

Odyssey Charter School

NEWS

Summer 2013

"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.

NEW LEADERSHIP CHANGES AS ODYSSEY EXPANDS AND REPLICATES

The Odyssey Charter School Board of Directors and School Founder, Ms. Constance Ortiz, Director of Green Apple School Management, are pleased to announce the appointment of School Director and new School Principals.



Junior/Senior High School ~

Mr. Dan Kuhar was appointed as the School Director for Odyssey's Junior/Senior High School. Mr. Kuhar will begin as the School's new leader on July 1st.

A native of Florida and graduate of Charlotte High School in Punta Gorda, Mr. Kuhar received his Bachelor's of Science in Zoology and his Master's in Science Education, both from the University of Florida. Mr. Kuhar most recently served as Director of Kihei Charter School in Hawaii. He spent ten years in curriculum design and school leadership positions where he was responsible for building one of Hawaii's most respected charter schools. Dan worked with his local school board,

community partners, and a great staff to create innovative learning environments with a custom designed educational program.

The school in Kihei implemented a unique, blended learning model that integrates 21st century distance learning tools, high value STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) experiences and rigorous, relevant face-to-face activities. Kihei Charter School was Hawaii's first STEM school, and is still the only school in the state to provide STEM education to every student.

"I am very pleased to have the opportunity to work with the students and staff of Odyssey Charter School," Mr. Kuhar said. "My recent visit on campus left me impressed with the dedicated faculty, supportive community, and great school spirit at Odyssey. I look forward to providing an innovative STEM educational experience for every student and to leading the continued development of an exceptional school."

Visit our website at www.odysseycharterschool.com

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

Upper Campus: 1350 Wyoming Drive S.E.
Palm Bay, Florida 32909 • 321-345-4117

CALENDAR - Summer 2013

July 4-5 – Holiday – Office Closed

July 15 – 9-1 p.m. Lower Elementary Campus ~ Day Registration

July 16 – 9-1 p.m. Upper Junior/Senior High Campus ~ Day Registration

July 17 – 5-7:30 p.m. Lower Campus ~ Evening Registration

July 18 – 5-7:30 p.m. Upper Junior/Senior High ~ Evening Registration

August 2 – Summer Food Program Ends @ Lower Campus

August 14-16 – Kindergarten Appointments

August 14 – School begins (1st-9th Grade)

August 19 – First Day of School for Kindergarten Only

August 28 – Early Release Day

(Upper Campus dismissal ~ 2:30pm, Lower Campus dismissal ~ 1:30pm)

August 29 – OCS Board Meeting ~ 5:15 pm

September 2 – Labor Day – No School

September 9 – Student Holiday/Professional Development Day

Odyssey follows the Brevard County School calendar. See the full Odyssey calendar at www.odysseycharterschool.com/calendar.

Lower Campus ~ Elementary

Principal: Dr. Rodney Ryan
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

Upper Campus ~ Junior/Senior High School

School Director: Mr. Dan Kuhar
1350 Wyoming Dr. SE Palm Bay, FL 32909
321-345-4117
School Hours: 9 am - 4:10 pm
Office Hours: 7:45 am - 4:30 pm

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:

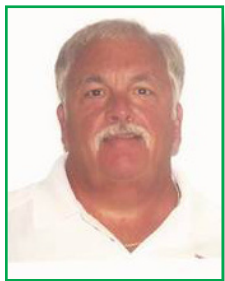
Upper & Lower Campus
Monday through Friday, 9 am - 1 pm
Closed July 4th - 5th

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

NEW LEADERSHIP (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Odyssey Preparatory Academy to include VPK and Toddler Program!



Elementary ~

Newly appointed to Odyssey's lower elementary campus is Dr. Rodney Ryan. Beginning July 1, Dr. Ryan will oversee the school's flagship "green" school.

Dr. Ryan has been a life-long educator with over 30 years in education as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, and principal. Dr. Ryan received his Master's in Education from State University of New York College at Brockport in 1999 and a Bachelor's

in Engineering Operations from North Carolina State University in 1971. He attended Walden University in Minneapolis, MN where he received his Doctorate in Educational Technology in May 2003. He is certified in Florida as a Principal. Dr. Ryan has served as a principal for 9 years in both New York and Florida and most recently worked at the Florida Department of Education as a Data Captain in the area of school improvement. His experiences have been shared with students and faculty to energize, educate, and emphasize the importance of education to all stakeholders. As he has indicated many times, our students and teachers are the most essential ingredient to a successful school system. "I look forward to joining the Odyssey team of educators. I have found them to be dedicated and focused upon healthy, whole child development, which is my philosophy as well. I look forward to supporting the faculty, students and families in a wonderful school environment."



Odyssey's First Replicated School, Odyssey Preparatory Academy ~

Appointed to begin July 1st to Odyssey's newest charter school and first replicated model, Odyssey Preparatory Academy, is Ms. Wendi Nolder. Ms. Nolder was a founding teacher for Odyssey Charter School when the school opened in 1999. She spent eleven years teaching elementary students, serving on the school's leadership team for three of those years before moving into the position of principal. "During the last three years, I served proudly as

Odyssey's principal and I now look forward to becoming the new principal at Odyssey Preparatory Academy, replicating the same best practices that had made Odyssey a top performing school in the City of Palm Bay," Ms. Nolder said. Ms. Nolder is certified in Florida in Educational Leadership and has a Master's in Elementary Science Education from Florida Institute of Technology, a Bachelor's in Mathematics/Secondary Education, and is a certified Montessori teacher with an endorsement in gifted student education.

Odyssey Preparatory Academy is located at 1350 Wyoming Drive SE, Palm Bay in a beautiful 96,000 square foot facility on 20 acres. Odyssey Prep will co-locate with Odyssey Jr./Sr. High and will be located on the first floor. It will open its first year to K-5th grade students. To learn more about Odyssey Prep, please visit the school's website at www.odysseyprepacademy.com or call the school at 321 345-4117.

"We are pleased to have this caliber of leadership coming to support our Odyssey students and their holistic education. I look forward to working with this team of principals and offering our very best to educate our most valuable resource ~ the precious children within our community. We have a talented and dedicated faculty at our schools and together we form just one team whose mission is to serve and educate our community children and to bring forth their brightest potential!" exclaimed Ms. Constance Ortiz, the schools' Founder.

SUMMER REGISTRATION ~ JULY 15-18

Annual registration is mandatory for all new and returning students. Registration will secure your child's seat at Odyssey. **This year students must register at the campus they are attending.**

If you attended Registration during the week of June 3-7, you are NOT required to attend! If you would like to see who your child's teachers will be, class assignments will be posted on campus and can be viewed any time on/after August 5.

Registration days and times are:

Lower Elementary Campus:

- Day Registration: Monday July 15, 9 am -1pm
- Evening Registration, Wednesday, July 17, 5-7:30 pm

Upper Junior/Senior High Campus:

- Day Registration: Tuesday, July 16, 9-1 pm
- Evening Registration: Thursday, July 18, 5-7:30 pm

Required Documents and Student Fees for Registration:

ALL OCS students must have the following documents on file before the first day of school. The student categories listed in parentheses are required to update/submit current documents for this school year.

- Birth certificate (K and new students)
- Current Immunization form (K, 7, 9, new students)
- Current Physical Exam (K, 7, 9, new students)
- Parents – please remember your ID
- All IEPs, EPs, Behavioral Plans, or 504 Plans (All new students to Odyssey)
- Student Fees – check or money orders ONLY! (Made payable to Odyssey Charter School)
- K-5th - \$7 (technology fee, nutrition education & Spalding notebook fee)
- 6th-9th - \$8 (technology and science lab fee)

STUDENT PLANNERS

Good news OCS families! This year, we were able to get enough donations from some of our community partners to sponsor planners for the 3rd-9th grade students. That means the first planner issued to your student will be issued free of cost.

Any lost planners must be replaced and will be available for a fee of \$5. Check out the ads on your student's planner when they arrive and be sure to support the community partners who made it possible to issue your children a planner free of charge.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Free bus transportation will be provided to children who live within 2-4 miles and further from the school, based upon student population needs. A bus slip must be completed for families who wish to sign up for bus service. Bus slips will be available at registration. For those families who applied for bus service during early registration week, a member of bus services will call you to finalize your registration. Students who live less than two miles from the school are not eligible for bus transportation.

****Student bus slips must be given to the driver on the first day you use the bus service. Parents who registered early and who qualify for bus service will receive a phone call from our transportation staff with their student's bus stop location and times. After receiving your bus stop, parents should pick up a bus slip (required for the first bus ride) from the front office of your student's campus, during regular office hours and before the first day of school.*

SCHOOL UNIFORMS & CHANGES FOR THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR

All Odyssey Students are required to wear a school uniform. Our uniforms can be purchased through our NEW uniform provider, All Uniform Wear (321-608-3845) or online at www.alluniformwear.com. They are located at 2585 W. New Haven Ave (Rte. 192), West Melbourne, 32904, across from the Melbourne Square Mall. There have been some uniform changes, that we announced in May's OCS newsletter. We have printed them below again for your convenience.

Parents with students at our Lower Campus: Please note as we transition into our new uniform company, students may continue to wear the T-shirts and polos with the old uniform logo for the 2013-2014 year only.

Both Lower and Upper Campuses:

- Students will need to wear either a black or brown belt.
- Students will need to have shirts tucked in.
- Only OCS sweatshirts or jackets will be worn while in school.
- All shoes must have backs or straps. Students may not wear open-back shoes.

Lower Campus:

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

Upper Campus Only:

- Students will wear grey, light blue, royal blue, or white polo's and t-shirts with the proper logo.
- Students may wear either khaki or black shorts, skirts, and pants.
- Students may transfer over only the white polo or tee shirt from Lower Campus.

(The green polo and tee shirt will remain for Lower Campus students only and may be donated to the front desk at Odyssey's lower campus.)

MONTESSORI VPK & PRESCHOOL

Limited openings are still available in our Montessori preschool and VPK. If you have a child joining the program during the 2013-2014 school year and missed May's Orientation, just stop by the front office at the Lower Campus to pick up the parent information and registration packet.

Please know that In order to fully register your child, we will also need the following items before the first day of school: a copy of your child's birth certificate, your child's immunization form, your child's physical form, the VPK voucher for the 2013-14 school year and a copy of your child's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

The Odyssey Preparatory program on Wyoming Drive will also feature a VPK/ preschool. For more information you can visit the website at www.odysseyprepacademy.com or you can contact Ms. Michelle Sutton, Preschool/VPK Director, at 321-733-0442 x107 or email at suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com. (Please note: The toddler program opening has been postponed until the next school year.)

STUDENT SUPPLY LISTS

Supply Lists are available for K-9th grade students on our website, or in your campus front office. Don't forget to shop at Office Depot for all your back-to-school supplies. Just mention Odyssey at the checkout and we will be rewarded with 10% of your purchase!

REGISTRATION SUPPORT – PARENT VOLUNTEERS WE NEED YOU!

Volunteers, start the school year off with a head start on your required volunteer hours. As you may know, the requirement for volunteer hours per family is 18hrs/year for a single-student household and 25hrs/year for a multiple-student household. We need some friendly faces to help welcome our new and returning families and assist school staff with the registration process on the 15th-18th. If you are interested in helping at the Lower Campus, please call 321-733-0442 and ask for Ms. Ria, or e-mail info@odysseycharterschool.com. If you can assist at the Upper Campus, please call 321-345-4117 and ask for Ms. Watt, or e-mail wattc@odysseycharter-school.com.

SCHOOL TOURS

Do you have a student that is new to our school? Get acquainted with our campus by joining us for a tour of our beautiful "green" and healthy facility and school. Odyssey's Office Manager, Ms. Ria, hosts weekly tours of the lower elementary campus on Thursdays at 10am*. Learn about Odyssey's history and philosophies while we cover the grounds and share all the basic need-to-know information about the school. Upcoming summer tour dates are: Jul 11, Jul 18, Jul 25, and Aug 1. Also, if your student is new to the upper campus junior/senior high and you would like to tour the campus, please join us for the same dates and times listed above and hear about exciting new plans for Odyssey's program development and expansion. You may even get a chance to meet the new principals!

*No need to make an appointment if you plan to attend. For more information email info@odysseycharterschool.com or call the front office at 321-733-0442.

LOWER CAMPUS SCHOOL-AGE BEFORE & AFTER CARE

Families who have students at the lower campus may register their children in the Before & After Care, for a reduced cost each day. Registration forms are available during registration or at the Lower Campus front office. The extended care service is also available to younger siblings at the Lower Campus who are waiting to ride the bus home with an older sibling at the Upper Campus. For more details, call our Lower Campus at 733-0442 or visit the Odyssey website.

Information & Summer News

NEW SCHOOL HOURS!

School Hours have been changed. Lower campus school hours will be from 8-3 pm daily. Upper Campus school hours will be from 9-4:10 pm daily.

FCAT REPORTS & REPORT CARDS COMING SOON

FCAT student reports for students in 3rd-8th grades and 6th through 8th grade report cards are available for pick up at your campus location. Summer office hours at both campuses are 9 a.m. -1 p.m. Parents, please have your ID ready to pick up scores –thank you.

LOWER CAMPUS ~ SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM – FREE FOR ALL STUDENTS

Join us this summer through August 2nd for a delicious and nutritious free breakfast and lunch at Odyssey's Lower Campus. All students 18 and under residing in Brevard County are free. (Adult breakfast - \$2; Adult lunch - \$3.50.) Breakfast is served from 7:30-8:30 am. Lunch is served from 11:00-1:00 pm.

6TH GRADE HONORS

One of our classes of 6th grade Honors will be offered at the Upper Campus location this year based upon available space. If you are a parent of an honors student entering 6th grade, please be prepared for a summer phone call to let us know what campus you prefer. There will be a class of honors on each campus.

KEEP UP TO SPEED AND CHECK OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE WEEKLY!

www.odysseycharterschool.com



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 Green Apple School 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, Odyssey Founder and Green Apple School Management 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@greenapplesm.org, or 321-216-7525.



SUMMER READING REQUIREMENTS

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS FOR EARNING A PERFECT FCAT SCORE!

Kaylee Abramovs - Reading AND Math
Genevieve Archibald - Math
Jayna Blanks - Reading
Emily Broom - Reading AND Math
Andres Carlos - Math
Nathaniel Chapman - Math
Gabriel Kuntz - Math
Sanihay Latore - Reading
Mikayla Porchiazio - Reading
Ricardo Quinones - Reading

