



Odyssey Charter School

OCS Elementary Campus
1755 Eldron Blvd. S.E. • Palm Bay, Florida 32909 • 321-733-0442

NOV / DEC 2017 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.

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SCHOOL-BASED LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ms. Constance Ortiz,
Founder

Ms. Wendi Nolder,
Site Administrator

Mr. Mike Davis,
Dean of Students & Bus Transportation

Ms. DeAnna Bernardo,
Instructional Coach

Ms. Suzette Jewell,
Instructional Coach

Ms. Deb Munoz,
Teacher Liaison

Ms. Janine Frahm,
PT Guidance Counselor

Ms. Kathy Cicala,
Office Manager, Elementary

Ms. Amy White,
**Director, Preschool/VPK and
Before & After School Care**

A Message from our Principal - Ms. Nolder

Dear Titan Families and Community,

As principal of Odyssey Charter School – Elementary campus, I am happy to welcome everyone back as we settle in for a great school year. We are excited to get back into our learning routines and happy to have our hallways filled with our students' energy and enthusiasm for learning. It is our mission to help each child reach full potential in all areas – intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual, and social – and we are pleased to partner with you to meet our goals.

Odyssey is proud to have great teachers who spend hours planning and creating challenging and engaging classroom activities to inspire our students to learn. Our teachers analyze student data, utilize research-based best teaching practices and deliver content-rich curriculum to ensure each child is meeting their grade level and individual goals.

We believe that school culture is an important part of a child's education, enabling them to be part of the classroom and school communities, while also helping them develop important qualities such as empathy, drive, perseverance, problem-solving, critical-thinking, care, curiosity, and compassion for others.

We hope that you will find our website helpful and informative. In addition, we send many communications via Blackboard email/phone call. If you have not received any, please contact the front office so that we can be sure to have your updated contact information. Important events are calendared on our Google calendar on our website. We also communicate via Facebook and Remind.

It is an honor to serve our school community as school leader of Odyssey Charter School – Elementary campus. I feel privileged to partner with our school community of families, teachers and students as we strive to build positive relationships supporting our mission for children. Please feel free to contact me at 321-733-0442 or at nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com.

Let's make it another great year for the Titans!

Sincerely,

Wendi Nolder
Site Administrator
Odyssey Charter School – Elementary campus



FALL 2017 CALENDAR

NOVEMBER:

11/1	Early Release Day
11/3	Jump Rope for Heart Ends
11/6	2nd and 3rd grade Harvest Luncheon
11/8	Early Release Day
11/9	4th Grade Wax Museum (evening event)
11/9	Veterans Day Breakfast
11/10	Veterans Day Holiday - NO SCHOOL
11/14	Title I Math Night
11/15	Early Release Day
11/15	Board Meeting @ 5:15pm (Elementary)
11/16	Open Mic Night/Talent Show
11/22	Holiday- NO SCHOOL
11/23	Holiday- NO SCHOOL
11/24	Holiday- NO SCHOOL
11/28	Parents As Partners (PasP) Parent Organization meeting @ 6:30 pm (Eldron cafe)
11/29	Early Release Day

DECEMBER:

12/4	Barnes and Noble Book Fair Night
12/6	Early Release Day
12/13	Early Release Day
12/14	Winter Music Program
12/19	Early Release - Exam Day
12/20	Early Release - Exam Day
12/21	Early Release - Exam Day
12/22 -1/5	Holiday NO SCHOOL

JANUARY:

1/8	Students return
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GATEway – Gifted and Talented Education



Project Lead The Way (PLTW)

Every student has talents. Our academically-highly-capable students with excellent work habits have been recommended by their teachers to attend GATEway once a week classes. They are the talented of Gifted and Talented Education (GATE), and they work alongside gifted students with above-average reasoning-intelligence testing results.

Guided by Ms. Jafrate, our GATEway scholars will utilize Junior Great Books and through shared inquiry discussions of enduring literature, they will explore essential ideas in literature, past and present, while learning to think critically. Scholars will actively participate in social and civic engagement through discussion of contemporary and perennial world issues, while becoming more knowledgeable, reflective and engaged citizens. You can learn more at <http://www.greatbooks.org/about/>.

In GATEway, students also will be introduced to Project Lead The Way (PLTW). PLTW is the nation's leading science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) solution in over 8,000 schools across the United States. Project Lead The Way's success is through engaging the hearts and minds of students with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education. Independent research studies reveal that PLTW students outperform their peers in school, are better prepared for post-secondary studies, and are more likely to consider careers as scientists, technology experts, engineers, mathematicians, healthcare providers, and researchers compared to their non-PLTW peers. For more information please visit the link - <https://www.pltw.org/>. In Project Lead the Way (PLTW), we're using the scientific process tweaked for engineering (design process) to work through scaffolded lessons in small teams. Collaboration is a challenging part of PLTW lessons, but mimics authentic professional activity, as does the design process steps. This grading period our PLTW projects introduce us to:

- 1st – animated storytelling using technology
- 2nd – technology used for conveying information
- 3rd -- understanding programming
- 4th – understanding computers and their inputs and outputs
- 5th – understanding robotics and animation

For more information of GATEway please contact Mr. Davis at 321-733-0442

From the Desk our Dean of Students – Mr. Davis

Part of our mission at Odyssey Charter School is to educate the whole child in all areas of life. To assist in helping our students become life-long learners we use positive discipline in all of our classrooms. Positive Discipline is a program designed to teach young people to become responsible, respectful and resourceful members of their communities. Our teachers use regular classroom meeting to assist all of our students with conflict resolution and developing problem-solving skills. Students also learn how to give genuine compliments and appreciations to members of their classroom communities. Positive Discipline is an important part of the development of our classroom and school cultures of respect and learning.



Looking forward to a terrific year,

Mr. Davis
Dean of Students

Curriculum Spotlight – Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA)

Here is a snapshot of some of the exciting and enriching literature your student will be reading this year from the Core Knowledge Curriculum:

- Kindergarten – Nursery Rhymes and Fables (Jack and Jill; Little Miss Muffet; Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, The Lion and the Mouse); The Five Senses; Important People in American History (Native Americans, Columbus and Pilgrims)
- 1st grade – Fables & Stories (The Goose and the Golden Egg, The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing, The Tale of Peter Rabbit); The Human Body – Skeletal system, Muscular system, Digestive system, Circulatory system
- 2nd grade – Fairy Tales & Tall Tales (The Emperor's New Clothes, Paul Bunyon, Pecos Bill, Beauty and the Beast); Westward Expansion; Immigration
- 3rd grade – The Wind in the Willows; Classification of Animals; The Human Body – Systems and Senses
- 4th grade – Treasure Island; Geology
- 5th grade – The Adventures of Don Quixote; Famous Inventors

Core Knowledge teaches skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking while building our scholars' knowledge and vocabulary in literature, history, geography and science. Scholars are able to read and/or listen to rich, high-quality, complex texts including literature, history, geography and science, helping children develop language and background knowledge.



How is SPART (Spanish and Art) class taught at OCS?

At Odyssey Lower campus, students are learning both Spanish and Art in the same class time, once or twice each week. Most of the classes are learning level 1 Basic Spanish Vocabulary while other classes are in Basic Level 2 Spanish. Our Goal is that SPART class allows students to apply Spanish in the Arts. Our goal is to teach our students both English and Spanish vocabulary which will broaden their vocabulary in Spanish and in Art.

Tardy Policy

Elementary students are expected to be in their seats and ready to learn by 8:00 AM. If you arrive at 8:00 or later, parents must park and walk their child into the office, sign them in, and have a tardy slip issued for admittance to class. Parents, please do not park in the fire lane – this is a safety concern. We thank you for making the effort to have your students to class on time each and every day.

Early Check-out for Students

Parents, we are asking that if you need to check out your elementary student early, that you do so by 2pm on regular days and 12:45pm on early release. It can become a dismissal safety concern when students are checked out too close to the dismissal time. Students may be checked out of school by their parent or legal guardian. If you are checking your student out, please present your valid state-issued photo identification at our front office. Please remember that we do not take dismissal changes over the phone. All changes made to your child's normal means of transportation home are required in writing. We would also like to encourage you to make appointments for your child outside of our school hours in order to maximize your child's learning time and minimize classroom disruptions for all students. We thank you for your partnership!

School Public Accountability Report

The 2015-2016 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) School Public Accountability Reports (SPARs) are now available for Odyssey Charter School. It is available on our website and hard copies can be provided at your convenience. Please contact the front office of your child's school to obtain one. Translation of the SPAR is also available upon request. The SPARs meet ESEA's requirement for school to provide parents with an annual school status report at the beginning of each school year. The Odyssey SPAR will be posted on the school's website at <http://www.odysseycharterschool.com/reports.html>.

Student Medication

Any student requiring medication should have it checked into the front office by a parent or legal guardian. Students may not bring medication to school at any time. If a student requires an asthma inhaler or epi-pen on his/her person, the inhaler or epi-pen must be checked in through the office and must be accompanied by a doctor prescription stating the child must carry it with them at all times. Please also notify school administration of any medical conditions your child might have that you believe we should be aware of.

Head Lice

Head Lice are insects found on heads of people. Head lice live only on humans. They live on the hairs of the head especially behind the ears and back of the head. They cannot fly or jump but only crawl. Head lice are not a health hazard. They do not spread disease. Head lice move from one person's head to another in the following ways: head to head contact, sharing hair brushes, combs, hats, towels, clothing or bedding with someone who has lice.

To avoid head lice from spreading, teach children not to touch or play with each other's hair. They should also not share combs, brushes, pillows, hats, towels, coats or other clothing. Following these simple rules will greatly reduce the spread of head lice.

Head lice are treatable. Various shampoos are available over the counter without a doctor's order. **Directions need to be followed according to the individual product.** Combs and hairbrushes should be soaked in hot water for five minutes or washed with lice shampoo. Disinfecting furniture and insecticide sprays are not necessary or recommended.

For more information, visit: www.cdc.gov

Safety First at Arrival & Dismissal

School Hours and Car Loop Reminders

The school's car loop certainly has its limitations and we thank you for your patience and support during arrival and dismissal. Our school hours are from 8:00 a.m. until 2:50 p.m. each day (2:35 p.m. for our Kindergarten and 1st graders without older siblings). On Early Release Wednesdays, Elementary students are released at 1:30 p.m. (1:15 p.m. for our Kindergarten and 1st graders without older siblings). We appreciate your willingness to share the space with other parents as you travel and merge through the loop. Please continue to exercise caution and safety during arrival and dismissal. Our children are counting on you! Remember to follow these tips to keep traffic flowing and students safe in our car loop:

- Be sure to honor the 5mph posted speed limit
- Refrain from using cell phones – we need everyone's attention fully on our staff and students
- Always display your car loop pick-up sign in your window until your child is in your vehicle
- Remember, when turning onto Eldron, RIGHT turns ONLY during arrival and dismissal times
- Reserve disabled parking for vehicles with disabled parking permits
- Always drop off children at the designated orange cones – nowhere else in the car loop area
- Do not drop off on Eldron – this is unsafe!

The car loop is the safest and most efficient way to drop off and pick up your child. During our busiest times, it takes just about 6 minutes from the driveway entrance to the driveway exit during the car loop. The car loop is least busy in the morning from 7:35-7:45 and in the afternoon from 3:00-3:10. Students can be dropped off beginning at 7:30am for a healthy breakfast in the cafe.

Parents – Have you started earning your volunteer hours yet?

All of our parents are valued members of our volunteer team and are key stakeholders in their children's success at school. Please make sure you are planning how to fulfill your volunteer requirement of 18-25 hours for the school year. Opportunities for volunteering are sent out in our newsletters and through the We are happy to help you find volunteer opportunities that best align with your availability. If your classroom teacher has a volunteer opportunity for you, please make sure you make arrangements to check in with Mr. Davis. We will track your hours and ensure all safety/screening requirements have been met if you will be chaperoning or helping on campus. Stop in and say hello – you can find us in the front office at 321-733-0442 x103 or email: davism@odysseycharterschool.com. Join us at our first Parents as Partners (PasP) parent organization meeting on Tuesday, 11/28, at 6:30pm to learn how you can support your child and our school while earning the required volunteer hours!

Volunteer System - Raptor

All volunteers must complete the volunteer application process and go through a background screening prior to starting any volunteer activity at OCS. As a potential volunteer, you will be asked to provide the information necessary to perform a background check. You may not be on campus as a volunteer until your background check has been completed and you have been approved as a volunteer. OCS is participating in the district-wide Volunteer and Visitor check in system to add additional security to our campuses. The system, called Raptor, scans state-issued photo licenses and ID cards, required for admittance to the building past the front office.

Steps to Becoming a Volunteer

- 1) Please go to the Brevard County Schools web Page: http://www.edline.net/pages/Brevard_County_Schools/
- 2) Click the Parents & Students heading.
- 3) Scroll down to Volunteer Information (Please use Internet Explorer; Google Chrome is not compatible).
- 4) Complete the Pre-Application.
- 5) Level A: payment and Raptor Application are on the same link.
- 6) Level A+: complete Raptor Application first, then return to the same page and make payment.
- 7) Level A+: after completing Pre-Application and Raptor Application payment, please visit: District and School Security
2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Viera, FL 32940
Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- 8) Please wait five days after being fingerprinted to contact Alyssa Sferrazza for status or any volunteer related questions.

Read Aloud Program – for Volunteer Hours

The Read Aloud program is a wonderful way for parents to fulfill their volunteer hours while supporting their students academically, socially, and emotionally. In 1983, the U.S. Department of Education report "Becoming a Nation of Readers" found that, "the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children."

To participate in the Read Aloud program, parents should spend at least 15 minutes reading aloud to their child each day. In order to maximize your child's benefit, select a book that is two grades above their independent reading level. This means that if they independently read at level ___ then you should read them a book at level __ (2 levels above). In order to receive volunteer hours for your involvement in the Read Aloud Program, simply complete the Read Aloud log provided by your classroom teacher or through the front office. You can turn in the log at the end of each month to your classroom teacher or to the front office. Ms. Alyssa Sferrazza will be recording the hours.

For more information about the importance of reading aloud to your child, please visit Jim Trelease's web site at: <http://www.trelease-on-reading.com/>



Volunteer Opportunities

Café/Lunch Room Monitor

- We are looking for a motivated group of A+ volunteers that can come consistently on a weekly basis to help with café/ lunch monitoring.
- Duties include: monitoring students, assisting with opening milk for younger students, providing reminders to sit on their bottoms, reminding to use quiet voices and have quiet conversations, reminding them to collect their trash and get ready for clean up at the appropriate time –times are posted on the doors for each class end time
- This will help provide our teachers a duty free lunch.

Classroom Volunteer (Copies and Organization)

- 1st Grade
- Thompson/Marsh needs help with making copies of addition and subtraction timed test and set up files for them.
- Approximately three hours of work, maybe more.
- During a school day would be best.

Deliver Educational Materials to Classrooms

- Volunteers would need to be able to lift and move boxes to organize materials.
- Deliver sets of workbooks to teachers in their classrooms.

Kindergarten Reading Buddy

- Ms. Strom's Kindergarten class is looking for a volunteer who can read with higher level readers.

Donations

- Odyssey families can receive one volunteer hour for every \$20 donation. This includes any \$20 purchase for an event or on items sent to the child's classroom after the first of the year. To receive volunteer hour credit, receipts must be turned in to the Volunteer Coordinator. *This does not include the original classroom supplies at the beginning of the school year.
- Current needs: 1. One dozen empty tennis ball cans

Volunteering Benefits Our Children

When parents get involved in their children's education, it pays off. Research shows that children whose parents are actively involved are more likely to:

- Earn higher grades and test scores
- Enroll in higher-level programs
- Adapt well to school
- Attend school regularly
- Have better social skills
- Show improved behavior
- Graduate and go to college

Parent Resources

Check out the newly launched Parents for Healthy Kids website! This resource is offered through Brevard Public Schools with the goal of educating and empowering parents to be a part of creating healthier schools. The site shows parents how to reinforce healthy habits at home and provides an online platform for sharing personal stories. Check it out with this link: <https://parentsforhealthykids.org/>

5517.01 Policy Against Bullying and Harassment

Odyssey Charter School follows the Brevard Public Schools Student Code of Conduct. In response to state law the "Jeffery Johnson Stand Up for all Students Act", the Brevard County School Board adopted a policy that prohibits bullying and harassment.

The policy defines harassment as any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or employee that: Places a student or employee in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

Odyssey is committed to providing a safe learning environment and will not tolerate bullying or harassment of any kind. Incidents of bullying or harassment can be reported to:

- Elementary Campus Site Administrator: Mrs. Nolder, nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com, 321-733-0112
- Jr/Sr High Campus Site Administrator: Dr. Knight, knightm@odysseycharterschool.com, 321-345-4117
- Anonymous Reports: Speak-out hotline, 1-800-423-8477
- Bullying Report Form: <http://www.brevard.k12.fl.us/forms/pdf/BullyingWitnessReportFormElementary.pdf>

To learn more about bullying and find out what adults can do to help prevent it visit: www.stopbullying.gov/bullying

Fundraising

Do you shop at Target or Amazon? Well did you know that you can help raise money for Odyssey Charter School when you make purchases at either of these places.



If you shop on Amazon, please consider using AmazonSmile and selecting Odyssey Charter School as your charitable organization. Just by doing your regular shopping - same products, same prices, same service - a portion of your purchase will be donated to the school!
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3579304>



Target's Take Charge of Education (need to be a holder of a Target REDcard credit card)

Go online to Target.com/TCOE

Sign me up, look up our school ID # 113492 and select enroll

Next enter your name and REDcard number. That's it!

Now, for every purchase you make at Target using your REDcard 1% will be donated to Odyssey Charter School.

Casual Dress Days

Casual dress days are on the last Friday of each month. Students are welcome to dress out of uniform but must follow the Brevard County Dress Code outlined in the Brevard County Student Handbook. A copy of the handbook can be found on our website www.odysseycharterschool.com. Dress down days for Elementary students for the first semester are: August 25, September 29, October 27, November 17, and December 15.

Birthday Policy

Odyssey's Birthday Celebration Policy is solely focused on the essence and uniqueness of each child. At school, birthdays are not celebrated with cake or food. Birthday recognition and any related activities are at the discretion of each teacher. Social and personal growth is encouraged via the sharing of student life histories/timelines, favorite books and/or hobbies, or a special nature walk/outdoor activity. For more information on the school's Wellness Policy or Birthday Policy, please visit our website at www.odysseycharterschool.com.



Substitute Teachers Wanted

for Elementary and Secondary -- We Need You!

If you are yearning to make a difference in children's lives and are looking for a part-time job working during your child's school hours, look no further. Odyssey needs you! Won't you please take a moment to apply to become an Odyssey substitute by contacting Ms. Barbara Marcus at (321) 733-0442. All substitutes must undergo and pass the Brevard County Fingerprinting and Background Checks.

Do you have a Special Skill or Expertise Area?

We are looking for parents, grandparents, and community members with special skills to help us enhance our learning community. If you are a photographer, speaker of another language, artist, gardener, musician, scientist, cook, elected official, or if you have some other special skill or talent that you can share with our students, please email: sferrazaa@odysseycharterschool.com.

OCS Inc. Board of Directors Meetings

Parents and staff are welcome to attend Odyssey's Board of Directors meetings. The next OCS Board meeting will be held on November 15 at 5:15pm. To attend, please come to the Eldron campus media center.

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.