



Odyssey Charter School

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

WELCOME NEWSLETTER AUG 2019



"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.

SCHOOL-BASED LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ms. Constance Ortiz,
Founder

Ms. Wendi Nolder,
Site Administrator

Ms. Deb Berg,
Assistant Principal

Ms. Carrie Young,
Dean of Students

Ms. DeAnna Bernardo,
Instructional Coach

Mr. Michael Senick,
Instructional Coach

Ms. Deb Munoz,
Teacher Representative

Ms. Kavel Green,
Family Engagement

Ms. Licelia Moo,
Guidance Counselor

Ms. Kristina Fitzpatrick,
Office Manager/Registrar, Elementary

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

Welcome from the Principal

Welcome new Titan families, and welcome back returning Titans! We are so proud of our students, teachers and staff for their outstanding efforts and performance last school year – we earned a school grade of 'A'. This year we are focusing on providing excellent customer service to all and on the acceleration of all students. We look forward to partnering with you to continue to help each child achieve their full potential!

~Wendi Nolder

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 2:00 PM on a regular dismissal day and by 12:45 PM on an early release day. 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!

OCS Inc. Board of Directors Meetings

Parents and staff are welcome to attend Odyssey's Board of Directors meetings. The next OCS Board meetings will be held on August 28 at 5:15 p.m. Due to upcoming construction, our OCS Board meetings will be held at the Green Apple office located at 1900 South Harbor City, Blvd., Suite 120, Melbourne, FL 32901.

CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 8/23 Early Release
- 8/28 OCS Inc. Board Meeting, 5:15pm
- 8/29 Bullying Presentation for 4th & 5th Grade
- 8/30 Dress out of Uniform Day for Students
- 8/30 Early Release
- 9/2 Labor Day – NO SCHOOL
- 9/4 2nd and 3rd Grade Open House, 6:30pm

SEPTEMBER

- 9/5 1st and 4th Grade Open House and 4th Grade Science Research Information Night, 6:30pm
- 9/6 Early Release
- 9/11 First Responder's Day
- 9/12 KG and 5th Grade Open House and 5th Grade Science Research Information Night, 6:30pm
- 9/13 Early Release
- 9/19 Interim Reports Issued for 1st – 5th
- 9/19 Parents as Partners (PasP) Meeting, 6:30pm
- 9/20 Early Release
- 9/27 Early Release
- 9/27 Dress out of Uniform Day for Students
- 9/27 4th Grade Back to School Dance

School Hours and Car Loop Reminders

Safety First at Arrival & Dismissal

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 2:35 p.m. for Grades K-2 and 8:00 a.m. until 2:50 p.m. for Grades 3-5 on regular dismissal days. On Early Release Fridays, Grades K-2 students are released at 1:15 p.m. and Grades 3-5 students are released at 1:30 p.m. 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
- Always display your GREEN car loop pick-up sign in your window. **It is recommended for you to use a clip clothes hanger to hang sign from your rearview mirror so it is easily viewed by staff in the car loop.**
- Remember, when turning onto Eldron, RIGHT turns ONLY during arrival and dismissal times
- If you park on Raleigh, please be sure to leave the sidewalk clear. Students and families need the sidewalk to walk safely.
- Please watch out for pedestrians in your moving vehicle
- Reserve disabled parking for vehicles with disabled parking permits
- Always drop off children at the designated orange cones – nowhere else in the carloop area or on main roads such as Eldron Blvd.
- Do not use Pineapple Cove's parking area
- When walking with your student on school sidewalks, students are encouraged to walk on the side of the sidewalk AWAY from the driveway/street (closest to the mulch and fence) and parent or other adult chaperone on the side of traffic.

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 10 minutes from the driveway entrance to the driveway exit during the car loop. It takes time at the beginning of the year for our parent, student, and staff community to become accustomed to arrival and dismissal routines. We ask for your patience and understanding during the beginning of the year where these times may be prolonged as we adjust to the school year. Please note that if you have not entered the driveway by 7:50 your child will likely be late to class.

Additional Transportation Note: Change of transportation must be submitted in writing in order for the change to be valid. This stipulation is to ensure student safety.

Healthy Café

We are pleased to announce that all students that attend our schools receive 1 free breakfast and 1 free lunch per day this school year. The only money your child will need for the meal program will be for the purchase of a la carte items or extra entrees. We are asking that you please only send in cash or check to the school on MONDAYS. If you would like to continue using the online payment system with a credit card, you may do so at any time. You may find the link to the online program at our school website, under Healthy Café. <http://www.odysseycharterschool.com/cafe.html>

Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to a fabulous year of providing healthy nutritious meals for your children!

~Cindy Chapman, Odyssey Healthy Café

Dress Out of Uniform Days

OCS Students are to be in uniform daily, except for the last Friday of the month (our Dress Out of Uniform Day). 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 30, September 27, October 25, November 29, and December 20.

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.



Volunteering at OCS

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, through the Odyssey parent e-mail list from Ms. Kavel Green, our Family Engagement Specialist, and our volunteer sign up system. Ms. Green may 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 Ms. Green. As our Family Engagement Specialist, she 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 may also reach out to her at 321-733-0442 x131 or email: greenk@odysseycharterschool.com.

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

Please go to the Brevard County Schools web page: www.brevardschools.org

- 1) Click the **Parents & Students** heading.
- 2) Scroll down to **Volunteer Information** and click on the link
- 3) On the left of the screen, click on the **Fingerprint** link
(The volunteer application is at the bottom of the page)
- 4) Complete the Application (\$35 for the first year, \$8 for renewals)
- 5) After completing the Application and payment, please visit:
District and School Security - 2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Viera, FL 32940
Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (No appointment necessary)
- 6) Please wait five days after being fingerprinted to contact Kavel Green for status or any volunteer related questions.

Volunteering Benefits All of 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



Sign Up System

Families can keep abreast of the various volunteer opportunities that will be available throughout the year. The link below will take you directly to our group page. Please save this link as one of your "favorites" in your web browser. <https://signup.com/go/QqBzgBk>

Read Aloud Program

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 literature to their child that is about two grades above their independent reading level. Then complete the Read Aloud log which can be provided by your classroom teacher or through the front office. Next turn in your log at the end of each month to your classroom teacher or to the front office and you will receive volunteer hours for the time spent reading aloud to your child.

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/>

Employment Opportunities

Substitute Teachers and Substitute Bus Drivers Wanted for Elementary and Secondary. All substitutes must undergo and pass the Brevard County Fingerprinting and Background Checks.

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. Barbara Marcus at (321) 733-0442.

Substitute Bus Drivers

All Bus drivers need a "P" & "S" endorsement and need to have driven in Florida within the last 2 years. If you meet these requirements and you're interested in this opportunity, please contact Mr. Rob Seneschal at seneschal@odysseycharterschool.com.

FortifyFL

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool for parents and students that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. Download app to your phone to get involved.

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.