



SUMMER NEWS - 2017

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

ODYSSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS: THE MISSION

The mission of Odyssey Charter Schools 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

- July 20 & 22 - Registration
- August 10- First day of classes for all students
- August 16- Early Release
- August 23- Early Release
- August 28 - OCS Board Meeting
- August 30- Early Release
- September 4- Labor Day



Summer Registration

Required for All Odyssey Charter School Families

Thursday July 20, 2017: 12pm to 7pm
Saturday July 22, 2017: 10am to 2pm

Odyssey Families who did not purchase a 2017-2018 yearbook will have the chance during July 2017 Registration for \$25!

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

- Lunch Application
- Bus Assignment & Authorization to Ride
- Final Schedules for Junior/Senior High Students
- Before and After-Care Registration
- Health Card
- Student fees (check or money order only... NO CASH)
- All 'Dress for Success', school conduct, cell phone, technology, and bus behavior agreements

The following documents must be provided in order to successfully complete the registration process for the 2017-2018 school year beginning August 10, 2017:

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

School Fees

Grade 6: \$20.00 (Includes \$10.00 Technology, \$5.00 Planner, and \$5.00 Science Laboratory Fees)
Grades 7-12*: \$30.00 (Includes \$10.00 Technology, \$5.00 Planner, \$5.00 Science Laboratory Fees, and \$10.00 Flash-drive)

*NOTE: Senior fees for graduation, college testing, etc., are not included in the costs listed above

School Hours

For the 2017-2018 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 continue to be every Wednesday at 2:45pm. Because there will be no adult supervision, students will NOT be permitted to enter the school building prior to 8:25am.

Change to School Uniform Policy

All Odyssey Charter School students are required to wear a school uniform. Our uniforms can be purchased through 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.

PLEASE NOTE: Change of location for all rising 6th Graders and Uniform information: All 6th grade students will now be educated on the Wyoming Jr./Sr. High Campus. Rising 6th grade students who are transitioning to the Jr./Sr. campus, may wear their green or white OCS uniform shirt or a blue Jr./Sr. shirt for the duration of the upcoming school year.

'Dress for Success' Guidelines: Students can choose from a green or white Odyssey t-shirt, polo, or dry-fit shirt, along with black or khaki bottoms.

- All students are required to wear khaki or black 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.
- Belts must be visibly worn at all times. These belts must be black or brown and fastened securely at waist level. Pants must be worn at waist level. Loosely worn and lowly worn pants are not acceptable.
- Students must wear a collared polo shirt or t-shirt. Student polo's and t-shirts must be solid green or white. 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.
- If a student chooses or needs to wear a jacket or sweatshirt due to cold weather, it must be a solid color and in accordance with the individual schools' uniform guide.
- Students who choose to dress out in P.E. must wear a School T-Shirt and Shorts. Students must change back to uniform attire before leaving class.

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.

Wellness

- We believe a student's ability to learn effectively and achieve high standards in school is directly related to dietary choices
- Whereas, fresh, seasonal, local, sustainably grown foods are a primary and recommended source of nutrition for growing, high-achieving children
- Pre-packaged, highly processed foods that are often low in nutrients, high in sugar, unhealthy fats, salts, preservatives, and artificial ingredients are prohibited on our campus and may be confiscated if deemed unhealthy by Administration

Supply Lists

Students will receive a syllabus for each subject, which will include the teacher-specified supply list, during our August 9, 2017: Open House, and the first day of school for students, August 10, 2017.

Senior Expectations

We welcome our first full graduating class of 2018! 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.

- Take the SAT and/or ACT early in Fall
- 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.

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.odysseycharterschool.com. Students can expect assignments related to the specific summer novel when they begin the 2017-2018 school year.

Digital Citizens and Media Literacy

A growing focus in English language arts is the importance of media literacy in this era of digital citizenship. Our students need to know truth from fiction not only in their Google searches, but in their social media posts as well. At least 25% of online readers do not bother to fact-check, they are quick to 'share' for entertainment value if not for misunderstanding the false nature of the text.

We teach our students to look at things with a critical perspective. Task, purpose, and audience are vital to interpreting the message correctly. From Tweets to ads, from 'news' posts to editorial cartoons or photos, students become critical thinkers when they ask questions about what they read and view. Because of the proliferation of instant messages at their fingertips, students are bombarded with serious issues of racism, sexism, and xenophobia on top of teen issues like bullying and peer pressure. By looking beyond the who, what, when, and where - the most easily identifiable in texts - we analyze why and how the piece was written. We find bias, political motivation, and persuasion all attempting to sway our ideas. Our students learn to be thoughtful readers but more importantly critical thinkers who can develop their own educated opinions and provide intelligent insight through discussion.

Athletics

Last year was another great year for OCS Jr/Sr Athletics. We won State Runner-Up in Boys Varsity Soccer and are now a full member school of FHSAA in multiple sports. Prospective / Tentative (based on interest) Sports for next year are as follows:

Fall- 2017: MS Boys Flag Football, HS Girls/Boys Cross Country (FH-SAA), HS Girls/Boys Bowling (FHSAA), MS Volleyball, HS Volleyball (JV)

Winter- 2018: (MS Boys Basketball, HS Boys Basketball (FHSAA), MS Girls Basketball, HS Girls Basketball (JV)

Spring- 2018: MS Boys Soccer, HS Boys Soccer, HS Track/Field (FH-SAA), HS Girls Soccer (JV)

* 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.

Bus Transportation

Odyssey Charter Schools provide 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.

Grievance Procedures

Step 1: Request Teacher conference to clarify issue **Step 2:** Contact the Site Administrator 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

** 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, will be determined by the OCS Board of Directors at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.