



Odyssey Charter School

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

SUMMER 2018 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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- August 10-
First day of classes for all students
- August 17- Early Release
- August 24- Early Release
- August 28 - OCS Board Meeting
- August 31- Early Release
- September 3- Labor Day

SCHOOL HOURS

For the 2018-2019 school year, Odyssey Charter Jr. / Sr. High School students will begin the day at 8:55am; the school day will end at 4:08pm. Our early release dismissals will now be every Friday at 2:45pm. To ensure student safety since there is no adult supervision, students are not permitted to enter the school building prior to 8:25am.

Welcome Back from our Principal, Dr. Knight:

Greetings to our Odyssey Charter Jr. / Sr. High School families! We hope you are enjoying your summer time together. As we embark upon another successful school year together, I'd like to share some of our most recent achievements as one of the top performing schools in the state of Florida!

For the 2017-2018 school year, our Odyssey Charter Jr. / Sr. High students equaled or outperformed the state of Florida in every tested subject area required by the Florida Department of Education. In fact, some of our tested subject areas, like Grade 8 Science, Civics, US History, Geometry, Grade 8 ELA and Math, and Grade 10 ELA, outperformed every public, magnet, and charter (public or private) school throughout the entire state of Florida between five to 14-percentile points!

We are very proud of our teachers, faculty, and support staff for their continued efforts and innovative, solutions-oriented mind-set who, collaboratively, provided the climate, culture, and environment necessary to ensure the continued success of our Odyssey Charter Jr. / Sr. High students.

We are excited about the 2018-2019 school year, and we are looking forward to expanding our GATEway (Gifted and Talented) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses, our Career and Technical Education courses, and our electives. We are also delighted to tell everyone that our NEW GYMNASIUM and FINE ARTS building will break ground this fall so we can continue to expand our award-winning Fine Arts programs, like Band, Orchestra, Chorus, and Musical Theatre, as well as enhance our growing athletic program.



I would also like to share that due to the interest in and growth of our school, we are adding several new members to our Odyssey family. Please help us welcome Ms. Janeé Campbell, our new Assistant Principal, Ms. Laurie Young, our new Instructional Coach, Ms. Jessica Nixon, our new Middle School Counselor and Guidance, and Ms. Alicia Cohen, our new Family Engagement Specialist (supporting both Odyssey Jr/Sr High and Odyssey Prep). We will be sharing information about each of them in this and future newsletters.

Congratulations to our First Titan Graduating Class of 2018 (100% Graduation Rate and 100% college acceptance rate); Dr. Knight, Principal and Layla Pineda, 2018 Class President and now a successful member of the US Air Force

School Uniform Policy: 2018-2019 Updates

All Odyssey Charter School students are required to wear a school uniform. Our uniforms can be purchased from our uniform provider:

All Uniform Wear

2585 W. New Haven Ave. (Rte. 192), West Melbourne, FL. 32904
www.alluniformwear.com, (321) 608-3845

* *Discount coupons will be available during Summer Registration at all campuses.*

- All students are required to wear full-length solid colored pants, shorts, skirts or 'skorts'. Inappropriately rolling or altering the pants in any way is in direct violation of the dress code. Shorts, skirts and 'skorts' length must be at least mid-thigh.
- Pants, shorts, skirts and 'skorts' that are too big or too tight, as determined by Administration, are not acceptable and will be deemed in violation of the uniform code.
- Students must wear a collared polo shirt or dress shirt. Student polo's and dress shirts must be a solid color and in accordance with the individual schools' uniform guide below. All shirts must bear the School logo.
- Any attire and/or backpacks with any inappropriate logos or displays are prohibited.
- All hats, scarves, and bandanas are prohibited on school property.
- Shoes must be closed in the back.
- Students who choose to dress out in P.E must wear a School T-Shirt and Shorts. Students must change back to regular attire before leaving class.

Note the following uniform changes for this new school year:

- **If a student chooses or needs to wear a jacket or sweatshirt due to cold weather, it must be solid Black, Blue, or Gray.**
- **SENIOR PRIVILEGE (Class of 2019 only) - Seniors may wear their University/ College of choice sweatshirts over their uniform. All other sweatshirts for all other grade levels should meet the uniform policy.**

Cell Phones

Please remember as we enter the 21st century, school is still an institution for learning and although we are in a technological age the use of cell phones in school is strictly prohibited except when your son / daughter's teacher deems appropriate for specific instructional purposes.



If you have a concern and need to reach your son / daughter, please call the main office and leave a message with the receptionist. It will then be relayed to the appropriate person and your child will receive your message or be pulled from class to call you if deemed serious enough by administration.

Here are few reminders:

- Per School Board Policy, cell phones must be turned off beginning at the first bell in the morning until after the dismissal bell in the afternoon.
- Odyssey Charter Jr. / Sr. High School is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones, nor do we have the resources to investigate if they are lost or stolen.
- The cell phone must be secured and kept out of sight.
- If a student's cell phone is confiscated more than once, only the parent/guardian will be allowed to pick up the phone - Confiscated phones will not be returned to a student.



Summer Registration

Required for All Odyssey Charter School Families

Tuesday, July 10th: 2pm – 7pm
Thursday, July 12th: 12pm – 6pm

Please be prepared to complete the following for your student(s):

- Lunch Application
 - Bus Assignment & Authorization to Ride
 - Elementary Students: Teacher Assignments
 - Final Schedules for Junior/Senior High Students
 - Before and After-Care Registration
 - Health Card
 - All 'Dress for Success', school conduct, cell phone, technology, & bus behavior agreements
 - Student fees - **Check or money order only... Cash will not be accepted**
Grades 6 - 12: \$20.00 (Fee Includes: \$10.00 Technology Fee; \$5.00 Student Agenda; \$5.00 Science Lab fee) Optional Jump drive \$10 (New students and replacements)
- ** *Additional fees will be included in course-specific syllabus as each teacher deems necessary*

The following documents must be provided in order to successfully complete the registration process for the 2018-2019 school year, which begins August 10, 2018:

- Birth certificate (All new students)
- Current immunization form (Grades: 6,7,9, & all new students)
- Current Physical Exam (Grades: 6,7,9, & all new students)
- IEPs, EPs, Behavioral Plans, 504 Plans (All new students - as applicable)

Sign up for orchestra, marching band, chorus, and/or musical theatre during registration.



Welcome to our NEW Assistant Principal, Ms. Janeé Campbell

Ms. Campbell brings 25 years of educational experience to our OCS Jr./ Sr. Team. Ms. Campbell began her career as an English, Reading, and Drama teacher. After 15 years, she transitioned to Guidance Services and Test Coordination. Using these talents and knowledge of the educational field, Ms. Campbell chose to work as an Assistant Principal of Curriculum & Instruction for the previous seven years. Ms. Campbell has not only been a leader in education for Brevard county for 21 years, but she has raised her children here as well. Ms. Campbell shared that she is a servant leader; active listener; accessible; an effective communicator; and is intuitively equipped to positively diffuse



difficult situations because of her ability to counsel and comfort. She is passionate about meeting the needs of others and takes a genuine approach to every individual creating a supportive, and respectful environment where everyone has the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. Aligned with the philosophy of Odyssey, Ms. Campbell says that she too believes her life's purpose is to make connections with others; "I look forward to meeting our OCS Jr./ Sr. families, students, and fellow educators as we press forward together to keep Odyssey the highest performing charter school - not only in Brevard county, and not only in Florida - but in the United States."

Welcome to our NEW Instructional Coach, Ms. Laurie Young

After graduation from the University of Florida with M.Ed. in 1988, Ms. Laurie Young returned home to work in Indian River County School District where she recently retired after thirty years of service most recently Secondary Literacy Specialist for the district. While at the district office, she had the opportunity to become a University of Florida, Lastinger Center Certified Instructional Coach. She worked closely with educators at District schools to increase teacher capacity, facilitate collaboration and develop highly effective instructional practices. At Odyssey, she looks forward to continuing that work as part of a team where the whole student is the focus of the mission. Welcome to our new instructional coach and also Green Apple School Management Curriculum Coordinator, Ms. Laurie Young.



Welcome to our New Family Engagement Specialist, Mrs. Alicia Cohen

We are pleased to announce Alicia Cohen as our new Family Engagement Specialist. Mrs. Cohen has been with OPA for the past 6 years. We are excited to have her working in partnership with all our families to come up with new and exciting ways to get families involved at the Wyoming campus through parent/family events, parent conferences, volunteer recruitment, and student mentoring programs.



Senior Expectations

Now is the time to prepare for one of the biggest stepping stones in your young life; more than a year of planning goes into high school graduation, and seniors need to line up their responsibilities.

- Apply for scholarships every week
- Work on college application components
- Plan family college visits for individualized tours
- Review transcripts, know your GPA and class standing

For a more detailed list of what to prepare for, go to MyPath101.com to help navigate to college and beyond.

Bus Transportation

Odyssey Charter Schools provides bus transportation to students who live between two and four miles from the school - more miles might be allotted as per established bus routes. A bus slip must be completed for families who wish to sign up for bus services. Bus assignments will be available during summer registration. Each student is allowed one designated bus stop. Changes to assigned routes or bus transportation needs will not be permitted until a new registration form is completed by a parent/guardian with proper ID.

World Languages

Odyssey Titans can now take Spanish, Latin, and French face-to-face with our growing World Languages department. Online foreign language offerings, such as Mandarin Chinese, German, and Japanese are also available through our virtual lab and Sign Language and other offerings are available through dusk enrollment. Odyssey expects all students to completed 3 years of world languages before graduation.



Athletics

Prospective / Tentative (based on interest) Sports for next year are as follows:

- HS Girls/Boys Cross Country (FHSAA)
- HS Girls/Boys Bowling (FHSAA)
- MS Volleyball
- HS Volleyball (JV)
- MS Coed Soccer
- Winter- 2019
 - MS Boys Basketball
 - HS Boys Basketball (FHSAA)
 - MS Girls Basketball
 - HS Girls Basketball (JV)
 - HS Boys Soccer (V)
- Spring- 2019
 - HS Track/Field (FHSAA)

* If your student is planning on participating in an FHSAA (High School) sport, you will need to complete all necessary paperwork before the season starts. We recommend taking care of this by August 1st; all paperwork / sports exams are valid for one calendar year. The required forms and additional information is located at: www.FHSAA.org - For Parents and Students- Forms- EL2-EL3- and for all 'new transfer students', form: GA4.



Summer Readings

All Odyssey Charter School students are required to read the English Language Arts, grade-specific novel(s). The list was given to students before the end of the school year and is also available on our website: www.odysseycharter-school.com. Students in grades 7-12, who wish to check-out their novels, can do so throughout the summer with Ms. Thompson in our front office. Students can expect assignments related to the specific summer novel when they begin the 2018-2019 school year.

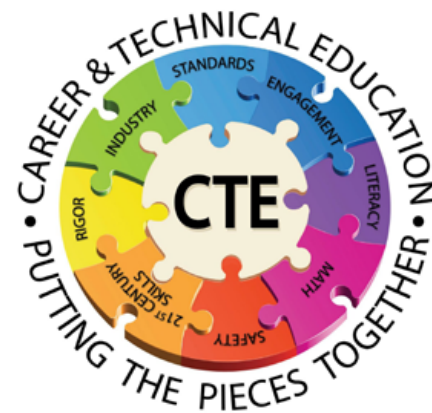
Grievance Procedures

- 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.

Expanding: Career Technical Education (CTE) and STEAM

One of our goals for the 2018-2019 school year is to cultivate and expand our CTE and STEAM-based programs at Odyssey Charter Jr./ Sr. High School. Dr. Harrison will be leading the curricula development teams and working with the district and state to ensure our students enrolled in specific programs have the opportunity to test for industry certification. In addition to our established Engineering and Coding programs, we've recently added the following courses and certifications: Adobe Photoshop; Adobe InDesign; Microsoft Office; and MTA (Microsoft Technology Associate) program.



Supply Lists

Middle school students (grades 6-8) can find their supply lists at area Wal-Mart and Target stores, as well as on our Odyssey Charter Schools' Jr./ Sr. High Campus website link, Facebook, or at the front desk.

All OCS high school students (grades 9-12) will receive their teacher-specific supply requirements when they are provided each course's syllabus during the first day of school, August 10, 2018.

Wellness

- We believe a student's ability to learn effectively and achieve high standards in school is directly related to dietary choices.
- Pre-packaged, highly processed foods that are often low in nutrients, high in sugar, unhealthy fats, salts, preservatives, and artificial ingredients are not allowed.
- We believe that fresh, seasonal, local, sustainably grown foods are a primary and recommended source of nutrition for growing, high-achieving children and we offer these FREE daily in our healthy café at breakfast and lunch times. **YES, WE SAID FREE. This year, Odyssey Charter Jr/ Sr High students all qualify for free breakfast and lunch. So please help your child take advantage of our great food. We believe it enhances our students' academic and behavioral development.**

Robotics Team

Congratulations to our Summer Zero Robotics Team, led by Ms. Nikki Hoier, that were congratulated by NASA/MIT staff for their excellent academic abilities, attitudes and efforts that resulted in another year of successful ranking in the summer league for the Titans.

