

**ORTHODOX SYRIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION OF THE EAST
ASIA PACIFIC DIOCESE**



CIRCULAR 1

January 2026

Respected Vicars, HMs and teachers,

Greetings to you all in the blessed name of the Triune God!

As we step into this new year of 2026, we offer our heartfelt gratitude to Almighty God for His abundant grace and for the continuous growth of our organization. Under the apostolic blessings of H.H. Baselios Marthoma Mathews III and the visionary guidance of H.G. Dr. Yuhanon Mar Diascoros, we are filled with joy to begin our first full academic year as the newly formed OSSAE Asia Pacific Diocese.

We extend our deepest appreciation to our Vicars, Headmasters, and teachers for their unwavering commitment to nurturing the spiritual lives of our children.

Looking Ahead to 2026

This year marks a significant milestone in our journey together. As we strive for excellence and fellowship, we would like to highlight some areas of focus for the upcoming year:

- **Diocese Level Competition:** To foster a spirit of healthy participation and growth, our main emphasis this year will be on the Diocese Level Competition for GROUP SONG. We encourage all students to prepare diligently and showcase their talents for the glory of God. For Category Intermediate and Seniors those placed 1st Place in Unit level, will be invited to Diocese Level competition. Unit level competitions must be completed by August 2026. Further details to be included at a later circular.
- **Celebrating Student Creativity:** We want to provide a platform for our children's

unique voices. We warmly encourage students to submit original write-ups, poems, songs, and artwork. We look forward to sharing these creative contributions on our official social media platforms to inspire our entire community.

- Review of Yr X and Yr XII Annual Examination – There will be a detailed discussion and analysis if we can move the exam to ONLINE mode. Once the executive committee review this decision we will inform all Vicar & HM via another circular. The assignment and prayer and hymn details are to be followed as per the information included in this circular.

Please review the following guidelines and key dates to help plan your Sunday School activities for the 2026 academic year.

A. TEXTBOOKS

Our textbooks are ordered to print according to the list given by HMs. The same is expected to be printed and reached before time for our classes to commence this academic year. Please ensure textbooks 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:

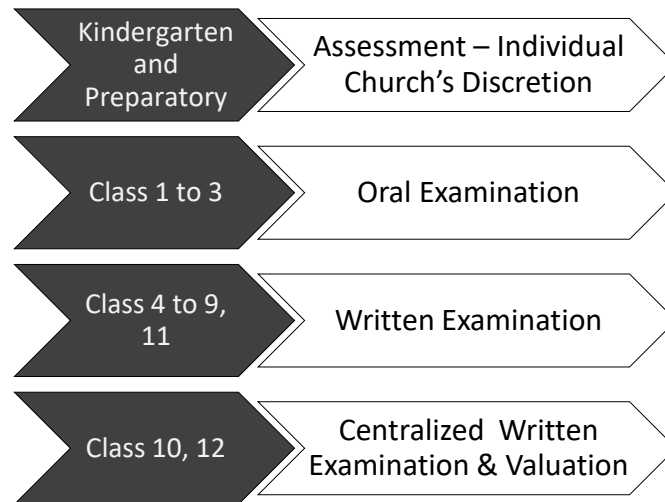
CLASS	AGE
Kindergarten	<5 years old
Preparatory	5 years old
Year 1 to 12	6 years onwards

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		Class 7 - 9, 11	
One Mark	60%	One Mark	30%
Short Answer	20%	Short Answer	30%
Prayer & Hymn	20%	Essay	20%
		Prayer & Hymn	20%
Class 4 - 6		Class 10, 12	
One Mark	50%	One Mark	20%
Short Answer	30%	Short Answer	40%
Prayer & Hymn	20%	Essay	10%
		Assignment	10%
		Prayer & Hymn	20%

c. Attendance

1. 50% attendance required to appear for Yr 10 Public 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 compulsory to qualify 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. Re-exam appearing students are not eligible for ranks for Yr 10 & Yr 12.
9. Exam registration fee for Yr 10 & Yr 12 is \$10 per regular student.

e. Private Students & Examination for Yr 10 & Yr 12

A person who is 20 years of age or above shall be eligible to write Sunday School Public Examination as a Private Student.

1. Yr 10 certificate is must to appear Yr 12 Examination.
2. Private Students shall be guided by HMs of the Sunday School of their Parish. HMs shall register them for the examination along with the regular students and submit their marks for the Assignment, Prayer & Hymn along with the regular students.
3. An Extra Assignment should be submitted by Yr 10 & Yr 12 private students, in order to be eligible to attend the respective examinations, in case of not completed the Yr 9 or Yr 11 classes of OSSAE Academics. The topics are included in this circular. HMs shall review their assignment prior and send to Exam Controller along with Answer Sheets.
4. Exam registration fee for Yr 10 & Yr 12 is \$25 per private student.
5. Private students are not eligible for the ranks with regular students.

f. 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. Private Students need to submit an extra assignment in order to make sure they completed their Yr 9 & Yr 11 classes. Assignment should be prepared by students themselves and submitted to the respective unit Headmaster/Headmistress.

EXTRA ASSIGNMENT TOPICS FOR PRIVATE STUDENTS (Assignment can be typed version. Minimum 750 words and Maximum 1500 words)
Yr 10 Topic – AN OVERVIEW OF FATHERS AND DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH COMMEMORATED IN THE FIFTH DIPTYCH & ELABORATE THE BASIC DOGMAS IN THE CREED. Reference: Yr 9 Textbook – Part 2 Unit 2 – “ORTHODOX FAITH”
Yr 12 Topic – IMPORTANCE OF HOLY BIBLE IN ORTHODOX WORSHIP & EXPLAIN HOLY MATRIMONY - THE CHRISTIAN FAMILYHOOD. Reference: Yr 11 Textbook – Units 2 & 3

Assignment Correction and Mark distribution

1. Assignment should be informed to students in the beginning of the academic year.
2. The HMs shall collect the assignment hard copy by the Mid Term; correction of the same to be done by HMs 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. Years 10 & 12 both regular and private students Assignment marks to be send to Exam Controller on or before 31 August 2026.
6. Assignments to be send to Exam Controller attached along with Answer papers during Public Examination.
7. If Exam Controller of OSSAE Asia Pacific Diocese is unsatisfied by the marking, the revaluation of the assignment of entire unit shall be considered as final mark.

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)**

g. Prayer & Hymn

1. The Prayer and Hymn for the terms should be informed to students in the beginning of the academic year and their exam to be conducted separately in each term.
2. Prayer & Hymn examination for any class can be conducted either oral or written as decided by HMs of each unit.
3. Years 10 & 12 both regular and private students Prayer & Hymn marks to be send to Exam Controller on or before 31 August 2026.

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 (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 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 jeevippanezhunnlum)
	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 Earnest Prayers (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. Diocese level competition will be informed later in a 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.
- 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	Walk in Purity – Pslams 119:9
Seniors	The Holy Spirit Who Guides the Way into the Truth

- 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 2026 materials will be made ready for all the units by **June 30th, 2026**. OVBS Director of Asia Pacific Diocese 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 information will be released in a separate circular prior to the invoice being issued.

F. CHARITY DAY COLLECTION

Sunday School Units shall organize a day with support of both teachers and students for charity activities to empower people. To avail it for people in need, Units should take necessary steps with the guidance of Vicar of each Parish. This initiative can be also conducted as part of your OVBS.

YEAR PLANNER FOR 2026

Date	Scheduled Program	Notes/ Resources
10 January 2026	Sunday School commences in Singapore and Malaysia	All students of the Diocese must be provided with a hard copy of the new OSSAE- Asia Pacific Diocese Text Book
25 January 2026	2025 Examination Results of Classes 10 & 12	Published via email to respective Vicars and HM
07 February 2026	Sunday School commences in Australia and New Zealand	All students of the Diocese must be provided with a hard copy of the new OSSAE- Asia Pacific Diocese Text Book
22 February 2026	Re-Examination of 2024 for Classes 10 & 12	Centralized Written Examination
29 March 2026	Results of Re-Examination	
March 2026	Teachers Training Course	To be held online
Between March and July 2026	Talent Competition/Show	
30 August 2026	Yr 10 and Yr 12 Assignment, Prayer & Hymn marks to be submitted to Examination Officer	HMs to enter the marks on Google Sheets provided
3 rd or 4 th week July 2026	Mid Term Examination in all Churches Prep to Yr IX	Oral & Written Examination
3 rd or 4 th week November 2026	Annual Examination in all Churches Prep to Yr IX	Oral & Written Examination
06 December 2026	Annual & Public Examination	Centralized Written Examination
24 Nov 2025 to 21 Jan 2026	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 extend our gratitude to all the Churches and units for the cooperation in previous years.

Yours in Christ

Rev Fr Gigi Mathew Vakathanam

Vice President

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