



Fall 2025



OKINAWA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS





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From the Head of School's Desk

At OCSI, we believe that true student success goes far beyond grades. As a Christian learning community, we seek to nurture the whole child. This means caring for students' physical, social-emotional, moral, and spiritual well-being, as well as their academic growth.

We know that schools and families each play an important role in helping children thrive. When schools and families work together, our children benefit.

Together, we can:

- Keep kids safe at school, online, and in the community.
- Encourage healthy friendships and relationships built on respect and kindness.
- Support students as they explore their future education and career goals.
- Walk alongside students as they make important decisions and learn independence.
- Promote habits that lead to physical and social-emotional health.

Our teachers and staff work hard to provide challenging academics and opportunities for students to serve, lead, and grow. But we know we can't do it alone. Your partnership as parents and families makes all the difference.

If you ever have questions, concerns, or would simply like to talk about how to best support your child, please reach out to your child's teacher, principal, the school counselor, or our school chaplain. We are here to listen, pray with you, and walk alongside your family.

Together, we are equipping students to walk with Jesus and impact the world for Him.

Thank you for joining us in prayer for a wonderful 2025-2026 school year!



Dr. Megan Roe
Head of School

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Elementary Principal Updates

Ms. Sarah Turner *Elementary School Principal*

We've had a wonderful start to the 2025–2026 school year in Elementary! On the very first day, all 1st–5th-grade students gathered in the cafeteria for our opening assembly. During that time, we reviewed school expectations, cafeteria and lunchroom rules, and affirmed that we are one team here at OCSI. By setting clear expectations from the start, our students can stay focused and engaged, creating an environment where great learning can happen.

Being part of a K–12 school brings both unique challenges and incredible benefits. One of my goals this year is to help students see how they each play an important role in the bigger OCSI family—that together, we make something special.

Throughout the 1st Quarter, I had the joy of visiting each classroom weekly to read a story. Many of these stories centered on the theme of partnership—how teamwork, friendship, and understanding our differences help us grow stronger together.

This year, we also launched Buddy Reading across the elementary grades! Once, twice, or even weekly, different grade levels partner up to read together and build relationships. It's a fun and meaningful way for students to practice teamwork beyond their own classrooms.

Our current pairings are:

- Kindergarten with 3rd Grade
- 1st Grade with 4th Grade
- 2nd Grade with 5th Grade

Even though much of the 1st Quarter focused on establishing routines, several classes enjoyed exciting learning adventures!

- 3rd Grade visited the Southeast Botanical Gardens, where they fed animals and took a relaxing boat ride around the lake.
- 4th Grade explored Kin Town, learning about mangroves and enjoying a picnic lunch at the park.
- 1st Grade had a Family Picnic Day at Sera no Mori Park.
- Kindergarten visited a local farm for sweet potato digging.

As we look ahead to the 2nd Quarter, we're excited for even more opportunities to explore and learn about the amazing world God has created—both inside and outside the classroom!

UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES

Here are some important events taking place in the 2nd Quarter:

- 2nd Grade Learning Trip - 11/7
- Kinder Family Picnic Day - 11/14
- Thanksgiving Fun - 11/24-26
- Harvest Festival (G1&2) - 11/26
- Thanksgiving Break - 11/27-28
- 1-5th Christmas Program - 12/11
- Kinder Christmas Program - 12/17
- Christmas Break - 12/18-1/5
- End of 2nd Quarter - 1/21



Middle School Principal Updates

Middle School Principal **Dr. Brad Skarin**

Welcoming New Teachers: Strengthening Our Team

We are excited to welcome new members to our Middle School teaching team this year! Ms. Donaldson has joined us to teach Beginning Japanese, Mr. Fair is teaching Spanish and 7th-grade Bible, and Mr. Baker is leading our Physical Education program while also serving as OCSI's new Athletic Director. Each of these teachers brings unique gifts, enthusiasm, and a heart for students that enrich our learning community. Their presence strengthens our mission to excel in academics while helping students grow in Christ-like character.

As we reflect on the start of this school year, we continue to see God's faithfulness at work in OCSI Middle School. Through new classes, engaging lessons, and opportunities to serve, students are being challenged to grow both academically and spiritually. Every experience is designed to align with our mission of equipping students to walk with Jesus and impact the world for Him.

Spanish Language Option Expands Opportunities for Middle and High School Students

We are excited to introduce Spanish as a new foreign language option for middle and high school students this year at OCSI. To meet our graduation requirement of two years of foreign

language study, students now have the opportunity to begin Spanish in middle school—one of their middle school courses may even count toward high school credit.

This year, 8th graders were able to choose between Spanish and Japanese, and next year, we look forward to offering Spanish II to allow students to complete the full sequence. We are especially thankful for Mr. Fair's hard work and dedication in developing the curriculum and launching the program, making this expanded opportunity possible for our students.

Middle School Coed Soccer Kicks Off with Teamwork and Growth

Our Middle School Coed Soccer season was a great success! Students practiced twice a week after school, developing both their individual skills and teamwork on the field. The team focused on fundamentals—passing, positioning, communication, and good sportsmanship—while also building friendships and confidence through healthy competition.

We're proud of how our players represented OCSI with positive attitudes and effort throughout the season. A special thank-you goes to our coaches and volunteers for investing their time and energy into helping our students grow as athletes and as Christ-like teammates.



High School Principal Updates

Mr. Daniel Pallmann

High School Principal

While we all hopefully enjoyed a nice Summer Break, it is good to be back in school again. Students have been getting used to new classes and classmates—there are a few new teachers as well!

We are excited to have the following teachers join our High School teaching staff:

- Mr. Gagghansa - Math, Physics
- Mr. Miller - Bible, English
- Mr. Fair - Spanish

It was nice to see many of you at Parent Teacher Conferences as well.

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

- 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.
- MAP test took place in September for all 3rd-11th graders. Check out our whole-school results in the MAP Testing section.
- Our College & Career Fair (11/3) saw a great turnout by both representatives and interested students and families. We hope you were able to check it out and get some valuable information.
- Fall Sports have finished up. Both our Cross Country team and our Girl's Volleyball team were able to take part in tournaments.

PSAT / NMSQT

On October 15, students in grades 9-11 took either the PSAT or the NMSQT. 9th graders take the PSAT, or Preliminary SAT. 10th & 11th graders take the NMSQT, or National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. This exam helps students who are US citizens become eligible for the National Merit Scholarship.

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. OCSI is an SAT Testing Center, but students need to sign up on their own. Seats do fill up quickly, so sign up early!

SAT DATES:

- 12/6 - Register by 11/21
- 3/14 - Register by 2/27
- 5/2 - Register by 4/21

UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES

Here are some important events taking place in the 2nd Quarter:

- Thanksgiving Break - 11/27-28
- Midterm Exams - 12/15-17
- Christmas Break - 12/18-1/5
- Spirit Week - 1/12-16
- End of 2nd Quarter - 1/21



MAP Testing

MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) is a computer-adaptive assessment that measures student growth in core subjects such as reading, math, and language usage. It is administered three times a year to help track each student's progress and guide instruction based on their current learning needs.

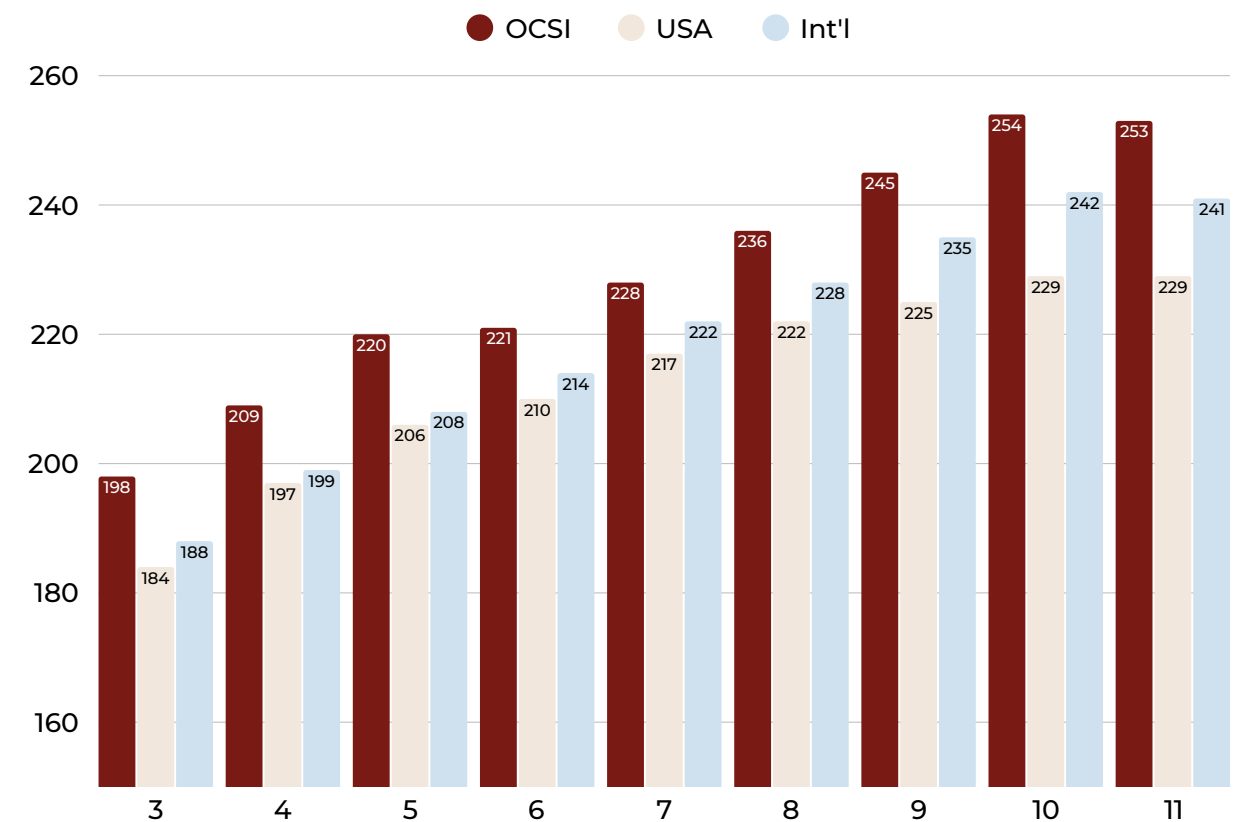
Math: OCSI's Fall 2025 results are above both U.S. and international norms across grades 3–11, with the difference becoming more noticeable in the upper grades. Due to the nature of the level at which math scores tend to plateau, results often level out after 10th grade. This trend is evident not only in our own data but also in U.S. and international norm comparisons.

Reading: OCSI's Fall 2025 results also exceed U.S. and international norms, though the margin is smaller than in math. Reading scores show steady year-over-year growth, reflecting consistent progress across grades.

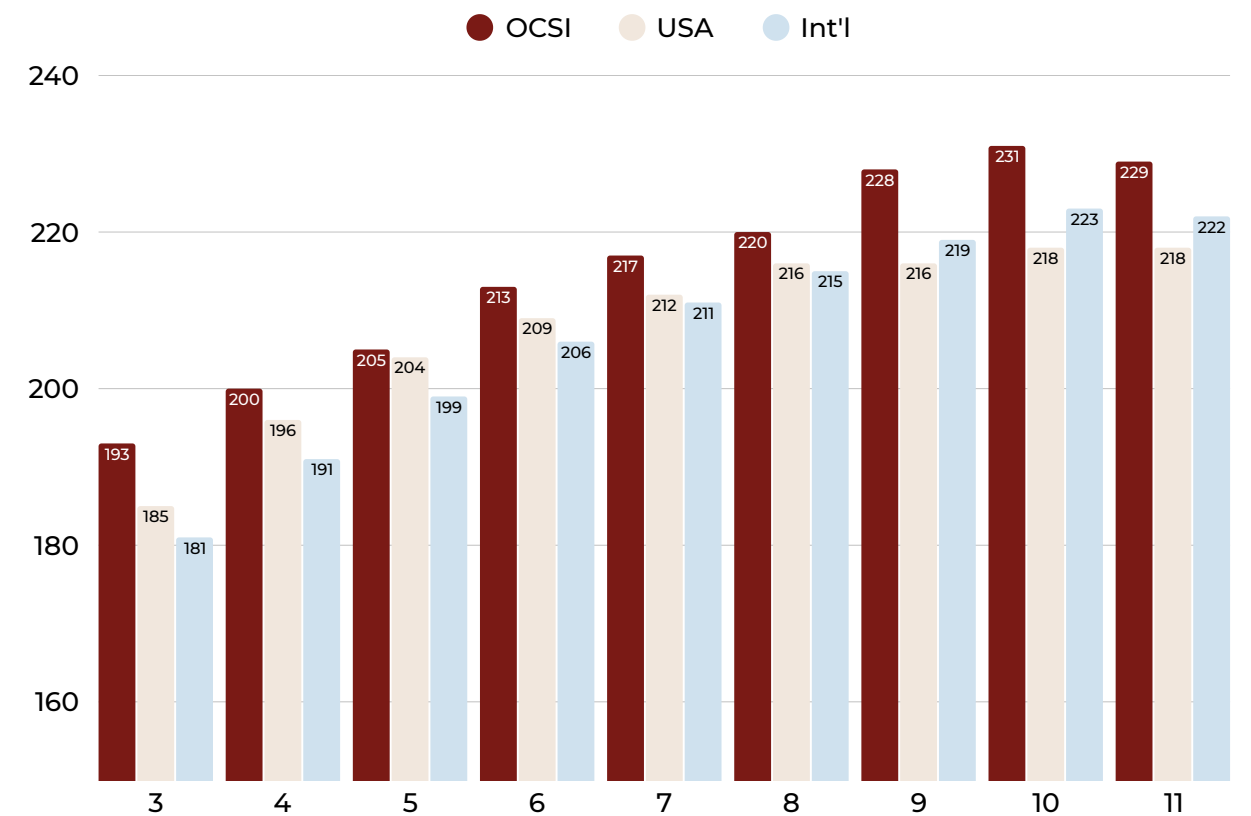
Students in grades 3–11 completed the Fall MAP Growth assessments as one measure of academic development. These results provide teachers with valuable insights into student achievement and growth, supporting more personalized instruction in the classroom.

Note: The 2025 U.S. norms were updated from prior years. Families can view these updates and their child's detailed results in the Family Report, available on the Parent Portal.

MAP Math Scores (Fall 2025)



MAP Reading Scores (Fall 2025)



International College & Career Fair

This past Monday, November 3rd, we hosted our annual International College and Career Fair right on our campus. This year we were pleased to welcome 68 representatives from 48 different institutions across the globe, including Japan, the United States, Australia, the Czech Republic, Germany, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Switzerland, Canada, and Hong Kong.

With over 350 visitors in attendance — students and parents from OCSI as well as several other local schools — this year's fair saw more community engagement than ever before. It was exciting to see so many local international schools in Okinawa connecting and collaborating. Building these partnerships strengthens us all and helps expand opportunities for students across the island.

Our students had the chance to broaden their horizons and explore the many paths open to them after high school, both in Japan and around the world. In addition to university representatives,

we were also delighted to host several career professionals — including an IT/Computer Science expert and a Nurse Midwife — who shared valuable insight from their fields. Organizations such as MCCS Family Team Building Services, the Hilton Chatan, The Ritz-Carlton Okinawa, and AEC also provided students with information about work and volunteer opportunities.

This year's event was a wonderful success, and we look forward to continuing to grow and improve it each year. Our heart is to provide the best for our students and the wider school community. As we continue to welcome more college and career guests throughout the school year, we encourage students to attend these sessions and explore the many opportunities available to them. The world is truly at their fingertips!

Ultimately, our aim remains the same as our school mission: to equip students to walk with Jesus and impact the world for Him, and events like this are one of the ways we seek to do just that.



Parent-Teacher Conferences

On November 3, we welcomed families to campus for our Parent-Teacher Conferences. These meetings are an important part of the home-school partnership that supports every child's growth. We hope the time together allowed parents to connect face-to-face with teachers, celebrate progress, and discuss next steps in learning.

This year, we are working schoolwide to strengthen parent communication.

We know there's a lot of information shared — especially for families with multiple children — and we're continually refining how we communicate clearly and effectively.

If you ever have questions or concerns, please don't wait for the next conference. Our teachers are always happy to meet with you throughout the year. Simply reach out by email to schedule an appointment. We're here to support your child every step of the way.



Chaplain Updates

Chaplain Andy Roe

Growing in Faith & Confidence in God

At OCSI, our chapel times continue to be a vital part of our students' spiritual growth and formation. Each week, students gather to worship, reflect on God's Word, and be reminded of His faithfulness in their lives.

In middle and high school chapel, our theme this year has been "God is Able." By exploring different passages of Scripture that use this phrase, students have been discovering the power and reliability of God's character. We've learned that God is able to save us completely, God is able to keep us from falling, and God is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine. Through messages, worship, and testimonies, students are being encouraged to trust that no

situation is beyond God's ability to redeem and restore.

In elementary chapel, students have been learning about God's faithfulness through the stories of Daniel and Esther. These lessons have shown that even in challenging times, God never forgets His people and always keeps His promises. Whether it's Daniel standing firm in his faith or Esther bravely speaking up for her people, students are reminded that God is always at work behind the scenes—and He calls each of us to trust and obey Him.

Together with Bible classes and Life Groups, chapel continues to help our students build a strong spiritual foundation, encouraging them to walk with Jesus daily and live out their faith with courage and confidence.



Service Opportunities

At OCSI, we believe that true education includes learning to serve others. Service is one of our core values, and each year, students have the opportunity to put their faith into action through meaningful service projects. Jesus reminds us 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 semester, our students demonstrated that spirit of service in powerful ways. The 7th graders partnered together for a beach clean-up at Zampa Beach and the nearby park, collecting trash and debris to help care for God's creation. Their teamwork and positive attitude made a visible difference, and they

left the beach cleaner and more beautiful than before.

At the same time, half of our 9th-grade students spent a day serving at a local church in Kadena Town, giving the building a thorough deep clean. From scrubbing floors to cleaning toys, wiping windows, and washing chairs, their efforts helped bless a local congregation and reminded them that every act of service—big or small—can honor God.

We're so encouraged by our students' hearts to serve and their willingness to live out their faith in practical ways. Through these experiences, they are learning that service is more than a school requirement—it's a reflection of Jesus' love at work in us and through us.



Athletics Updates

Mr. Jimmy Baker *Athletic Director*

Volleyball:

What an inspiring season it has been for our Lady Eagles' Volleyball program! Our season ended in a thrilling culmination of hard work and teamwork at the Far East Tournament in Misawa. The tournament proved to be a major regional challenge, featuring competition against 10 tough teams from across Japan and South Korea. Our student-athletes gave their absolute best, representing OCSI with determination and humility. They are already looking forward to next season, bringing with them an intensity to grow, to improve their skills, and to push deeper into regional contention.

We would like to share our deepest gratitude, first to our players, whose hard work and perseverance were evident in every match. To our parents, thank you for modeling outstanding support and partnering with us to maintain a positive athletic environment. And to Coach Jamie Garcia and her coaching staff, thank you for the countless hours you invested—not just teaching skills and strategy, but most importantly, for mentoring our young ladies and modeling Christ-like character.

Cross Country:

What an exceptional season it has been for OCSI Cross Country, marked by major milestones, thrilling finishes, and outstanding character both on and off the course!

Our runners achieved impressive results and celebrated significant growth this year. At their final home meet, the team had a spectacular showing with three

runners finishing in the Top 5, earning ribbons: Captain Justin Woolery, Michelle Moyer, and Sosuke Morinaga. The meet was also a historic farewell for five-year veteran and four-year Captain, Justin Woolery. Sosuke Morinaga was consistently a top performer all season, running an incredible 18:06 on the Kadena course. Demonstrating the team's dedication, an astounding 17 runners set new 5K personal records (PRs) in a single meet.

The season closed with our team proudly competing at the Asia Pacific Invitational (API) Championship in Guam, a fantastic opportunity to compete on an international stage. But before hitting the course, our team lived out the school's mission by serving the local community at a Salvation Army food drive, showcasing the Christ-like character they embody.

Thank you to Coaches Tommy Mahaffie, Daniel Claxton, Craig Van Beusekom, and Brian Woolery, who dedicated the long hours, training plans, and, most importantly, the mentorship. Thank you to the supportive parents for being the essential backbone of this team, driving, cheering, and encouraging our athletes every step of the way. And thank you to Julie Woolery for traveling with the team to Guam and everyone who made this season possible, from volunteers to fellow staff.

Interested in coaching?

We are looking for coaches! For an opportunity to make a positive impact on our student-athletes, contact us at athleticdirector@ocsi.org.



K-12 Physical Education & Health Classes

This year brings an exciting new chapter for our Physical Education program as Mr. Baker steps into a new role as Middle School PE teacher alongside his other new role as Athletic Director. Although this is his first year teaching PE, he has brought a lot of enthusiasm, fresh ideas, and a commitment to helping every student grow through movement and sport. Our classes are already developing strong foundations in teamwork, fitness, and skill development, and we are looking

forward to continuing to build a positive and supportive environment where students can challenge themselves, discover new strengths, and have fun while staying active.

This is Mr. Mahaffie's seventh year of teaching PE at OCSI, mostly at the elementary level and for a few years at the secondary level. Some of his current high school students were once in his class as younger learners. Making their athletic growth even more exciting to see.



Business Updates

Mr. Sosro Karsosoemo

Business Director

This fall marks an exciting season of planning and progress at OCSI. Behind the scenes, our Business Office is working closely with HR, Accounting, and Admissions to prepare for the year ahead.

In October and November, we review our annual budget, update staff compensation, and send out the staff intention survey that helps us plan for next year's teaching team.

As we approach December, preparations begin for re-enrollment and new admissions, with updated tuition and fee information shared before Christmas break.

January opens the re-enrollment period, launches the next admissions season, and starts our hiring cycle for the new school year.

These milestones help ensure financial stability, staffing readiness, and smooth service for every family.

We're grateful for your partnership as we continue to steward our resources faithfully and build a campus that supports each student's growth—academically, spiritually, and in community.



Operations Updates

Operations Director

Mr. Nick McQuillin

Since June 2025, OCSI has made steady progress in operations and technology as we prepare for future growth. The new Multi-Purpose Center (MPC) is advancing, and construction is scheduled to begin early 2026. Site compliance work continues alongside planning for expanded capacity and community spaces. Departments are researching furniture and layout plans, including for the new library. Once the MPC is complete, focus will shift to renovating the current cafeteria and library for additional music, STEAM, and classroom spaces. Campus safety remains a priority, with a new security guard hut, improved signage, and plans for digital check-in kiosks using the Sign In App.

In technology, OCSI upgraded its Google Education suite to strengthen classroom communication and give parents easier access to student learning information. Network and phone system replacements have improved reliability, supported by a new replacement schedule to maintain stable connectivity and comprehensive security camera coverage. Professional development on AI in Education continues to equip staff, teachers, and students to use emerging tools wisely and creatively. The OCSI mobile app also received key updates, enabling teachers to manage attendance directly and giving all users access to their digital school ID via QR code for easier and safer campus access.



Alumni Updates



We're proud to celebrate our Class of 2025 alumni, Patrick and Shonosuke, as they begin their studies at Nagoya University! From academics to cultural experiences, they're stepping into a new season of learning and growth. The OCSI community is cheering them on as they excel, grow, and serve in Japan and beyond.



We asked Naoto, this year's senior, what he would say to students considering OCSI:

"We're a Christian school, and I want to tell them about how Christianity is part of the school and how it can transform people in great ways. Before joining this school in 9th grade, I didn't really have much chance to get in touch with Christianity—I barely knew anything about it. But after coming here, I was surprised to see how Christianity affects people—the teachers and the students. They seem so happy. Really, I've never met anyone as full of smiles as Mr. Roe.

I want to tell them how joining this school can help them learn about God—and see how much of a positive effect it has on people who have the Holy Spirit in them and who have Jesus as their Savior.

Just coming to this school doesn't mean they have to accept Jesus immediately—teachers and other students will walk with them through it. In fact, our mission statement is to walk with Jesus and impact the world for Him. So, I want to tell them how joining this school can help them know more about God."





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