

**ORTHODOX SYRIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF THE EAST
OUTSIDE KERALA REGION**



**ANNUAL CIRCULAR 2024
No: OKR/01/2024**

1st JANUARY, 2024

**To the Presidents, Vice Presidents, Directors, Vicars, Headmasters/Headmistresses and Teachers
Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord!**

Wish you all a blessed New Year!

May this new year bring rays of new hope in all our lives. We thank Almighty for all the grace showered over the activities of our Sunday school. We highlight the following things for the smooth planning and the functioning of the Sunday school activities during this academic year.

A. Textbooks

We follow the textbooks prepared by OSSAE since 2015. The textbooks are available at OKR Office, Nagpur and OSSAE Central Office Devalokam, Kottayam.

The soft copy of the same is available at our website www.ossaeokr.org. Please refer the updated list of books.

B. Inter Diocesan Competition 2023

Inter Diocesan Competition 2023 for the Senior and the Secondary Grade Students will be held in the month of July 2024. The date for the same will be intimated later.

C. Sunday School Day and Mercy Day 2024

Sunday after the festival of Mayaltheo, February 4 will be celebrated as the Sunday School day and Sunday November 24 will be celebrated as the Mercy day this year. GCC countries (Except UAE) Sunday schools will celebrate these days on February 2 and November 22, 2024 respectively.

D. Annual Examination 2024

As per the decision of the Annual General Body of OSSAE-OKR the Annual Examination 2024 for Class X, XII and XI/XII for students in Kuwait/Saudi/Oman/Bahrain and Doha will be conducted on Friday, December 6, 2024 and Annual Examination for students in UAE and India will be conducted on Sunday, December 8, 2024. Any change in the dates will be informed.

E. Talent Evaluation 2024

As in the previous year's talent evaluation may be conducted for the Sunday school students at various levels as per the decision of the respective dioceses. The portions for the same is attached along with.

AGE CALCULATION

Sub Junior	1 st January 2017 Onwards
Junior	1 st January 2014 To 31 st December 2016
Intermediate	1 st January 2011 To 31 st December 2013
Seniors	1 st January 2008 To 31 st December 2010
Secondary	1 st January 2005 To 31 st December 2007
AGE WISE GROUPING FOR GROUP SONG 2024	
Buds	Born On 1 st January 2017 Onwards- Age up to 7 Years
Premiers	Born in 2011/2012/2013/2014/2015 or 2016 - Age 8 to 13 Years
Teens	Born in 2005/2006/2007/2008/2009 or 2010 - Age 14 to 19 Years

F. OVBS 2024

OVBS may be conducted at unit/diocesan levels. As per the decision of the Annual General Body Meeting the winners of solo song competition at Diocesan level may also participate for OVBS song recording. For further details, please contact the OVBS Director/Asst. Director.

CONCLUSION

We would like to express our profound gratitude to the Metropolitans, Vice Presidents, Directors, Diocesan Secretaries, District Presidents, District Inspectors, District Secretaries, Vicars, Headmasters, Teachers and Parents for all your support and cooperation for the smooth functioning of Sunday school activities.

All the payments to OKR should be made to **Federal Bank A/c No. 13390100053545, Nagpur, IFS code FDRL0001339**. Those who avail the NEFT facility should intimate the office about the payment for proper accounting.

We earnestly solicit your prayers and cooperation for the success of our ministry to lead our children in the right path, as we were led by our parents and teachers. Joining Rev. Fr. B M Thomas, Treasurer of OSSAE OKR, Rev. Fr. Anish Issac Mathew, Executive Officer OSSAE-OKR, Mr. Shibu Varghese, Office Assistant and the Sunday School team wishing you all a Blessed new Sunday School Year. May the light and life of our Lord Jesus Christ guide us and strengthen us in this glorious ministry.

With warm regards,
In His Mission,



Fr. Dr. Jossi Jacob
Director, OSSAE-OKR

APPENDIX 1

SYLLABUS-2024 (Chapters)			
Jesus Kids	4th Edition September 2021	Mid Term Exam	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11
		Annual Exam	6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13
Class-1	3rd Edition February 2021	Mid Term Exam	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 16, 18, 20
		Annual Exam	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 19, 21
Class-2	3rd Edition October 2021	Mid Term Exam	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 16, 18, 20
		Annual Exam	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 19, 21
Class-3	3rd Edition October 2021	Mid Term Exam	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 16, 18, 20
		Annual Exam	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 19, 21
Class-4	3rd Edition February 2022	Mid Term Exam	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24
		Annual Exam	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25
Class-5	3rd Edition January 2023	Mid Term Exam	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24
		Annual Exam	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25
Class-6	3rd Edition October 2021	Mid Term Exam	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24
		Annual Exam	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25
Class-7	3rd Edition February 2022	Mid Term Exam	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 16, 17, 20, 22, 23
		Annual Exam	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25
Class-8	3rd Edition December 2022	Mid Term Exam	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 16, 17, 20, 22, 23, 25, 28
		Annual Exam	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 18, 19, 21, 24, 26, 27, 29
Class-9	3rd Edition June 2022	Mid Term Exam	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 16, 20, 21, 25, 26, 28
		Annual Exam	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 19, 22, 23, 24, 27, 29
Class-10	Part 1 3rd Edition February 2023	Mid Term Exam	4, 5, 14, 17, 20, 22, 23, 26, 28 & Vattaseril, St. Geevarghese Mar Dionysius
	Part 2 3rd Edition November 2022	Annual Exam	4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29 & St. Gregorios of Parumala
Class-11	2nd Edition February 2022	Mid Term Exam	Unit 1 to 3 (12 Chapters) Holy Qurbana - A Study: Chapters 1 to 5
	ND - 2nd Edition November 2022	Annual Exam	Chapters 4 to 6 (12 chapters) Holy Qurbana - A Study: Chapters 6 to 10
Class-12	2nd Edition January 2023	Mid Term Exam	Units 1 to 3 (12 chapters) Rituals are meaningful: Chapters 1 to 5
	ND - 3rd Edition December 2022	Annual Exam	Units 1 to 6 (24 chapters) Rituals are meaningful: Chapters 1 to 10

Notes

1. Hymns and Prayers for individual classes are listed in the Appendix II of this circular.

APPENDIX II
Prayers and Hymns for 2024

Class		Prayer	Hymn
Jesus Kids		Trisagion	Glory is to God on high ... (Sthuthi Deyvathinuyarathil ...)
1	Mid Term Exam	Lord's Prayer ... (Swargasthanaya Njagalude Pithave ...)	Renew your creatures (Karuna niranjavane)
	Annual Exam	Peace be with you Mary ... (Kripa niranja mariyame ...)	May this offered Eucharist ... (kazhchayathil karthave nin ...)
2	Mid Term Exam	Prayer before going to bed Prayer when you got up in the Morning	By Thy light we see the light..... (Velivu niranjoreesho nin...) (5 stanzas)
	Annual Exam	Kauma (upto Barekmor)	In oblations and in prayer ... (Deiva suthanmar ayiduvan ...)
3	Mid Term Exam	O holy Father, guard us by Thy sacred ... (Shudhamulla Bava ...)	Let us give peace from our hearts... (Anyonyam Slomo nalkin ...)
	Annual Exam	Prayer before and after food.	Remember we those prophets ... (Neebiyanmarum Jathikalodevangeliyon ...)
4	Mid Term Exam	O Jesus Christ our Lord, Do not Close ... (Moran Yesu messiah ...)	By the mother's Earnest Prayers... (Ninmathavu Vishudhanmar..)
	Annual Exam	O Merciful God, the voice of our Prayer ... (Karunayulla Daivame ...)	Those apostles ... (Bhoovilashesham ...) Paul the Blessed ... (Paulose sleeha ...)
5	Mid Term Exam	Psalm 4 (from 'Soothara' of Family Prayer Book)	Come the time of prayer is here ... (Yachikendum Samayamitha ...)
	Annual Exam	Nicene Creed (Nikhya Vishwasa Pramanam)	Hearken Gracious Lord we pray ... (Anpudayone nin vathil ...) Seraphim of fiery line ... (Srappikale kandeshaya ...)
6	Mid Term Exam	Psalm 51 (from Holy Qurbanakramam)	Kukiliyon of St. Mary
	Annual Exam	Praise of the Cherubim ... (Karthavinte Bahumanam Thalsthanath ennekkum ...)	Blessed are those servants good ... (Yajamanan varumannera ...)
	Mid Term Exam	Prayer before and after receiving the Holy Qurbana.	Kukiliyon of Saints.

7	Annual Exam	O thou full of mercy... (Anugrahangal Niranjirikunnavane)	Lord thy mercy on us cast ... (Njagalkulla Karthave ...)
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8	Mid Term Exam	Psalm 91 (from Holy Qurbanakramam) Psalm 121 (from Holy Qurbanakramam)	Kukiliyon of the Cross.
	Annual Exam	He who sits under the protection of the most high... (Mahonnathante Maravil Irikunnavanaya Karthave ...)	Kukiliyon of the Cross.
9	Mid Term Exam	Awaken us lord from our sleep in the sloth of sin ... (Urakkamillatha unarvaullavane ...)	Kukiliyon of the Departed.
	Annual Exam	It is good to give thanks (Karthavine Sthothram cheyyunnathum...)	Kukiliyon of the Departed
10	Mid Term & Annual Exam	Grant us Lord God ... Forever and ever. (Deyvamaya karthave pakal Samayathe ...)	Kukiliyon of the Clergy.
	Annual Exam	Lord, I have called upon you.... O God, Barekmor/ Karthave ninne njaan vilichu... Daivame sthuthi Ninakku	Kukiliyon of the Clergy.
11	Mid Term Exam	Mary said my soul magnifies the Lord ... St. Luke 1:46-55. (Mariam paranjathenthennal ...)	The one on whom fiery angels ... (Agniayanmar are nokki ...)
	Annual Exam	Psalm 149 (from Holy Qurbanakramam) Psalm 150 (from Holy Qurbanakramam)	Saviour has spoken.... (Rakshakanura cheythan...)
12	Mid Term & Annual Exam	As the angels and archangels on high... (Athyunnathangalil swargeeya Malakhamar ...)	High priests and priests ... (Melpattakkar pattakkarode ...)
	Annual Exam	Psalm 148 (from Holy Qurbanakramam)	Clear o lord my every debt ... (Ente kadangalashesham nin ...)

Please note these are the Prayers and Hymns to be taught during the academic year-2024. Detailed version of the prayer and hymns is sent from the OKR Office. Please use only that for teaching/examination purpose.

ARTS COMPETITION, 2024

1. Sub-Juniors:

Action Song

Story Telling –

- (i) Any parable of Jesus
- (ii) Any story from New Testament

Coloring

2. Juniors:

Drawing

Story Telling –

- (i) Any Miracle of Jesus
- (ii) Any story on Obedience

3. Intermediate:

Bible Verse Writing

Elocution –

- (i) “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” –
(Psalm 119:105)
- (ii) “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”
(Hebrews 11:1)

4. Seniors:

Solo Song -

Any Christian Song (English/Malayalam)

Elocution –

- (i) “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God”. (St. Matthew 5:9)
- (ii) “For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain”.
(Philippians 1:21)

Essay writing:

- (i) Intercession to the Saints
- (ii) Importance of Fasting and Lent in the Orthodox Tradition.

Bible Quiz:

- (i) St. Matthew Ch 1 to 10
- (ii) 1 Kings Ch 1 to 10
- (iii) Feast of Pentecost
- (iv) Life and Contributions of H.G. Alvarez Mar Julius

5. Secondary

Solo Song:

Any Christian Song (English/Malayalam)

Elocution:

- (i) “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God.” (Romans 12:2)
- (ii) Jesus Christ as described in the Nicene Creed.

Essay writing:

- (i) Participation of Youth in Orthodox worship
- (ii) St. Paul and the Mission of the Church

Bible Quiz:

- (i) St. Luke Ch 1 to 10
- (ii) Deuteronomy Ch 1 to 10
- (iii) Feast of Yeldo
- (iv) Life and contributions of H.G. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Osthathios

GROUP SONG

- Buds:** (Age upto 7 years)
Any song from the Holy Qurbana service (no special songs)
- Premiers:** (Age 8 to 13 years)
Any song from Christmas service
- Teens:** (Age 14 to 19 years)
Funeral service - Men

APPENDIX III

Project work of the Students during 2024

General Guidelines

- The Project work is not a classroom assignment. The students can do it in their leisure time or in the break time when they are tired of learning secular subjects.
- One of the projects given below can be selected for this year. Project of the children of classes IV to VI are to be conducted on an oral level only. Students of Classes VII to XI (Class X excluded) should submit it in a well hand-written form.
- The length of the written project should be from five to ten pages. Photos and other data can be added, if available.
- Teachers and parents should help the child in developing his/her ideas. Teachers can select books and websites and give the name of these to the students. However, each project should be an independent work of the student.
- The Class teacher should maintain a register for the internal assessment of the student and the marks for the project should be entered in it. It shall be examined by the HM and verified by the parish priest. All those who are in this process should remind themselves that we are serving the Lord and that Christian values should not be compromised at any cost.
- The mark of the project work can be as follows: Punctuality (2 marks), Text (3marks), Comprehension of the idea (3 marks), and Presentation/Neatness (2 marks). October 15 is the cut- off date for the submission of the project at unit level.
- Selected Projects can be presented in front of the people during the anniversary of the Sunday School or on Sunday School day.

THEMES FOR PROJECTS

Class IV	1) Recite the fruits of the Spirit with Bible reference 2) Recite the names of 12 apostles
Class V	1) Recite the “I am sayings” of Jesus with references. 2) Make note of maximum number of liturgical books used in the Church and the occasion of use
Class VI	1) Name all the books of the Old Testament 2) Narrate briefly about the life and contribution of Late H. G. Alvares Mar Yulios Metropolitan
Class VII	1) Write briefly about St. George 2) Write the main events in the sacrament of Holy Matrimony and its significance.
Class VIII	1) Prepare a note on the 8 Sundays of Great Lent 2) Write briefly about the life of Pampady Thirumeni
Class IX	1) Write briefly about the life of St. John Chrysostom 2) Prepare a report on Synod of Diamper and its effects on the Malankara Orthodox Church
Class XI	1) Write briefly about the contributions of Late H. G. Dr. Paulose Mar Gregorios. 2) Write briefly about the establishment of the Catholicate in Malankara.

Mandatory Project work CLASS XII (PRIVATE) & CLASS XI/XII STUDENTS ANNUAL EXAMINATION'

Write a detailed study on **Baptism or Marriage or Anointing the Sick or Feast of Christmas** based on the liturgical text used, focusing mainly on Prayers, Hymns, Symbols and Rituals.

2024 Year Plan at a Glance

Month	Event	Dates in India	Dates in the Gulf
January	Sunday School New Year begins	07.01.2024	05.01.2024
	Annual Statements and Annual Reports of Headmasters to District Inspector		
February	Sunday School Day	04.02.2024	02.02.2024
	Leaders Meet	7 and 8 Feb 2024	
	Announcement of Result X/ XII/XII &XII/TSE (2023)	Will update later	
	Annual Statements, Annual Reports of Diocese to the Zonal Secretary	29.02.2024	29 02.2024
	Annual Statements and Annual Reports of Zonal Secretaries to Director Diocesan General Body	30.07.2024	30.07.2024
May	Beginning of Summer Vacation	As per the decision of the Diocese/Region/Sub Region	
June	Reopening after vacation		
July	Half yearly Examination	As per the decision of the Diocese/Region/Sub Region	
	Annual Reports of Diocesan Directors to the OKR Director	30.07.2024	30.07.2024
	Inter Diocesan Competition 2023	Dates will be announced later.	
August	Unit level Competition	N/A	
September	OKR Annual General Body Meeting	Will be informed Later	
October	Last Date for submission of Application Form for X/ XII/ XI& XII Exam	1.10.2024	
	Last Date for submission of Application Form for X/ XII/ XI&XII Exam with late fees	15.10.2024	
	Zonal Level Competition	N/A	
November	Diocesan Level Competition and Teachers' Conference	TO BE DECIDED BY THE DIOCESE	
	Mercy Day (Jeeva Karunya Dinam)	24.11.2024	22.11.2024
December	Annual Examination for X and XII	08.12.2024 (India&U.A.E)	06.12.2024 (GCC Countries)
	Annual Examination for Nursery to Class IX and Class XI	As per the decision of the Diocese/Region/Sub Region	