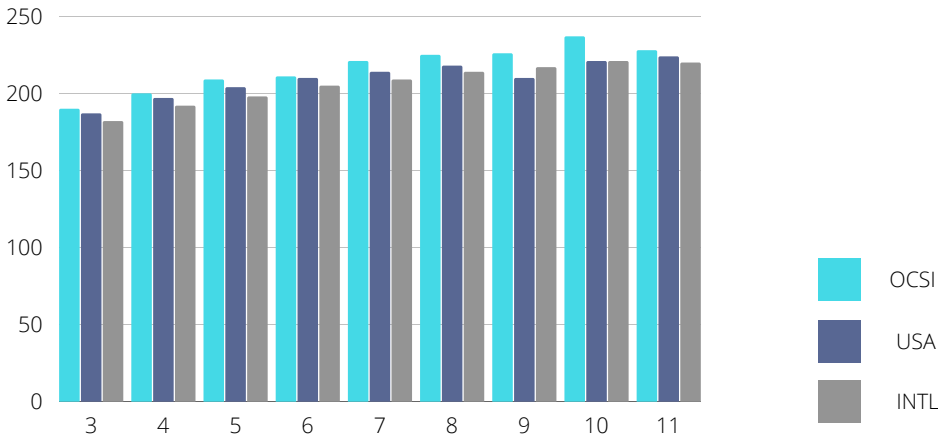
In September, OCSI hosted a membership committee from JCIS (Japan Council of International Schools) for three days and we have received confirmation that we were approved and voted in as of October this year. We are excited about the networking and professional development opportunities JCIS provides for international schools in Japan.



MAP TESTING



MAP **Math** Scores (Fall 2022)



MAP **Reading** Scores (Fall 2022)

Elementary and secondary students in grades 3-11 completed the MAP Testing for the Fall. MAP scores are one of many measures of student progress. Overall, we were pleased to see so many students exceeding the projected growth. *Please note: Current Data available at the time of this publication was Fall 2020 USA and Fall 2021 International scores.*

Athletics

Volleyball

Laura Lynn

OCSI Girls Volleyball enjoyed a highly competitive and extraordinary season. Transitioning back into a true sense of athletics has truly been a blessing for our girls. There was a huge turnout for volleyball, and we have had multiple opportunities to engage in actual organized games. These girls demonstrated the importance of teamwork on and off the court and the passion necessary to truly be competitive. Their passion and excitement was contagious and the support from the community allowed for their season to be truly successful.

The end of season tournament was an amazing experience for these girls and allowed them to showcase their growth from the beginning of the season. Varsity made it to the finals and lost the tournament by only two points in an extremely intense match, awarding them second place. JV also did well coming in 4th place. This showed the amazing talent among our athletes, especially as our middle school students competed with and against other high school students.



Cross Country

Thomas Mahaffie

The 2022 OCSI Cross Country team has enjoyed a great season this year, competing with DODEA schools for the first time since 2019 when we won FAR EAST. This year's team, just like all cross country teams in the past, has shown that it takes a little quirkiness, guts and mental toughness to be a part of a team that runs for fun week by week and then competes in a 5km run. I believe that Cross Country running is the hardest sport that a school can offer because it is not only physically demanding but mentally as well. Our runners are some of the strongest people at OCSI and I am so proud of all of the hard work that they have poured out at practice and at the meets these last 8 weeks.

This season our runners have seen dramatic improvements in their 5km runs from the first race they did to their most recent races. Each meet we have had runners get a new personal best, with a couple of our runners improving by as much as 12 minutes. Our fastest runner Andy Qi, a freshman, ran an 18:34 for his fastest run. He has a lot of potential to get into the 1700s and even lower in the next couple of years. Our fastest girl is Tracy Cui, also a freshman, who ran a 24:34 for her fastest time. She too has loads of potential for her future years in high school. I can't stop there because we also have some very fast 8th graders who have some great potential for the future, like Ryan Lynn who ran a 20:09 and Erik Dugdale who ran a 20:30. Next year we hope to be an even more competitive team against the DODEA schools.



Welcome to ACSI



Ms. Megan Snow, Elementary Teacher



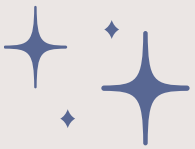
Mrs. Jentry Graham, Elementary TA



Ms. Marie Nacua, Middle School Science



Mrs. Allison Serjeant, Elementary Teacher



Mrs. Linda Snow, Elementary Teacher



Mr. Paul Gsell, Secondary Math & Science

Mrs. Kathleen Weber, Secondary Technology



Mr. Matthew Steele, High School Math



Dr. Jody Stelly Secondary Science & Bible



Ms. Jade Millerd, IT Support



Mr. Beau Blew, Athletic Director



Mr. Michael Isgrig, Middle School Social Studies



Ms. Hannah Wickens, Elementary TA



Parent Teacher Fellowships



OCSI's Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF) has been busy this fall planning parent workshops, information sessions, after school clubs, and community events. We kicked off the year with ice cream vouchers for students who completed our Elementary Summer Reading Challenge, followed by a College Information Session for Secondary Parents, a college admissions presentation by recent OCSI graduates, a Literacy Workshop for Elementary School parents, and an Elementary School Curriculum Presentation.

PTF has also organized 12 after school clubs and workshops for Elementary School students and 4 for Secondary Students, and we are thankful to all of the teachers and parents who share their talents with our students!





One of our most anticipated events is the return of the Christmas Market this year on Saturday, November 19th. Come join us for food, fun, and fellowship, and get a head start on your Christmas shopping! This year's Christmas Market will feature a raffle with prizes donated by our parents and generous sponsors in our local community. 50% of the proceeds from the raffle and Christmas Market will be donated to Help Oki, a local food bank. We are grateful for this opportunity to give back to our community this Christmas season.

Thank you to all of our parent and staff volunteers who make our events possible.

We appreciate you!

OCSI PTF

Service Opportunities



At OCSI, service is an important part of the students' education. Jesus said in Mark 10:45, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." This last month, our 6th graders did their annual "Christmas in September". Through a local church, the 6th graders gathered a variety of items to pack a shoebox; things like toiletries, school supplies, toys, and some candy. The shoe boxes the students packed will be given to needy children in east Asia, who may not receive any presents for Christmas. In total, the students packed up 12 boxes to send. We are so proud of our 6th graders, and are excited to see their joy in serving!

Student Care team

Our student care team provides a variety of services to our school community including college counseling, pastoral counseling, emotional counseling, and referral services. These are available by appointment or drop-in.



MR. ANDY ROE
Chaplain
andyroe@ocsi.org

- Spiritual and pastoral counseling and support to students, parents, staff, and the OCSI community as a whole
- Weekly chapel services for all students



MRS. NORAH LOPEZ
School Counselor
norahlopez@ocsi.org

- Child Safety Team Leader
- Emotional counseling and referral services
- Student Strengths Assessment
- Support College and Career Counselor



MR. DANIEL CLAXTON
Testing Coordinator
danielclaxton@ocsi.org

- Coordination of SAT and ACT exams for college entrance
- Coordination of AP exams
- Support with information about colleges in Japan



MRS. LYDIE HOLMES
College Counselor
lydieholmes@ocsi.org

- College and Career Counseling
- College Information Sessions for students and parents
- College Visit Coordinator
- Advise students with 4 year plans

Business Updates

Sosro Karsosoemo

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

The OCSI community has been growing fast. In 2017, we had 411 students. Today, 5 years later, we have 555 enrolled students.

This means that we need to continue investing to grow our capacity to serve the needs of the growing community. We always look for ways to improve our business operation, as well as improving our skills and acquiring tools to help us work more efficiently.

Last month, we experienced a significant drop in our network performance. This highlighted the need to keep up with the growing demand for technology. Fortunately, we were able to leverage our investment last year. Our new IT partnership and upgraded systems enabled us to turn this crisis into a victory. As a result, we now have a more stable and reliable network to support OCSI's academic and business activities.

It was a good reminder for us. We do need to use our resources to solve immediate problems, but we also need to invest for the future, anticipating our future growth.



Operations Updates

Alex Sartore

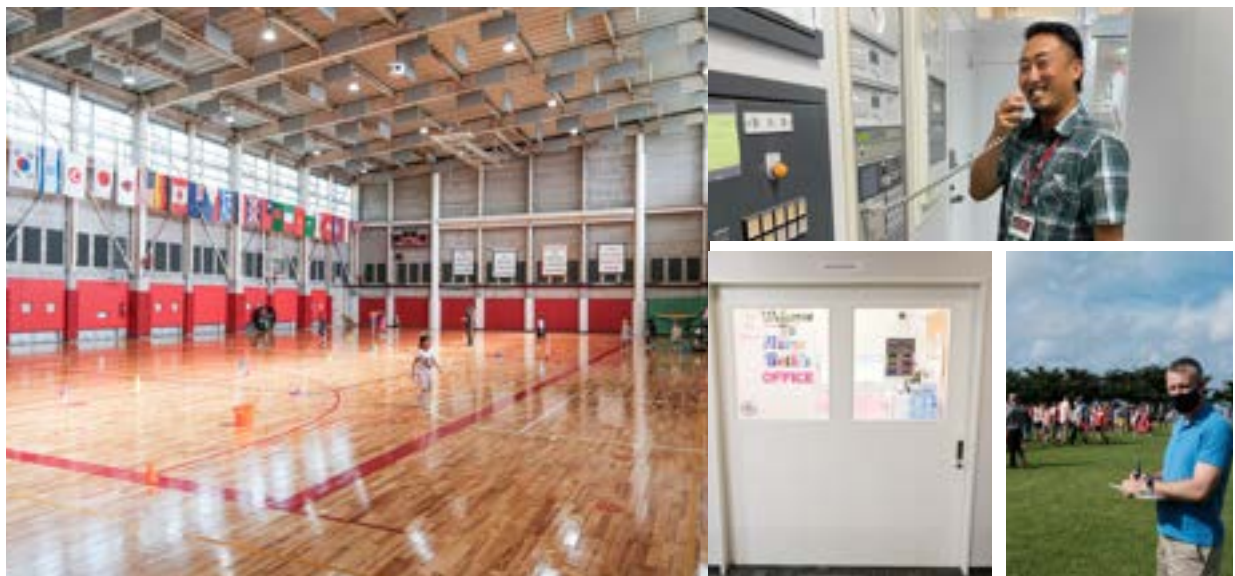
NEW UPGRADES, SAME MISSION

As many of you may already know, we upgraded some of our facilities and equipment this past summer. We renovated the gym floor, put in a new sliding door for the new nurse's room, and installed a new P.A. system, to name a few of our summer projects. It has been rewarding to see the investment into our facilities and equipment help us continue to invest in our students, as we seek to equip our students to walk with Jesus and impact the world for him.

SOUNDS GOOD

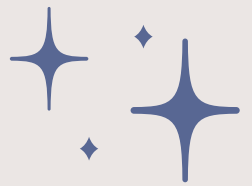
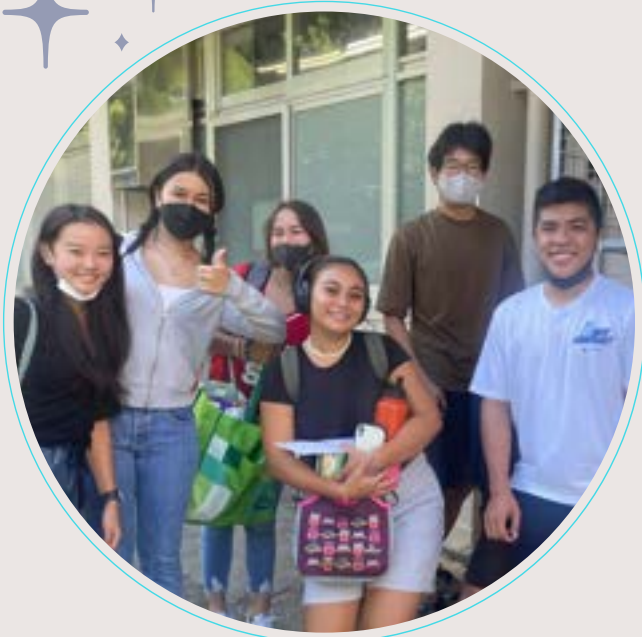
One of our major projects from the summer was replacing our old P.A. system with a new one. The old P.A. system served us for well over two decades, and it was due time for an upgrade. With the new P.A. system comes better audio quality, more versatility in the bell-schedule, and improved overall stability.

So far this school year, we had the opportunity to use the new P.A. System for two emergency drills. We had a fire drill in September, when all of the staff and students calmly and successfully made their way to the soccer field. We had the earthquake drill in October, and we have a couple other emergency drills scheduled for the rest of this semester.



Welcome Back TO SCHOOL

First day of school





4th grade Field Trip to Kin Town

3rd grade Field Trip to the Botanical Garden



PreK Cezars Kitchen Visit



Chapel



Reading Time



Science Experiment

Fun & Learning



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