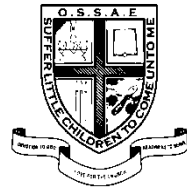


**ORTHODOX SYRIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION OF THE EAST
EAST ASIA REGION**



CIRCULAR 1

January 2023

Respected Vicars, HMs and teachers,

Greetings to you all in the name of Triune God!

Wishing all a very blessed and blissful New Year 2023

To begin with, on behalf of our organization, we warmly welcome our new Diocesan Metropolitan and the President of OSSAE East Asia Region His Grace Geevarghese Mar Philoxenos Thirumeni. Along with, we also extend our prayers, gratitude and greetings to our former President His Grace Dr. Yuhanon Mar Diascoros. Thirumeni's guidance was paramount in the formation of our Sunday School for our region and wishing Thirumeni our prayers and best wishes. Extending a sincere thanks to all Vicars, HMs, and teachers of our region for your ongoing dedication towards our children. Please note the below points to plan your Sunday School for the academic year 2023.

A. TEXTBOOKS

Our textbooks are ordered to print according to the list given by HMs. All churches must have received the textbooks for 2023. If any additional books is required kindly get in touch with us.

Class and Age Chart:

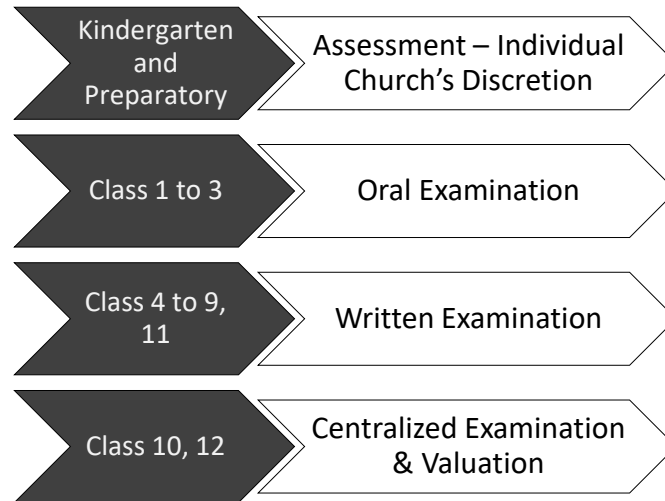
| CLASS | AGE |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Kindergarten | <5 years old |
| Preparatory | 5 years old |
| Year 1 to 12 | 6 years onwards |

The students registered in each Sunday school should be accommodated to classes by the headmaster/mistress according to the above chart.

B. ASSESSMENT/EXAMINATION

Sunday Schools should conduct two assessments every year – Half Yearly Examination and Annual Examination. The details of both the examinations are as follows

a. Class and Examination Model



b. Examination Outline

- Short assessment for Kindergarten & Preparatory to be conducted according to individual unit’s discretion without complaints
- Class 1 - 3 (Oral Examination)

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| One Mark | 30% |
| Short Answer | 20% |
| Prayer & Hymn | 20% |
| Project | 30% |
- Class 4 - 6 (Written Examination)

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| One Mark | 50% |
| Short Answer | 30% |
| Prayer & Hymn | 20% |
- Class 7 - 9, 11 (Written Examination)

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| One Mark | 30% |
| Short Answer | 30% |
| Essay | 20% |
| Prayer & Hymn | 20% |

- Class 10, 12 (Written Examination)

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| One Mark | 20% |
| Short Answer | 40% |
| Essay | 10% |
| Prayer & Hymn | 20% |
| Assignment | 10% |

c. Project & Assignment

The classes 1 - 3 shall prepare projects to the Biblical/Church based topics given by the teachers.

The assignment for 10th & 12th classes is newly added to the curriculum. The assignment topic for Year 10 will be from SAINT GEEVARGHESE MAR GREGORIOS OF PARUMALA and for Year 12 from UNIT 4 – VARIOUS RELIGIONS AND ECUMENISM. These units will be avoided from written exam. Assignment should be prepared by students themselves with the help of provided references and submitted to class teachers before **29th October 2023**. A detailed circular for the same will be given later.

d. Examination Pointers

1. Portions for Mid Term & Annual examination will be Part 1 & 2 respectively from the Text Book.
2. Term wise, Additional Prayers & Hymns are arranged separately for each class.
3. All students must appear for both the examinations to qualify for promotion to the next class.
4. Overall Examination scores for Years 1 to 9 is calculated from 50% of Mid Term marks & 50% of Annual exam marks.
5. Re-exam for Years 1 to 9 and 11 be conducted by the individual Sunday Schools for children who have missed exams on original date.
6. Question Papers for Years 10 & 12 will be set and valued centrally.
7. For Years 10 and 12, a minimum of 35% marks are required for passing the exam
8. Re exam for Class 10 & 12 be conducted 2 weeks after the declaration of results.

e. Prayers & Hymns

| YEAR | EXAM | PRAYER | HYMN |
|------|----------|--|--|
| Prep | Mid Term | Trisagion | Glory is to God on high (Sthuthi Deyvathinuyarathil) |
| | Annual | Jesus Prayer - Jesus, Son of David, have mercy upon me, a sinner | Thou whose praise the Church doth sing (Bhakthar pukazhcha) |
| 1 | Mid Term | Lord's Prayer | By the light (Velivuniranjoreesho) |
| | Annual | Hail Mary full of grace (Kripa niranja Mariyame) | May this offered Eucharist (Kazhchayathil karthave) |
| 2 | Mid Term | Prayer while entering the Church | Plead for us Ye Holy Saints (Parishudhanmare ningal) & They who served (Sharanathale nin kripayil) |
| | Annual | Psalm 23 | Let us give peace from our heart (Anyonyam shlomo nalkin) |
| 3 | Mid Term | O Jesus Christ our Lord, do not Close (Moran Yesu messiah) | All the world adoreth Thee (Bhoovake namikkum ninne) |
| | Annual | O Mericful God, the voice of our prayer (Karunayulla dhaivame) | In oblations and in prayers (Deiva suthanmar) |
| 4 | Mid Term | O Thou full of mercy (Anugrahagal niranjirikunnavane) | Blessed are Those servants (Yajamanan Varu Vannerethu) |
| | Annual | O Holy Father, guard us (Shudhamulla pithave) | Lord Thy mercy on us Cast (Njangalkulla Karthave) |
| 5 | Mid Term | Awaken us lord from our sleep in the sloth of sin ... (Urakkamillatha unarvaullavane...) | Those Apostles (Bhoovilashesham) & Paul the Blessed (Paulose shleeha) |
| | Annual | Prayer before or after receiving the Holy Qurbana | We commemorate Thy death (nadha nin mrithiyorthengal) |
| 6 | Mid Term | Karthave ninne anukulamakunnarude (Have mercy upon us, O Lord) | Seraphim of fiery line (Srappikale kandeshaya) |
| | Annual | Paapikalode karuna cheyunnavanaya karthave (O Thou, who art kind to sinners) | Absolve us O Lord (Janani Parishudha) |

| YEAR | EXAM | PRAYER | HYMN |
|------|----------|--|---|
| 7 | Mid Term | Mahonnathante Maravilirikunnavanaya Karthave (O Lord, who sittest in the secret place) | Kolo of Kuklion of all the Saints - Behold the time of prayer (Prarthanayin samayamithallo) & Praise we the Father (Ninne varichoru) |
| | Annual | It is good to give thanks (Karthavine Sthothram cheyunnathum...) | Full redemption hast Thou made (Mashiha rajavam naadhan) |
| 8 | Mid Term | Psalm 4 | Kolo of Kuklion of the Faithful Departed - Grant O Saviour that the dead (Rakshakane nin gaathrathe) & Borne aloft in state (Mrithare jeevippanezhunlum) |
| | Annual | Maniso of Mor Severios (Prose) - By the prayers of Thy Mother (Ninne prasavicha mathavinteyum) | The one on whom fiery angels (Agniyanmar are nokki) |
| 9 | Mid Term | Blessed are the poor in Spirit... St. Matthew 5:3-12 (Aathmavil Dharidhrayavar Bhagyavanmar) | Righteous get light in darkness (Rijumathikalkkirulil) & Church confounds teaching heretics (Albuthamaam bhalamekum) |
| | Annual | Psalm 51 | God in Glory arose from death (Daivamuyarthu mahathwatho..) |
| 10 | Annual | Nicene Creed - We believe in one true God (Sarvashakthiyulla Piathavaya...) | Kolo of Kuklion of Cross - To revere the Holy Cross (Sleebye vannippanai) & Emmanuel Lord Jesus (Ammanuel deveshan) |
| 11 | Mid Term | Mavurbo - Mary said my soul magnifies the Lord ... St. Luke 1:46-55 (Mariam paranjathenthennal) | Bovut'o of Mor Ephrem - Lord Thy mercy on us cast (Njangalkulla Karthave) |
| | Annual | O Thou, who art the one true God (Pattangapeta deyvam thamburane) | High priests and priests.. (Melpattakkar pattakkarod) |
| 12 | Annual | Angelic Hymn - As the angels and archangels on high (Athyunnathangalil Malakhamarum) | Maniso of Mor Severios (Poem) - By the mother's Earnest Prayers (Ninmathavu Vishudhanmar..) |

C. ORTHODOX VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (OVBS)

The Orthodox Vacation Bible School 2023 materials will be made ready regionally for all the units. OVBS EAR Director will be coordinating with each unit to collect necessary information.

- **Poster Competition** of OVBS 2022 final date of submission is 28th February. Please encourage students from each unit to participate in it.

D. TALENT SHOW & COMPETITIONS

All students shall be given a platform to showcase their talents. Unit level competitions and/or show shall be arranged according to each Parish's discretion. Also units shall arrange training sessions for the bringing out the talents of our children. We are planning to conduct a regional level competition this year. The details of the same will be informed later in other circular.

Guidelines for Unit Level Talent Competitions

Age Categories & Event Guide

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sub Juniors | 5yrs - 7yrs | Solo Song, Memory Verse |
| Juniors | 8yrs - 10yrs | Solo Song, Group Song, Memory Verse |
| Intermediate | 11yrs - 13yrs | Solo Song, Group Song, Elocution |
| Seniors | 14yrs - 17yrs | Solo Song, Group Song, Elocution |

General Rules

- Students should be classified under one of the competition category only based on their age group.
- All participants are requested to be on time to commence the competition, else name will be disqualified.
- Unit shall give 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place recognition for each division.
- Decision of Judges will be final

Solo Song

- Solo Song shall be conducted in Malayalam and English categories separately
- Christian Devotional Songs are allowed. No classical songs are allowed
- Total length need to be within 3mins. Warning bell need to be given 2mins 50 seconds. Time exceeded bell on 3mins 1 second and singing beyond that shall be penalized by judges.
- No playback music or uses of instruments are allowed while singing.

- Assessment shall be done using pitch & vocal techniques, rhythm & tempo, and presentation.

Group Song

- Group Song shall be conducted in Malayalam as previous years. If any unit includes English as separate category for group song shall inform East Asia Regional Sunday School Director.
- 3 participants must be in a group song.
- Liturgical Hymns shall be sung from any Sacraments other than Holy Qurbana general hymns.
- The introduction of song should be given in minimum words.
- Total length of hymn need to be within 3mins. Warning bell need to be given 2mins 50 seconds. Time exceed bell on 3mins 1 second and continuing beyond shall be penalized by judges.
- No playback music or uses of instruments are allowed while singing.
- Assessment shall be done using pitch & vocal techniques, rhythm & tempo, presentation and coordination.

Elocution Competition

- Topics for elocution are as follows

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Intermediate | Jesus Heals |
| Seniors | Abide in God |

- Total length need to be within 4mins. Warning bell need to be given 3mins 50 seconds. Time exceeded bell on 4mins 1 second and continuing beyond shall be penalized by judges.
- Referencing notes during the speech is not allowed.

Memory Verse

- Any Bible verse shall be learned except from Psalm 23.
- Along with the verse, Bible reference of the verse must be said. For example, Psalm 46:7 - “The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”
- For judges to mark, Parents are requested to present the sheet of all verses with references that their child has learned.
- The assessment will be based on maximum number of proper recitals.

E. SUNDAY SCHOOL DAY

This year Sunday School Day is on 21st May 2023.

Year Planner for 2023

| Date | Scheduled Program | Notes/ Resources |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| 08 January 2023 | Sunday School Commences in Singapore and Malaysia Region | All students of the region must be provided with a hard copy of the new OSSAE- Asia Pacific Region Text Book |
| 25 Jan 2023 | Results of Class 10 & 12 | |
| 05 February 2023 | Sunday School Commences in Australia and New Zealand Region | All students of the region must be provided with a hard copy of the new OSSAE- Asia Pacific Region Text Book |
| 12 February 2023 | Re-Examination Class 10 & 12 | Centralized Written Examination |
| 28 February 2023 | Results of Re-Examination | |
| February | Teachers Training | To be held online |
| March | Talent Competition/Show | Unit level to be held each church for student development |
| 23 July 2023 | Mid Term Examination | Written Examination |
| 3rd December 2023 | Annual Examination | Centralized Written Examination |
| 20 Nov 2023 to 21 Jan 2024 | HOLIDAYS | |

The Sunday School organization aims to build our children strong in faith and life of our Church. This is possible through prayers and support of dedicated people. We express our gratitude to Rev. Fr. Jithin Joy Mathew for the past years of leadership and also to the team that supported him. We are grateful to all the Churches and units for all the cooperation in the previous years.

Yours in Christ

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