



Orange County School of the Arts

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Incoming 7th & 8th Grade Students 2026-2027

The following information is provided to aid students and parents in completing the **Course Selection** form. All students will have the opportunity prior to the start of the school year to review the OCSA Student/Parent Handbook, which contains detailed information about the school and its policies. 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 Vanessa Musso, Middle School Counselor, at vanessa.musso@ocsarts.net. Please note that Mrs. Musso is not available for individual appointments with new students until June 2026, as she is very busy working to support students as they finish up this current school year.

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

All 7th grade students take Literature & Composition, Social Studies, Science, Math, and a Physical Education class. Depending on each student's math class, some 7th grade students may have the option to take an elective course. All 8th grade students take Literature & Composition, Social Studies, Science, Math, World Language or Elective, and a Physical Education class.

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

7th grade students will have the option to enroll in Math 2 (7th grade math standards) or Math $\frac{2}{3}$ Daily (covers both 7th and 8th grade standards) Seventh grade students who would like the opportunity to demonstrate readiness for Integrated I, can sign up for the math placement exam on **Saturday, June 6** or **Wednesday, June 10**. [Click here](#) to register for OCSA's math placement exam.

What are my choices for Physical Education?

7th and 8th grade students may choose from the Physical Education components listed in OCSA's 2026-2027 Curriculum Handbook. The Curriculum Handbook is available online on the school's website at www.ocsarts.net/CurriculumHandbook.

Can I take an elective instead of a Physical Education class?

All 7th and 8th grade students must enroll in a Physical Education (PE) class unless they are in one of the following dance conservatories: Ballet & Contemporary Dance, Ballet Folklórico Dance, Ballroom Dance, or Commercial Dance. 7th and 8th grade students in dance conservatories may choose from the Academic Electives listed on their grade level Course Selection Form instead of a PE class or they may select a PE class if they do not

want to take an Academic Elective class. The 2026-2027 Curriculum Handbook contains descriptions for Academic Electives.

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

Students are asked to provide several alternate choices since there is no guarantee that a student will receive their first choice of a Physical Education or elective class. The elective scheduled for each student is determined by the overall master schedule of classes as well as the particular set of classes needed by each individual student. All Physical Education and elective classes are yearlong classes, and changes are not permitted at the semester.

Do I get to pick the classes I take for my conservatory?

The director of each 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 for their academic classes. Students are enrolled in six academic classes, but only attend three academic blocks per day that rotate every day throughout the year. Blue Days are for Blocks 1-3, and Gold Days are for Blocks 4-6.

I'm 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 attend our **New Family Welcome Celebration** on **Saturday, April 11** and to participate in **OCSA Jumpstart** at the beginning of the school year in August. Throughout this engaging three-day experience, incoming students will have the chance to familiarize themselves with the OCSA campus prior to the first day of school, foster new relationships, and of course, have FUN! There will be various opportunities for parent engagement, as well. While this extracurricular program is optional, we highly encourage all new students to consider participating as a fantastic way to learn about OCSA's unique culture. Students are also encouraged to join a club to share common interests with other students.