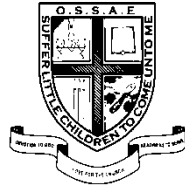


**ORTHODOX SYRIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION OF THE EAST
EAST ASIA REGION**



CIRCULAR 1

January 2024

Respected Vicars, HMs and teachers,

Greetings to you all in the name of Triune God!

Wishing all a very blessed NewYear2024

Thanking God Almighty for showering his enormous blessings to our organisation. With blessings and guidance of H. G. Geevarghese Mar Philoxenos, OSSAE East Asia Region is graciously entering to new academic year. 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 2024.

A. TEXTBOOKS

Our textbooks are ordered to print according to the list given by HMs. All units have received their textbooks to commence 2024. Please ensure textbook payments are promptly made to press on receipt of the invoice. If any additional books are required kindly get in touch with us via email

ossae.eastasiaregion@gmail.com

Class and Age Chart:

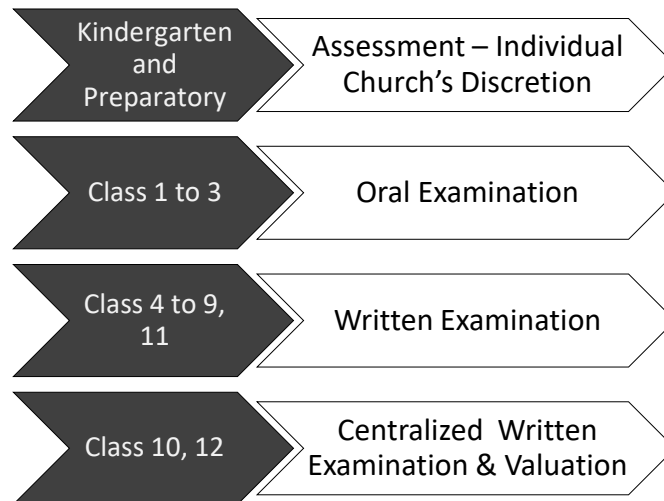
CLASS	AGE
Kindergarten	<5 years old
Preparatory	5 years old
Year 1 to 12	6 years onwards

The students registered in each Sunday school should be accommodated to classes by the HM 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 Sunday School units
- Class 1 - 3
 - One Mark 30%
 - Short Answer 20%
 - Prayer & Hymn 20%
 - Project 30%
- Class 4 - 6
 - One Mark 50%
 - Short Answer 30%
 - Prayer & Hymn 20%
- Class 7 - 9, 11
 - One Mark 30%
 - Short Answer 30%
 - Essay 20%
 - Prayer & Hymn 20%
- Class 10, 12
 - One Mark 20%
 - Short Answer 40%
 - Essay 10%
 - Assignment 10%
 - Prayer & Hymn 20%

c. Attendance

1. 50% attendance required to appear for Yr X Regional Exam
2. 75% attendance required for regular Sunday school students from (Prep to Yr 9) to be considered for any ranking in their Sunday School exam held in their respective churches

d. Examination Pointers

1. Portions for Mid Term & Annual examination up to year 9 and year 11 will be Part 1 & 2 respectively from the Text Book.
2. Appearing both term examinations is must to be qualified for promotion to upper classes.
3. Overall Examination scores for Years 1 to 9 are calculated from 50% of Mid Term marks & 50% of Annual exam marks.
4. A re-examination for Years 1 to 9 and 11 is to be conducted by the individual Sunday Schools for children who have missed their exams on original date.
5. Question Papers for Years 10 & 12 will be set and valued centrally.
6. For Years 10 and 12, a minimum of 35% marks are required for passing the exam and the certificates will be issued for passed students.
7. Re exam for Class 10 & 12 will be conducted on the date pre-announced.
8. Exam registration fee for Yr X and Yr XII is \$10 per student.

e. Project & Assignment

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

The assignment topic for year 10 will be from SAINT GEEVARGHESE MAR GREGORIOS OF PARUMALA and ST DIONYSIUS IN OUR LIFE AND THE HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH. 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 and submitted to the respective unit Headmaster/Headmistress. **The final marks to be submitted to Exam Officer on or before 14th OCTOBER 2024.**

Assignment Correction and Mark distribution

1. Assignment should be informed to students in the beginning of the academic year and their marks to be submitted on or before declared date.
2. The correction of Assignment to be done by HM and shall take support for checking plagiarism.
3. If the assignment is not satisfactory, students shall be asked to rewrite and resubmit it before the final date of submission.
4. No assignment needs to be considered after the submission date.
5. If Exam Controller of OSSAE East Asia Region is unsatisfied by the marking, unit shall be asked to submit the assignments and shall be revalued. The revalued mark will be considered as final mark.
6. Years 10 & 12 marks of Assignment marks to be send to Exam Controller on or before the pre-announced dates.

Assignment Topics (Assignment can be typed version. Minimum 750 words and Maximum 1500 words)

TOPIC YR 10: THE ROLE OF ST GREGORIOS AND ST DIONYSIUS IN OUR LIFE AND THE HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH

- A. Formulate a short introduction about the life of St Gregorios and St Dionysius **(0.5 mark)** and how do feel connected with these saints in your life **(0.5 mark)**.
- B. Explain briefly on any six attributes from Parumala Thirumeni's life from the below mentioned points **(6 marks – Mark distribution is based on half mark for content and half mark for student's perspective on each point)**.
- i. A pure model of Eastern Spirituality
 - ii. Unseeing prayer and strict-ascetic practices
 - iii. He nurtured the Church
 - iv. Anthonios of Malankara
 - v. Social Reformer
 - vi. Emphasis given to English Education
 - vii. Gospel to non-Christians
 - viii. Parumala Church
- C. Summarize any two characters or establishments of Saint Dionysius from the below mentioned points **(2 marks – Mark distribution is based on half mark for content and half mark for student's perspective on each point)**
- i. His prohibition - Catholicate establishment - Inviting Patriarch
 - ii. Sun of righteousness which dispelled darkness
 - iii. The architect of Church constitution
 - iv. The Essence of religious instructions
- D. Write a conclusion based on your writing above how their saintly life is important to our life in this world **(0.5 mark)** and which portion do we commemorate them in our liturgy **(0.5 mark)**.

TOPIC YR 12: VARIOUS RELIGIONS AND ECUMENISM

- A. Write an introduction about Ecumenism **(0.5 mark)** and how to view world religions and other Christian denominations in your own words **(0.5 mark)**.
- B. Research and write briefly about three religions other than Christianity in your state. Mention which category of religion does it confirms. **(3 marks – mark distribution is based on half mark for writing content and half mark for finding the category)**
- C. Find the four various Christian churches among your friends and Write the categories and their basic faith. Research and write about their historical divisions. **(4 marks – mark distribution is based on half mark for writing category and basic faith; and half mark for finding their historic division)**.
- D. Write about your Church, the family to which we confirm and the basic faith and beliefs. Write in your opinion two of the uniqueness about the worship and faith of our Church. **(2 marks – mark distribution is based on writing name and category properly one mark and their opinion on uniqueness on faith or worship one mark)**

f. Prayers & Hymns

1. The Prayers and Hymns for the terms should be informed to students in the beginning of the academic year and their marks to be submitted on or before declared date.
2. Prayers & Hymns exam to be conducted separately in each term.
3. Years 10 & 12 marks of Prayer & Hymn marks to be send to Exam Controller on pre-announced dates.

YEAR	EXAM	PRAYER	HYMN
Prep	Mid Term	Trisagion	Glory is to God on high (Sthuthi Deyvathinuyarathil)
1	Annual	Jesus Prayer - Jesus, Son of David, have mercy upon me, a sinner	Thou whose praise the Church doth sing (Bhakthar pukazhcha)
	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 (Anugrahangal 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 cheyyunnathum...)	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 jeevippipanezhunnlum)
	Annual	Maniso of Mor Severios (Prose) - By the prayers of Thy Mother (Ninne prasavicha mathavinteyum)	The one on whom fiery angels (Agniayanmar 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 (Albhuthamaam 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 (Sleebaye 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 EarnestPrayers (Ninmathavu Vishudhanmar..)

C. 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 and further information will be issued at later date.

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.
- 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.
- *Liturgical Hymns shall be sung from any Sacraments for unit level competitions.*

ELOCUTION COMPETITION

- Topics for elocution are as follows

Intermediate	Abide in God – St John 15:4
Seniors	Obey your Parents – Ephesians 6:1

- 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.

D. ORTHODOX VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (OVBS)

The Orthodox Vacation Bible School 2024 materials will be made ready regionally for all the units. OVBS EAR Director will be coordinating with each unit to collect necessary information.

E. FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year of OSSAE EAR is July to June. The annual fee as per the Kalpana of Diocesan Metropolitan is \$150 for Churches and \$50 for Congregations.

F. TEACHERS WHATSAPP GROUP

Whatsapp groups of teachers of each class will be initiated in the leadership of regional committee for creative learning. HMs shall share Whatsapp number of one teacher from each class and submit in the beginning of academic year. The following OSSAE East Asia Region Exec Members are selected for coordinating the class groups

Prep and Yr I	Susan Isaac
Yr II and Yr III	Sheela Jacob
Yr IV and Yr V	Julie Jacob
Yr VI and Yr VII	Georgy Zachariah
Yr VIII and Yr IX	Jacob Ninan
Yr X and Yr XII	Sheela Philip
Yr XI	Nebu Varghese

G. SUNDAY SCHOOL DAY

This year Sunday School Day is on February 4th for our region.

Year Planner for 2024

Date	Scheduled Program	Notes/ Resources
14 th January 2024	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
24 January 2024	Examination 2023 Results of Classes 10 & 12	Published via email to respective Vicars and HM
4 th February 2024	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
11 February 2024	Re-Examination of 2023 for Classes 10 & 12	Centralized Written Examination
25 th February 2024	Results of Re-Examination	
March/April	Teachers Training	To be held offline and online
Between March and August	Talent Competition/Show	Competition to be held in respective churches
14 th October 2024	Yr X and Yr XII Assignment marks to be submitted to Examination Officer	HM to submit marks
17 th November 2024	Marks of Prayer and Hymn, to be submitted	HMs to enter the marks on Google Sheets provided
21 July 2024	Mid Term Examination	Written Examination
1st December 2023	Annual Examination	Centralized Written Examination
24 Nov 2024 to 21 Jan 2025	HOLIDAYS	

Website

The OSSAE East Asia Region has a website <https://ossaeeastasia.org/> if you would like to get information on certain resources like liturgical books, lectionary readings, etc.

Social Media Pages

We encourage teachers, students and parents to follow us on our social media channels where we encourage and promote Sunday School activities of our entire region.

Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/OSSAE.EASTASIAREGION/>

Instagram Page - <https://www.instagram.com/ossae.eastasiaregionsundaysch/>

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 heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing members of the Executive Team – Mr. Mathew Simon (Publication Officer), Dr. Reinu Abraham (OVBS Director) and Mrs. Mary John (Executive Committee Member). Their services and commitment especially during the initial phase of OSSAE East Asia Region was highly commendable and appreciate their valuable efforts and time rendered for the benefit of Sunday School in our Region. We also take this opportunity to welcome the new members to the team Mr. Nebu Varghese (OVBS Director), Mrs. Sherley Kurian (Publication Officer), and Mrs. Sheela Varghese and Mr. Jacob Ninan (Executive Member). We extend our gratitude to all the Churches and units for the cooperation in the previous years.

Yours in Christ

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