



Odyssey Charter School

1350 Wyoming Drive S.E. • Palm Bay, Florida 32909 • 321-345-4117

SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

"Committed to academic excellence and the education of the whole child"

OUR MISSION FOR EVERY CHILD

The mission of Odyssey Charter School is to work in partnership with the family and community, with the aim of helping each child reach their full potential in all areas of life. We seek to educate the whole child with the understanding that each person must achieve a balance of intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual and social skills as a foundation for life.

CALENDAR

3/23 - Teacher Work Day, no school - FSA Training for all staff
3/26- 5th / 6th Grade Visit (Possible)
4/1- *6th gr ELA Writing - PBT
4/1- *7th gr ELA Writing - CBT
4/2- *9th gr ELA Writing - CBT
4/2- *10th gr ELA Writing - CBT
4/3- *8th gr ELA Writing - CBT
5/1- *Math: 7th grade Session 1 - CBT
5/4- *Math: 7th grade Session 2 - CBT
5/5- *6th ELA Rdg Session 1 - PBT
5/5- *8th ELA Rdg Session 1 - CBT
5/5- AP Human Geography 12pm
5/6- *6th ELA Rdg Session 2 - PBT
5/6- *8th ELA Rdg Session 2 - CBT
5/6- AP Eng Lit 8am
5/7- *7th ELA Rdg Session 1 - PBT
5/7- *7th ELA Rdg Session 1 - CBT
5/7- AP Chemistry 8am
5/8- *7th ELA Rdg Session 2 - PBT
5/8- *7th ELA Rdg Session 2 - CBT
5/8- 11th and 12th grade Prom
5/11- *6th Math Session 1 - PBT
5/11- *8th Math Session 1 - CBT
5/12- *6th Math Session 2 - PBT
5/12- *8th Math Session 2 - CBT
5/12- AP Spanish 8am
5/13- *9th Reading Session 1 - CBT
5/13- *10th Reading Session 1 - CBT
5/14- *9th Reading Session 2 - CBT
5/14- *10th Reading Session 2 - CBT
5/14- *8th Science NGSSS - PBT
5/15- AP Stats 12pm
5/16- Graduation (all staff required to attend)
5/16- 5:00PM - Rescheduled Odyssey 5K
5/18- *Algebra EOC - Session 1 CBT
5/18- *Geometry EOC - Session 1 CBT
5/19- *Algebra EOC - Session 2 CBT
5/19- *Geometry EOC - Session 2 CBT
5/20- *7th Civics EOC
5/21- *Biology EOC - CBT
5/21- *US History EOC - CBT
5/22- 7th period Final Exam
5/26- 6th and 5th period Final Exam
5/27- 4th and 3rd period Final Exam
5/28- 2nd and 1st period Final Exam
5/28- Last Day for Students
6/8 - 7/10 - Tentative Summer School
8/11 - First day of school for 20-21 school year

Message from Dr. Knight, Principal:

Dear Parents,

We are excited about the spring semester and are looking forward to finishing the year strong. Lots of exciting hands-on and engaging opportunities are taking place in classrooms across the school to ensure that all students are highly engaged and focused on their courses. Starting next week, students will be registering for exciting courses for next fall, which include new electives, such as PLTW biomedical engineering, ceramics, robotics, commercial art, and meteorology, as well as several new Advanced Placement and honors courses. In addition to these courses, the number of students participating in dual enrollment/early college continues to grow each semester and we now offer those courses on site. Please watch out for registration and courses selection forms coming home this month. Any questions about any of the following items, please contact the appropriate team member.

- Course selection – Mr. Guevara, Dean of Students/Head Counselor
- Transcript Checks, Tutoring, Course Placement - Ms. Moore, Academic Dean
- Dual enrollment – Ms. Havet, Dual Enrollment Coordinator
- SAT/ACT, College Applications, FASFA – Mr. Viola, College Counselor

As a true college-prep school, we believe that all students will have a need for tutoring and/or additional academic help at some time while at Odyssey. If your student needs additional help, consider having him/her come to before school tutoring (schedule posted in the healthy café) or Success Saturday from 9:00-11:00AM each week. In addition, if your student simply needs to make up an assignment, he/she can stay afterschool in Finish Friday from 3:00-4:00PM to complete any make-up work and/or tests. The Titan Learning Center (TLC) is also open as early as 7:30AM each morning for students that need to work on online or other computer-based assignments like iReady, Study Island, or Algebra Nation. If you need assistance in helping your student with an academic need, please reach out to our Academic Dean, Ms. Moore, and she will set up tutoring and/or intervention/acceleration for your Titan.

In addition to working diligently in our high-quality and rigorous courses, many of our students are also engaged in spring JV and Varsity athletics, like Basketball, Flag Football, Track, and Soccer, new clubs and extra-curricular activities, such as dominoes, eSports, Science Olympiad, Math Team, Interact, our spring musical, and more. Club and extra-curricular activities are posted in the café. If you are interested in getting your student involved in one of these or other activities, please contact Mr. Padilla, Dean of Students.

As you can see, we are excited about the growing opportunities at Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High School. Our programs, like Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Drama, Arts, and Athletics/Wellness can continue to expand as we finish construction on our Wellness and Fine and Performing Arts Centre this summer, as well as our new soccer field and full-high school track. If you have any questions about these growing areas, please reach out to Ms. Varnadoe, our Director of Bands and Electives Department Chair.

Next year, we will have the biggest high school numbers to date with many new Titans joining us in the Fall. We appreciate you sharing your amazing students with us. We are proud to call them family and excited to see them reach their full potential – academically, socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. We are here to support them and your whole family. Please do not hesitate to call me directly with any questions, concerns, and suggestions. Your feedback is very important to us.

#TITANPROUD,
Monica Knight, PhD
Principal

BAND

After a successful fall semester, the Titan Band program is focusing on sound fundamentals, rhythm reading, and intonation. The Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble are working diligently to prepare for the upcoming District Music Performance Assessment where they will perform three pieces for high school and collegiate band directors from around the state. Several students have also been working on individual pieces to perform at the upcoming District Solo & Ensemble event at Viera High School. Be sure to see all of the Titan Band ensembles at the annual Spring Concert at the Melbourne Auditorium on April 21st at 6:30 pm.



CIVICS

In 7th Grade Civics we are currently studying the requirements, process, and benefits of becoming a naturalized citizen. We have invited special guest speakers to talk about their personal experience in immigrating to our country. We will be welcoming Isadora Rangel of Florida Today who will discuss her journey when entering the United States.

We just finished our first community service project of the semester. In February 1st we had 38 students who assisted American Legion Post 117 with a fundraiser for Special Olympics. Our next project is scheduled for April 25th where we will be assisting State Representative Randy Fine with a food distribution for our community.

US HISTORY

In US History, we are working on political ideals from the early Republic period and the development of political parties. We are also supporting various classes whom have FSA, FCAT, and/or EOCs every Wednesday.

MATH

This past unit we have been working on learning about square and cube roots as well as the Pythagorean Theorem. We then went one step further and started using this information to solve real world problems. Have you ever wondered how tall a tree is? Did you ever have to figure out the length of truss or it's slope? Did you ever wonder the distance to a place is as the crow flies? Your student can now do all those things! Here are some pictures of your kids doing a great job!

HOPE

Second semester of HOPE (Health Opportunities through Physical Education) is off to well-paced start as we get ready for our annual Odyssey Charter School 5K run which has been rescheduled for May 16th. You may sign up your family at www.runningzone.com/events/odyssey-5k/



Students have been running twice a week at school, doing both long distance paced runs and faster paced interval training. If you enjoy running this is a great opportunity to compete and if you are not competitive this is a great opportunity to challenge yourself. As far as the classwork is concerned we have transitioned from fitness related content to more health related content. A few helpful reminders to the year strong are to make sure students have proper athletic footwear on our outside days and make sure students bring their own water bottle every day to stay properly hydrated.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish courses are offered for both middle school and high school students from Beginning Spanish in 6th grade up to Spanish 3 Honors in high school. See the reasons that students want to learn and enjoy taking language courses here at Odyssey!

In addition to offering four different Spanish courses, we also provide students with the opportunity to take a language course online in the language lab. Students are able to work at their own pace and learn languages that are not currently offered face-to-face, choosing from French, German, Latin, Sign Language, or Chinese, starting with courses for students new to learning the language through the AP Level. Students work to expand their vocabulary, grammar and knowledge of cultural products and practices from countries around the world, while completing reading, listening, writing and speaking activities in the language, receiving feedback from a Florida-certified and highly qualified instructors.

COMP. SCIENCE III

This quarter, students are exploring Earth and Space Science in preparation of the FCAT. The unit started with the students exploring the solar system using Gizmos, a simulation application software program. We gathered data, calculated the mass (x10, mean radius and density of each planet. We then used that data to classify, analyze and compare the terrestrial planets to the gas giants. Students found it fascinating that Earth travels closer to the sun in January than in July because of its elliptical shaped orbit around the Sun. What makes this interesting is that Earth is colder in the Northern Hemisphere because the Earth is tilted away from the sun as it rotates on its axis. This is because the sun's radiation is concentrating on the Tropic of Capricorn at this time. It's the tilt of the Earth on its axis causes the seasons to differ in temperature.

ELA

Students are preparing themselves for standards mastery and the FSA this quarter through analysis of Holocaust Narratives. With five novels to select from, students are analyzing for theme and parallels. Additionally, students are practicing their higher-level cognitive functions by creating DOK questions (levels 3-6) to use as a discussion starter in their literature circles.

6TH GRADE

6th grade is focused on the Art of Learning HOW to think. We are actively engaged in learning about the 10 major types of logical fallacies and how to apply these methods for thinking, problem solving, and conflict management to historical issues, current events, and relevant social problems the student face. We are using the lessons in an age appropriate book designed for young teens called the Fallacy Detective.

8th Grade US History

8th Grade U.S. History continues to work on a number of academic skills including map reading, note-taking, and critical thinking through the use of multiple methodologies. We continue to strive to develop sound thinking and study skills that will continue to serve the students as they enter their high school years.

9th Grade World History

9th Grade World History classes are working on gaining greater understandings of various historical events and their effects on the people present. Some of these include Valley Forge and the French Revolution including the causes, courses, and consequences of those events. 10th Grade U.S. History and 11th Grade U.S. Government classes continue to work on improving critical thinking skills using course content as the vehicle for these efforts. This skill is reinforced through weekly essays and Socratic seminars. Both of these are designed to cause students to delve deeper into the content in order to create a greater understanding of the forces at work in impacting events and decisions.

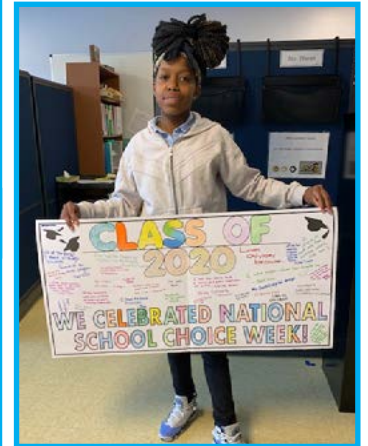
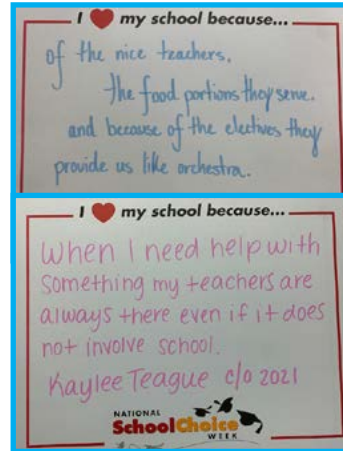
Spelling Bee

Please congratulate winner Julius Pichardo (grade 8) and runner-up Sam McCarter (grade 7) for their outstanding performances at the school wide Spelling Bee! Julius will move on to represent OCS at the District Spelling Bee this month.



School Choice

Students were excited to share their love of Odyssey during our School Choice Week celebrations. We are all thankful to parents for picking Odyssey to educate their students.



American Legion Oratorical Contest

Exciting win by Leah Brent for the American Legion Oratorical Contest. She won the local competition and the regional competition. She will now be representing us at the State competition later this month. GO LEAH!



Class Rings

Do you want a class ring? Check out how awesome they look. For details and other awesome items, go to <https://www.balfour.com/florida/palm-bay/odyssey-charter-jr-sr-high-school>.



Robotics

Our Odyssey One Robotics pulled out some great performances over the past two months. We are so proud of all of the effort put forth by this young team. Looking forward to even more next year with the growth of the Robotics classes and the afterschool Robotics Competition Team.



NHS/NJHS

The National Honor Society is a nationwide organization for high school students in the United States and outlying territories, which consists of many chapters in high schools. Selection is based on four criteria: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Here at Odyssey Charter School, we do service projects like a book drive and we also take part of volunteer opportunities like beach clean ups. Being a member of the National Honor Society shows that you are among the best students in your class, not just in terms of academics but also in terms of leadership, service, and character. It shows a commitment to community service projects and provides you the opportunity to network with like-minded peers.

Honors

Over 200 Titans had a 3.5GPA or above after the first semester. Way to show your TITAN PRIDE in the classroom!



Commercial Art

Our Commercial Art class just finished building our amazing Titan Yearbook. One of our very talented seniors, Tyler Watson, created this gorgeous graphic for the cover. To order your copy just visit balfour.com and select our school. You may also send a check for \$50 addressed to OCS. Don't miss out on the memories!

ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK

\$50 DO IT NOW. HERE'S HOW...

Send check or money order addressed to OCS.
OR Visit balfour.com and select our school.
OR Call 1-800-5930. Major credit cards accepted.

Science Fair

These Titans showed their TITAN PRIDE as they received numerous awards during the Brevard South Science Fair. Check out all the place ribbons! Amazing work by these Titans and their teachers. Special thanks to Sean Stanton for mentoring the younger research scientists, along with their teachers Ms. Harris and Ms. Hoier, and their awesome parents/families!



Mall Art Show

Check out some of the incredible artwork by our Titan Artists at the Student Art Show at the Melbourne Square Mall in February!



Grievance Procedures

- Step 1: Request Teacher conference to clarify issue
- Step 2: Contact Principal if unresolved with the teacher
- Step 3: **Contact Board Designated Parent Representative
- Step 4: Contact the President of the Governing Board
- Step 5: Present issue at the next monthly Board Meeting if unresolved
- Step 6: Seek mediation with the Sponsor

**Ms. Cindy Gilmore has been designated by the OCS Board of Directors as the Representative to Facilitate Parental Involvement, provide access to information, assist parents and others with questions and concerns, and resolve disputes according to charter requirements. Ms. Gilmore can be reached at cgilmore@greenappleschools.com or 321-676-8737.