



**ODYSSEY**  
CHARTER SCHOOL

# UPPER CAMPUS NEWS

AUGUST 2012

*"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 much achieve a balance of intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual and social skills as a foundation for life.

Hello Odyssey Families!

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new and returning Odyssey students. We are excited that all of you are experiencing the opening of the Odyssey Charter School—Upper Campus with us. We hope you will attend our open house on August 23rd at 7 p.m.

Our upper campus will offer academic rigor within a program emphasis on inspiring and empowering students to become Global Citizens. We will be creating a school culture based on high expectations for student learning and behavior; designing our curriculum and core learning experiences around current events and international concerns. Our existing curriculum will highlight aspects such as social justice, the appreciation of diversity, the importance of sustainable development, and learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. Additional layers of academic and social support will be afforded to students through Faculty Advisors who will guide the same students throughout their Jr./Sr. High School experience. Future programs will include Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment as our 9th graders promote on to upper classman status. Our full athletic program will offer such sports as soccer, tennis, swimming, track, cross-country, flag football, volleyball, and more. Our program will be registered with SCC Athletic Association and will compete with other school athletic programs.

During a leadership class (elective), students will be designing uniforms while keeping the same uniforms and guidelines until the class designs are finished. When the new uniforms are adopted, we will allow the wearing of the old design for the remainder of this year. The class will also work with the school student community and provide input into the development of the school's healthy lunch program and other school collaborative decisions.

Odyssey Charter School is a tuition-free public charter school and is fully accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is designated a High Performing Charter School by the Florida Commissioner for Education. Come join us at our new campus inspiring and empowering students to become global citizens. Please visit our new and improved website at [www.odysseycharterschool.com](http://www.odysseycharterschool.com)

Please also plan on attending our special Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Wednesday, September 12th from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm with the Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce.

We look forward to a wonderful year with your family!

Brent A. Christensen, Ed.S.  
Principal, Upper Campus

## CALENDAR

**Aug. 28** – OCS Board Meeting

**Aug. 23** – Open House at 7 pm

**Aug. 29** – Early Release Day

**Sept. 3** – Labor Day/Holiday for All

**Sept. 10** – Professional Development Day – Student Holiday

**Sept. 12** – Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



### School Hours:

8:45 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.

All students must enter through the front northeast entrance (black iron gates). Breakfast is offered from 8:15 to 8:40 a.m.

### Student Fees:

Most student fees were collected at registration. Students who have not paid their student fee of \$11.00 (for technology, science lab and student planner) should do so the first week of school during their homeroom so they may receive their planners. Check or money orders payable to Odyssey Charter School.

### Early Release Dates:

Odyssey has 7 Early Release Dates during the school year for the purpose of professional development and teacher collaboration. Students at the lower campus are released at 2:30 pm.

Early Release Dates:

August 29, September 26, October 31, November 28, January 30, February 27 and March 13.

Students also release early 3 days prior to Winter Vacation and 3 days prior to the end of the school year for student exam days on December 17-19, and May 20-22.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for several fingerprinted volunteers who might be interested in helping out in the cafeteria for lunch duty. If you would like to volunteer (this counts toward your required 18 or 25 hours) please contact Christine Watt at the upper campus, 321-345-4117 or email her at [wattc@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:wattc@odysseycharterschool.com).

## ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

If you are using the car loop, we require that you follow the posted 5 mph (or less) speed limit from the time you enter the school driveway until you pull out of the driveway. For the safety of all children, please refrain from using cell phones while in the car loop. Children must be dropped off at designated spots. In order to keep our students safe, do not allow them to exit the car in any other area of the car loop.

Odyssey has several parking spots dedicated for disabled parking. Only vehicles with a disabled parking permit may occupy those spaces.

Please be patient for the first week or two during arrival and dismissal. It takes several days to fall into a smooth rhythm. Remember, our primary concern is the safe drop off and pick up of each child.

## BUS TIMES

As we work to establish our double bus runs to accommodate students at both campuses, and work on our shuttle bus between the lower campus and upper campus, we expect there may be a few delays as we establish our routine. Please be patient as we experience a few growing pains and work through any upcoming problems.

## TARDY POLICY

After safety, student learning is our top priority. Students are expected to be in their seats by 8:40 a.m. ready to learn. Students arriving to school after 8:45 a.m. will need to be walked into the office by a parent and signed-in to obtain a tardy slip and enter the classroom. Students who are chronically tardy will be referred to the principal. Excessive tardies may result in disciplinary action.

## LOCKERS

Students will be assigned a hallway locker and must purchase a combination lock or key lock the first week of school. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items, lock combinations, and keys.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Until locker-room renovations are complete, students will not be required to dress out for the first month of school. Please look for additional information after Labor Day regarding PE uniforms and lockers.

## SCHOOL DAY

Students will participate in a 7-period school day, with a 20 minute homeroom devoted to 7 habits for highly effective teens and developing a family/community environment. Student courses will include Springboard Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, PE/Technology, FLVS (7th & 8th grade FCAT Level 3 or higher) or Intensive Reading (7th & 8th grade FCAT Level 1 or 2); Computer applications (6th grade honors).

## STUDENT MEDICATION

Any students requiring medication during the school day must have a parent check the medication into the front office and fill out the appropriate medication form. Students may not bring medication to school at any time. If a student requires an asthma inhaler on his/her person, the inhaler must be checked in through the office and must be accompanied by a doctor prescription stating that the child must carry the inhaler with them at all times.

### Grievance Procedures

- Step 1: Request Teacher conference to clarify issue
- Step 2: Contact Principal if unresolved with the teacher
- Step 3: \*\*Contact Constance Ortiz at Academia Central Florida Management Company
- Step 4: Contact the President of the Governing Board
- Step 5: Present issue at the next monthly Board of Directors Meeting if unresolved
- Step 6: Seek mediation with the Sponsor

*\*\*Constance Ortiz, Academia Central Florida Director, 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. Ortiz can be reached at [cortiz@academicacfl.org](mailto:cortiz@academicacfl.org), or 321-216-7525.*

## STUDENT CHECK-OUT

Students may be checked out of school by their parent/legal guardian, or a designee specified in writing by the parent/legal guardian. When checking a student out of school, photo identification must be presented to our front office staff. Students may not be checked out after 3:10 p.m. Any exceptions must be approved in writing by the Principal.

In order to maintain the order and focus in our classrooms, children will not be called from the classroom to retrieve items brought to them during the school day. If a student forgets lunch, the front office will notify the classroom teacher before the student lunch period and the student will pick up their lunch on the way to the café.

## HEALTHY CAFÉ

Odyssey has a full service cafeteria ready to feed healthy, fresh meals made daily for all of our school community and their families. Parents and siblings are welcome to sign into the front office and join their student for lunch. "A" lunch from 10:56 to 11:26 a.m. and "B" lunch from 11:48 a.m. to 12:18 p.m.

Payment for breakfast and lunch can be made by check (made out to Odyssey Charter School) or cash. Payment may be brought to the classroom where the teacher will record the payment information. Families may make out one check for multiple children – please note on the check the amount per student). Prepayments are always welcome.

A la carte items range from \$0.50 to \$1.50 and are strictly optional to purchase. If families do not want their children to have the option of purchasing a la carte items, please inform the café manager or cashier.

If your child has allergies to any foods, please send in a doctor's note. If your child has a milk allergy and would like juice served to them at lunch, the doctor's prescription must state that juice should be substituted for milk.

### Healthy Café Prices:

Breakfast - \$1.00 (full pay); \$0.30 (reduced price\*)  
Lunch - \$2.50 (6th full pay); \$2.80 (7th-8th full pay); \$0.40 (reduced price\*)

*Free and \*Reduced prices are for students who qualify for either a free or a reduced price meal according to the Federal School Lunch Program. All families are strongly encouraged to fill out free and reduced lunch forms during our registration. If you would like a form, please contact the front office or the café.*

## OCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Parents and staff are encouraged to attend Board of Directors meetings. Board meetings begin at 5:15 p.m. The Odyssey Board of Directors meetings for the 2012-2013 school year are as follows: August 28, 2012, October 23, 2012, January 22, 2013 (Annual Board Meeting), April 23, 2013, June 25, 2013

***Our staff directory, teacher certifications and wellness policy can be found on our new website at [www.odysseycharterschool.com](http://www.odysseycharterschool.com)***

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