

# ORCHID PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL

## Frequently Asked Questions for Co-Curricular Activities (CCA)

### 1) Can my child/ward choose not to join a CCA from the school?

CCA provides an important platform for social interaction amongst students of diverse background. It also offers excellent platforms for students to learn core values, social and emotional competencies and the emerging 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies as your child/ward enters a period of pliable character and identity formation.

They can choose from any of the 4 groups; Physical Sports & Game, Uniformed Groups, Visual & Performing Arts and Clubs & Societies.

As your child/ward is more independent as compared to primary school students, the Ministry **mandates** that all secondary school students **must have** a CCA.

Your child/ward will be **liable for a 'FAIR' conduct grade** if his/her attendance for CCA is **below 50%** at the end of a semester. A 'FAIR' conduct grade can have an adverse effect on awards, bursary/financial aid and other forms of school-related applications.

### 2) What are mandatory CCAs?

The National Cadet Corps (NCC), National Civil Defence Cadet Corps (NCDCC) and National Police Cadet Corps (NPCC) are mandatory CCAs for all secondary schools. Students in these CCAs are not permitted to change their CCA throughout the secondary school years **except for medical reasons, or once at the end of Secondary 1 or 2.**

### 3) What must my child/ward do to join a CCA?

Your child/ward will be exposed to all CCAs during week 3 to 4 of school term 1.

He/she will have to rank the CCAs (1 to 6) according to his/her interests/choices **online via the "Ask and Learn" platform.** The options will need to be submitted by **5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021.**

Students who did not submit their CCA options will be allocated a CCA at the school's discretion.

### 4) How is the posting or allocation of CCA determined?

As much as we would like to allocate your child's/ward's first choice, he/she would not benefit fully **if the enrolment of a CCA is too big or considered not suitable for the CCA.**

Your child/ward will be assessed by the teachers in charge and instructors of the CCA. Together with the information (previous CCA, NAPFA test result, medical history) given, your child/ward will be allocated his/her 1<sup>st</sup> choice if it is matched with the teachers' recommendation. Once all places available are filled up, there will be no more allocation of students into that CCA.

Students who are not posted to the CCA of their first choice will then be considered for his/her next choice and so on, **subject to availability of places.**

The allocation of CCA to your child/ward is **not** based on a 'first-come-first-served' submission of the CCA options through the LMS platform.

**5) Can my child/ward appeal to join another CCA instead of the one allocated?**

There is a 1 week of appeal period. However, we would encourage your child/ward to try the CCA allocated to him/her to broaden his/her experience and learn a wider range of skills for at least a year.

**6) Can my child/ward change CCA if he/she wants to experience a different CCA?**

Students are allowed to change CCA at the **end of the academic year**, subjected to school's approval and availability of places in the CCA. However, the changing of CCA is **not encouraged** as continuous involvement and commitment to the **same** CCA will be rewarded through the level of attainment in LEAPS 2.0. In addition, regular participation and sustained engagement over four to five years in the same CCA allows for the progressive development of skills and knowledge, as well as the development of character.

**7) Can my child/ward join more than one CCA?**

Your child/ward may opt to participate in more than one CCA to broaden his/her experience, gain more exposure and learn a wider range of skills. However, such involvement will be passion-driven and approval will take into consideration, his/her academic results and his/her ability to sustain **attendance in his/her core CCA**. Your child/ward **will not be awarded** higher level of attainment for participation in an additional CCA.

**8) Can CCA level of attainment be awarded for my child/ward's participation in activities organised by external organisations?**

A student may participate in a non-school-based CCA or community-based activity to pursue his/her interests which are not offered in the school, **but not in lieu of a CCA** in school. These external activities will mainly be interest-driven and the additional participation **will not contribute** to a higher attainment level.

The **only exceptions** are as follows:

- a) Participation in National Projects of Excellence (NPOE) mainly:
- The Singapore National Youth Orchestra
  - Singapore Youth Chinese Orchestra

Their involvement with the NPOE can be considered as their CCA and their level of attainment will be calculated according to a school-based CCA.

- b) Training with National Sports Associations (NSAs)

Students selected to undergo a sustained programme with a NSA may seek the school principal's permission to be exempted from the school's CCA training sessions. Such programme will need to be endorsed by the principal and monitored by the NSAs through progress reports. Once the training stint with the NSAs ends, students will have to resume training with the school's CCA.

- c) Representation in a competition endorsed by school

**Self-representation or personal participation will not be recognized.**

- d) Service hours that impacts the community