

# Orange County School of the Arts

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

#### 2020-21 School Year

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The following information is provided to aid students and parents in completing the *Course Selection form*. All students will have the opportunity to review the OCSA Student/Parent Handbook, which contains detailed information about the school and its policies, prior to the start of the school year. New students and their parents are encouraged to visit the school website for further information about the school and its programs. For specific questions about academic programs and courses, students may also contact their school counselor:

Your Middle School counselor is: ~ Mrs. Vanessa Musso at [vanessa.musso@ocsarts.net](mailto:vanessa.musso@ocsarts.net)

Please note that Mrs. Musso is not available for new student individual appointments at this time of the year.

#### ***How do I know which classes to take? Where do I get information about classes?***

All 7<sup>th</sup> grade students take Literature and Composition, Social Studies, Science, Math, and a Physical Education class. Depending on the math level of the student, some 7<sup>th</sup> graders may have the option to take a World Language course. All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students take Literature and Composition, Social Studies, Science, Math, World Language, and a Physical Education class.

#### ***My child is coming from a very small school with fewer students than OCSA. How do new students make the adjustment to a big campus with more students?***

OCSA has many activities and events to assist with the transition. All new students are encouraged to participate in New Student Orientation and Welcome Week. Welcome Week includes games, icebreakers, and an opportunity to interact with students from your Conservatory and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are paired with an older buddy from their conservatory. Through these activities, students will become familiar with the campus, school culture, and have the opportunity to connect with other students. Students are also encouraged to join a club to share common interests with other students.

#### ***How do I know which level math class to enroll in?***

Most 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will enroll in Math 2. Many 6<sup>th</sup> grade students have been introduced to Algebra concepts but have not completed an entire year of Algebra. The level of math taken in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, the grade earned, and a math placement test will ensure appropriate placement for math. New, incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders will take a math placement test, as well, and will most likely enroll in Math 3. For additional information regarding OCSA's Math Placement Policy click [here](#) and to register for OCSA's math placement exam click [here](#).

#### ***What are my choices for Physical Education?***

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may choose from the PE Components listed in the 2020-2021 Curriculum Handbook. The Curriculum Handbook is available online at the school's website at the following link: [www.ocsarts.net/curriculumhandbook](http://www.ocsarts.net/curriculumhandbook)

***Can a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student take an elective instead of a Physical Education class?***

All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students must enroll in a Physical Education class unless they are in one of the following dance conservatories: Ballet Folklorico, Ballroom Dance, Commercial Dance or Classical and Contemporary Dance. These 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may choose from the electives listed in the 2020-21 Curriculum Handbook if they do not want to take a PE class during the academic day. It is important to read the course description and make sure that the elective is available to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

***Will I be able to get my first choice for my Physical Education class or elective class?***

There is no guarantee that a student will receive their first choice of a PE or elective class. Students are asked to provide several alternate choices. The overall master schedule of classes as well as the set of classes needed by the student is the determining factor as to which elective is scheduled for that individual student.

All PE and elective classes are YEAR long classes and changes are not permitted at the semester. The overall master schedule of classes as well as the particular set of classes needed by the student is the determining factor in which PE or the elective course is scheduled for that individual student.

***Do I get to pick the classes I take for my Conservatory?***

The director of each arts conservatory selects the conservatory classes for the student. Questions regarding conservatory classes should be directed to your child's conservatory director.

***Do I take the same academic classes every day?***

OCSA middle school and high school students attend a block schedule. Students are enrolled in 6 academic classes, but only attend 3 academic blocks per day. An additional Study Block (7<sup>th</sup> Block) is provided Monday through Thursday from 1:35-2:05 PM for students to begin homework and see their teachers for additional support.

***What is Naviance?***

Naviance is a computer-based college and career exploration program that all students will be utilizing to develop their post-secondary plans. Student accounts for Naviance will be created in the fall.