

Odyssey Charter School



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2014

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

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

OCS Jr. / Sr. High Campus: 1350 Wyoming Drive
S.E. Palm Bay, Florida 32909 • 321-345-4117

Visit our website at www.odysseycharterschool.com

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.

Summer Greetings from our Founder & Head of Schools ~ Ms. Constance

Dear Odyssey Family, We hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer and welcome you to the 2014-2015 school year--another year of growth and learning for our students. Our leadership team has spent the summer working like busy bees and much has been accomplished through focused teamwork. We have enhanced our school kitchen on the Wyoming Campus to be able to offer more diverse food options. We have improved our science labs with additional science equipment. We have added the Core Knowledge Language Arts program to enhance our Kindergarten through 5th grade classrooms as we continue our aim for students to master the skills of the Common Core State Standards. We have added a full time gifted teacher to focus solely on the needs of our gifted and talented, as well as a full-time ESE coordinator, to build both our ESE and ESOL team of educators. Our teachers will receive eight full days of professional development during pre-planning to enhance our teaching techniques as we continue to grow as educational professionals serving your child. Over the last several years, Odyssey has doubled in size. As our school struggled with growing pains, we formed a leadership team with the purpose of utilizing each leader's strengths for the benefit of our students and added stability for our expanding school. You will hear more about this team and their specific duties during the early part of the school year.

Our mission has remained true as we care about each child entrusted to us and as we strive to provide programs that meet their many diverse and holistic needs. Through our mission for children, we strive to help our children grow in empathy to not only care for themselves and others, but to care for the well being of their community and Earth. Through rich academic programs and a holistic emphasis where children are encouraged to develop their full potential, we seek to help children develop their full academic talent as well as become healthy, future leaders. Every child is as unique and as individual as a snowflake—designed with intricate beauty and care. Our team thanks you for entrusting your precious children to us. We look forward to your volunteer support and meeting with you throughout the year as we work together for their benefit. On behalf of all of our faculty and staff, we welcome you back!

Upcoming Events

July 28 – 9:00 am-2:00 pm OCS Elementary Registration
July 29 – 5:00 pm-7:30 pm OCS Elementary Registration
July 31 – 5:00 pm-7:30 pm OCS Jr/Sr Evening Registration
August 1 – 9:00 am-2:00 pm OCS Jr/Sr Registration
August 18 – 20 – Kindergarten Appointments
August 18 – School begins (1st-6th Grade Students)
August 21 – First Day of School for Kindergarten Students
August 27 – Early Release Day
September 1 – Labor Day/Holiday for All
September 10 – Early Release/Prof. Development Day

School Hours

Elementary Campus

1755 Eldron Blvd. SE
Palm Bay, FL 32909
321-733-0442
School Hours: 8 AM - 3:00 PM
Office Hours: 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Junior/Senior High Campus

1350 Wyoming Dr. SE
Palm Bay, FL 32909
321-345-4117
School Hours: 9 AM - 4:10 PM
Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:

Upper & Lower Campus
Monday through Friday, 9 AM - 1 PM

OFFICE HOURS: (Beginning August 5th)

Lower Campus (K-6th) – 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Upper Campus (6th -9th) – 7:45 AM - 4:30 PM

Student School Supply Lists are available for K - 9th grade students from your campus front office or on our website.



School Calendar



Please remember that Odyssey Charter School follows the Brevard County School calendar. To see the full Odyssey calendar, go to www.odysseycharterschool.com/calendar.

Students will report to their first day of school on Monday, August 18, 2014.

Bus Transportation

If needed and requested, free bus transportation is provided to children who live 2 to 4 miles from the school or more as defined by established bus routes. A bus slip must be completed for families who wish to sign up for bus service. Bus slips will be available at registration.

Summer Registration

Annual registration is mandatory for new and returning students.

Elementary Campus

Day Registration: Monday July 28 (9AM -2 PM)

Evening Registration: Tuesday, July 29 (5PM-7:30 PM)

Junior/Senior High Campus

Evening Registration: Thursday, July 31 (5PM-7:30PM)

Day Registration: Friday, August 1 (9AM-2PM)



Required Documents and Student Fees for Registration

OCS students must have the following documents on file before the first day of school.

- Birth certificate (K and new students)
- Current Immunization form (K, 7, 9, new students)
- Current Physical Exam (K, 7, 9, new students)
- IEPs, EPs, Behavioral Plans, or 504 Plans (All new students to Odyssey)
- Student Fees – check or money orders made payable to Odyssey Charter School
- K – 2nd \$7 (technology fee, nutrition education, Spalding notebook fee)
- 3rd – 5th \$11 (planner, technology fee, nutrition education, Spalding notebook fee)
- 6th – 9th \$13 (planner, technology and science lab fee)

Registration Support – Parent Volunteers Needed

Start the school year off with a head start on your required volunteer hours. Remember the requirement for volunteer hours is 18 hours per year for families with one child and 25 hours per year for families with more than one child. We need friendly faces to welcome our new and returning families during July 29th – July 31st registration. If you are interested, please call 321-733-0442, and ask for Ms. Ria at the Elementary Campus or call 321-345-4117 and ask for Ms. Greenwalt at the Jr/Sr High campus.



Technology News Update

This year, we will be introducing some exciting new technology for our students. At our elementary school campus, we will be implementing a new mobile computer lab that will feature enough laptops for each student in a given class (offering a one-to-one student to computer ratio). In grades 4 - 6, students will have access to "Google Apps," an online suite of word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation software. And in grades 5 – 6, students will be

introduced to Cyber Citizenship and e-mail safety using Google's "walled garden" e-mail. This is a safe environment that allows students to communicate with teachers and peers, while blocking outbound and inbound e-mail from the outside world. At the junior / senior high school, students in grades 7-9 will also be offered the "Google Apps" suite with full access e-mail. Parents will be given the opportunity to "opt-out" of these programs if so desired.

This year, Odyssey Charter School will participate in a school-wide program with Microsoft Corporation that will offer our families the opportunity to download and install a fully-licensed version of Microsoft Office 2013 for the duration of your student's enrollment at OCS. More details on how to take advantage of this program will be announced after school starts.

Family Literacy Resources

How is your family focusing on learning during the summer? Consider some of the following:

- Make a chart to keep track of all the books you and your family members read this summer. Talk to each other about your books during meals or long drives.
- Start a summer scrapbook with your family members. Include souvenirs of any trips you take, photos, ticket stubs, and projects you work on during the summer.
- Take a walk as a family. Write about or draw the things you see.
- Pick wildflowers and press them between the pages of a heavy book.
- Plan a family 'booknic' at your favorite outdoor spot, such as the beach, a park, or the woods. Pack lunch and plenty to read.
- For more tips and ideas, visit the 10 weeks of Summer Reading Adventure website at <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/391>, Summer Time Reading Resources website at http://www.rif.org/documents/us/summer_reading.pdf, or the For Teens, By Teens Reading site at <http://www.justreadflorida.com/recommend/PublicDisplay.asp>

School Uniforms

All Odyssey Students are required to wear a school uniform. Our uniforms can be purchased through our uniform provider, All Uniform Wear (321-608-3845) at 2585 W. New Haven Ave. (Rte. 192), West Melbourne, 32904 or online at www.alluniformwear.com.

School uniform reminders:

- Belts should be black or brown.
- Shirts should be tucked in at all times.
- Jackets and undershirts should be solid school colors.
- All shoes must have backs or straps.

Elementary Campus:

- Students will wear dark green or white polo's or tee shirts with proper logo.
- Students may wear khaki shorts, skirts, skorts, or pants.

Jr/Sr Campus:

- Students will wear grey, light blue, royal blue, or white polo's or t-shirts with the proper logo.
- Students may wear either khaki or black shorts, skirts, or pants.

Summer Food Program – Free for ALL Students

Students, ages 18 and under residing in Brevard County, can join us this summer for a free, delicious and nutritious breakfast and lunch at Odyssey's Flagship Elementary Campus. Breakfast is served from 8:30-9:30 AM and lunch is served from 11:30-12:30 PM. Adults meals are \$2.00 for breakfast and \$3.50 for lunch.

FCAT and EOC Student Score Reports

Student FCAT and EOC reports for 3rd through 9th grades are available at your campus location.

6th – 9th Grade Jr/Sr High Report Cards

6th through 9th grade Jr/Sr High report cards are available for pick up at the Wyoming location.

6th Grade

For the 2014-2015 school year, all 6th grade students will be served at the flagship elementary campus on Eldron Blvd.

Athletics

This year, we will continue to offer a wide variety of sports for our students through the Christian Athletic League, including volleyball, flag football, basketball, cheerleading, soccer, and track. Last year, we had our largest number of students yet that participated in athletics and we hope to continue to grow our programs.



Summer Reading Requirements

Summer reading assignments for Kindergarten through 9th grade are due during the first few weeks of school. Summer reading assignments are available on our website at www.odysseycharterschool.com and at the office at either campus.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to the following students for earning a 5 on the FCAT!

3rd Grade

Edea Kassner – Reading and Mathematics
Naia MacPherson – Reading and Mathematics
Angelina Morales – Reading and Mathematics
Oscar Parra – Reading and Mathematics
Isabel Rather – Reading and Mathematics
Kelby Sibert – Reading and Mathematics
Jessica Matias – Reading
Violet Sibol – Reading
Tristan Booth – Mathematics
Angelia Dexter – Mathematics
Isabella Godinez – Mathematics
Raymond Valdes – Mathematics

4th Grade

Kaylee Abramovs – Reading and Mathematics
Gregory Hall – Reading and Mathematics
Alana Morrow – Reading and Mathematics
Emily Broom – Reading
Naheam Feyjini – Reading
Tavon Moore – Reading
Javier Narvaez Martinez – Reading
Sara Quintero – Reading
Keithlyn Alves – Mathematics
Lilliana Cearra – Mathematics
Gabriel Kuntz – Mathematics
Olivia Menashe – Mathematics
Cole Sandberg – Mathematics
Caleb Sipes – Mathematics
Braden Willis – Mathematics

5th Grade

Andres Carlos – Tamez – Reading, Mathematics, and Science
Genevieve Archibald – Reading and Science
Josue Colon – Reading and Science
Charles Coughlin – Reading and Science
Justice Floyd – Reading and Science
Layla Harmon – Reading and Science
Justin Henry – Reading and Science
Riley Sibol – Reading and Science
Sydney Skinner – Reading
Yuliana Fernandez – Mathematics
Ashley Zavodny – Mathematics
Michaela Earley – Science
Cullen Fry – Science
Chloe Harmon – Science

6th Grade

Mary Farrugia – Reading and Mathematics
Gianna Forsythe – Reading and Mathematics
Jacob Anderson – Reading
Abrielle Aubin – Reading
Maya Carter – Reading
Luis Guerrero Parra – Reading
Reese Hanna – Reading
Elizabeth Harris – Reading
Arthur McCormick – Reading
Samuel Morehouse – Reading
Danicha St Amour – Reading
Khali Thaggard – Reading
Shania Thomas – Reading
Zion Wright – Reading
Antonio Bernardo – Mathematics
Cyren-Gabri Goddard – Mathematics
Jenna Wegnerowski – Mathematics

7th Grade

Saylore Twigg – Reading and Mathematics
Amaya Alisca – Reading
Derek Ayala – Reading
Maya Bachman – Reading
Eva Burgoon – Reading
Jose Calderon – Reading
Emily Cardona – Reading
Sylvia Cassler – Reading
Madison Dobbs – Reading
Georgina Flores-Plumley – Reading
Peri Gaughran – Reading
Julio Guzman – Reading
Nayessa Lucien – Reading
Andrea Mantilla – Reading
Stephanie Nelson – Reading
Tyler Rios – Reading
Lexine Sibert – Reading
Jacob Smith – Reading
Grace Waldrige – Reading
Emily Wilson – Reading
Chantal Beltran – Mathematics
Rebeca Pena – Mathematics

8th Grade

Lauren Anderson – Reading and Science
Allison Brignol – Reading and Science
John Green – Reading and Science
Taylor Oakes – Reading and Science
Tracy Oakes – Reading and Science
Ricardo Quinones – Reading and Science
Katie Pistarelli – Reading and Science
Caitlin Lenti – Reading
Tyler Centeio-Borde – Reading
Francheska Diaz-Roa – Reading
Tiffany Owens – Reading
Isabella Pullen – Reading
David Douyon – Mathematics
Kiara Talley – Mathematics
Joshua Christianson – Science
Kayla Lanza – Science

Congratulations to the following students for earning a PERFECT SCORE on the FCAT!

Kaylee Abramovs – 4th Grade Mathematics
Alana Morrow – 4th Grade Mathematics
Ricardo Quinones – 8th Grade Reading
Francheska Diaz-Roa – 8th Grade Reading

Congratulations to last year's Algebra students.

96% passed the Algebra End-Of-Course Assessment with a Level 3 or Higher. Special congrats to the following students for earning a Level 5 which is the highest level on the EOC for Algebra!

Allison Brignol
Sylvia Cassler
Kayla Lanza
Taylor Oakes
Zachary Seneschal
Lexine Sibert
Jadell Thomas



Elementary Campus Before and After Care

Registration forms for Before and After Care will be available during registration or in the OCS Elementary front office. For more details, contact Nina Santos at 321-733-0442, ext 126.

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten

A table will be set up at registration for any families still needing to submit required VPK enrollment information (birth certificate, voucher, registration form, and physical/immunization form). For more details, contact Nina Santos at 321-733-0442, ext 126.

1st and 2nd Grade Update

For the 2014-2015 school year, Odyssey Charter School will split the combined 1st and 2nd grade into single grade classrooms. The classrooms will remain co-taught by two teachers and will continue to be grounded in the philosophy and technique of Maria Montessori. This change will allow teacher teams to intensify instruction of the grade-level standards. Children will continue to have the opportunity to make choices and direct the path of their learning during daily afternoon work cycles. To support this transition, Ms. Nancy Keane, our veteran Montessori-certified early childhood teacher, will coach our Kindergarten through 3rd grade teachers on Montessori teaching methods.

WANTED: Substitute Teachers!

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. Ria Tutzarakis or Ms. Barbara Marcus at (321) 733-0442 x103.

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 info@odysseycharterschool.com.

With last year's 9th grade class of only 10 students, we would like to congratulate Ryan Kohel and Xavier Thomas for earning a 5 on the EOC for Biology!

New Florida Standards and New Assessment



The new Florida Standards, Mathematics Florida Standards (MAFS) and Language Arts Florida Standards (LAFS), designed to help students become college- and career-ready by emphasizing analytical, critical thinking, and problem solving skills, were adopted in February, 2014. The Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) will continue to be used for Science and Social Science instruction during the 2014-2015 school year. Odyssey Charter School teachers and staff are studying ways to provide high quality and rigorous instruction of the new standards in preparation for next school year.

In addition to new standards, a new assessment will take the place of the FCAT 2.0 next year. This test, called the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA), will require students to demonstrate their mastery of the standards in authentic ways, such as creating graphs to solve problems and interacting with multiple types of texts to prove comprehension. For more information about the standards or assessment, visit <http://www.fldoe.org/eduaccsummit.asp>.

Expanding to High School

In 1999, Ms. Constance founded Odyssey Charter School. Since then, Odyssey Charter School has set the standard, and, continues to raise the bar for all schools in Brevard in the areas of holistic education, green school facilities, sustainability, environmental education, and health, and has strengthened our community and provided an innovative and vital education service and choice for families. We have grown from our original church home to three charters and three campuses. In 2014, we continue the expansion of our mission and vision for our high school students. If there has ever been a time in Palm Bay that our young men and women need a unique school which provides a demanding and caring environment for their preparation as adults, it is now. The need for a generation that cares about one another and the environment around us is greater than ever, and our team at Odyssey Charter School is prepared to educate our students to become responsible and caring world citizens. With a culture of global and local awareness and respect, with Advanced Placement courses and imaginative electives that allow exploration of the world and edification of the student, we hope to offer a program that is as diverse as our population and as demanding as any in the county. We talk to our kids, and we listen to what they say. Our Palm Bay community is in our heart and informs our collective vision. We are different, smaller and as powerful as any school around: we are here to change the world of high school.

Jr/Sr High Electives

Depending on student interest, the following Jr/Sr electives are planned for this school year: Orchestra, Journalism, Writers Workshop, Psychology, Invention and Innovation, Science Research/Science Fair, Green Technology, Art, Speech/Debate, Spanish, Computer Skills, Keyboarding, Drama, Horticulture, Music Theory, Forensics, Robotics and Technology, Art 2D, Art 3D, Personal Fitness, HOPE, Critical Thinking/Study Skills, Aerobics, Career Research and Decision Making, Self Defense, Soccer, Anthropology, Track, Yoga, Basketball, Global Studies.

Due to some programming changes, some adjustments are being made to improve 7th – 9th grade electives. Students will be given an option of taking semester or year-long electives based on interest. Ms. Julie Chapman will be calling families of all students needing to select electives during the week of July 14th. Parents can also find the elective form on the website and drop it by the school Monday through Thursday from 9AM until 1PM. **Please note that students do NOT need to change selections if they are satisfied with their choices.** Students still needing electives in July 31 and August 1 will need to complete the elective form during registration. If you have questions, please contact the Jr/Sr Administrative Team at 321-345-4117.

HOPE - Health Opportunities through Physical Education (HOPE)

During high school, students are required to take a course called HOPE. The purpose of this course is to develop and enhance healthy behaviors that influence lifestyle choices and student health and fitness. In addition to learning about physical fitness and health, students will engage in conversations about Nutrition and Wellness Planning, Diseases and Disorders, Health Advocacy, First Aid/CPR, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Prevention, and Internet Safety.

New High School Career Cluster - Business, Management, and Administration

OCS High School students will now have the option of entering a Business career cluster during the next school year. Career clusters are designed to integrate both the academic knowledge and technical skills needed for a wide range of occupations, allowing school graduates to pursue career opportunities from entry level through management and professional levels. They also focus on all aspects of an industry or cluster so that a learner gets exposed to a range of possible occupations and industry standards. As our school grows, we will be investigating more career clusters based on student interest and industry needs.

Student Leadership Team

At the end of last year, the OCS Leadership team created a Jr/Sr High Student Leadership Team to help gather student input on ways to improve our school community. One of their suggestions was to create more clubs and as a result, teachers will work with students this year to develop more club and afterschool opportunities based on the mission/vision of the school. This year, we will continue to have student leadership meetings in the hopes of continuing this dialogue.



Zero Robotics

Odyssey's Zero Robotics Middle School Team has blasted off to a great start. We kicked off the first week learning about space science, conducting rocket experiments, and learning the basics of the programming language used in manipulating the SPHERES satellites. Our team is excited to have more hands-on experiences beginning with a field trip to Kennedy Space Center on Tuesday, July 15. We will also visit with scientists at Florida Tech to learn aerospace and mechanical engineering that went into the development of the satellites aboard the ISS.

Our program integrates Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and offers inspiration and opportunities for developing STEM interests and career possibilities.

Our team has shown commitment, enthusiasm, and dedication to working together and developing the skills needed to program the SPHERES satellites. Wish us luck in our quest and our competition with other Florida schools in early August! You may even be able to watch our team's program run on board the ISS in a live competition facilitated by astronauts!

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

**Mrs. Wendi Nolder 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. Mrs. Nolder can be reached at nolderw@odysseypreacademy.com or 321-345-4117, ext. 129.