



# NEWS

OCTOBER 2011

*"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.

## CALENDAR



- ▶ **October 5 - Walk to School Day**
- ▶ **October 7 - State Inservice - No school for students**
- ▶ **October 12 Picture Day (uniforms)**
- ▶ **October 14 - End of first 9 weeks**
- ▶ **October 18: Extended Day Tutoring Begins**
- ▶ **October 21 - Elementary & Middle School report cards issued**
- ▶ **October 25 - Elementary & Middle School Conferences**
- ▶ **October 27: OCS Board Meeting**
- ▶ **October 28 - Early Release Day - K-4th release at 1:15; 5th-8th release at 1:30**

## IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT TARDIES

It is important for your child to be present and on time each school day in order to make the most of their education. Students who arrive late or are checked out early are missing important instructional time and are disrupting their classmates' valuable instructional time as well. We are asking our parents to bring students to school on time and limit early checkout.

Please note the following from our 2011-2012 Parent/Student Handbook, available on our website at [www.odysseycharterschool.com](http://www.odysseycharterschool.com).

**"Tardiness -** Students should arrive to school and be in their seats by 7:55 a.m. All students who arrive after 8:00 am are tardy and must come to the front office with their parent to sign them in and receive a tardy slip prior to being admitted to class. It should be noted that students must understand the importance of arriving to school on time on a daily basis.

**Release of Students -** Students are released to the parent/guardian of record only. A parent/guardian must give advance written notice to the school when requesting that a child be released to other designated persons. Your child will only be released to designated persons listed on the student registration form. The school requires persons who are picking up children from school to show proper identification. Students cannot be checked out after 2 p.m. unless there is a true emergency."

If you are bringing your student via car transportation, you may come into the car loop as early as 7:35. Drop off will begin at 7:40 in order for all students to be in their seats by 7:55. It is difficult for your child to get to school on time if you are coming into the car loop at 7:50 or later. Please adjust your schedules. We will no longer accept tardy students at the front office without a parent escort. Thank you for supporting your child's education by ensuring they are in school and on time each day!

## CAR LOOP REQUESTS

Parents, We thank you for your patience as we continue to work on improving our car loop's speed and efficiency, while keeping student safety as our top priority!

**Dismissal:** We are asking parents of 5th-8th grade students NOT to arrive prior to 2:45 in order to facilitate the movement of the loop for our younger student's parents.

Be a good neighbor. Our neighbors at Pineapple Cove have requested that we not use their parking lot in the morning and afternoon. Pineapple Cove and Odyssey have a wonderful relationship where we share each other's parking lots for evening events. We are asking you, our parents, to be a good neighbor. Do NOT park or drop off/pick up at Pineapple Cove unless you are already dropping off/picking up a Pineapple Cove student.

Also, parents please review with your child. Students who walk/bike to school must use the sidewalks and should not travel through the Pineapple Cove parking lot.



## ART NEWS

Grades K-3 will be doing art projects for fall which require mini-pumpkins and gourds of various shapes and colors. They need to have a flat bottom so they can stand and not roll around. Please contact Ms. Karina Warren asap if you can help. Thank you!

Congratulations to the following students for winning in their classes with their drug free posters. Their artwork has been submitted to the State attorney's office to compete at the district level. Good luck to all the wonderful young artists! Samuel Gonzales, Sebastian Velez, Peri Gaughran, Lexine Sibert, Jacob Smith, Sylvia Cassler, Diondre Gonzales, Mike Charles, William Wilson, Lexy Jennings, Emily Strawser, Zachary Senechal, Victoria Rios, Anthony Alvarez, Jaelen Booker, Grace Waldrige, Rayla James, Jordyn Ulp

## MUSIC NEWS

**VIOLINS:** Mr. Hoffman would like to humbly thank all parents who were able to purchase violins for their children. Your dedication is greatly appreciated! If you purchased a violin for your child, please make sure to put your child's name on the case. They should be taking their violins home to practice. We will soon have new music material for your child to practice at home.



**HOLIDAY SHOW:** The Glee Club will be performing a Nutcracker Holiday Show in December. Mr. Hoffman needs parent volunteers to help choreograph dances and parent volunteers to sew costumes from a pattern.

If your child passed the glee club audition, you will receive an acceptance letter this week. The first glee club rehearsal will be on Friday, October 14th from 2:30 until 4:00.

We need a 15 to 20 foot (or larger) flatbed trailer for the Holiday parade.

If you can help with any of these items, please contact Mr. Hoffman at [hoffmang@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:hoffmang@odysseycharterschool.com)

## FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Welcome all of our 7th and 8th grade students and their families to Florida Virtual School. This is a new and exciting experience for Odyssey Charter School which gives our 7th and 8th graders a choice of ten different electives.

Please be sure to create a Parent and Guardian account by signing into [www.flvs.net](http://www.flvs.net). Find the tab on the top right titled Parents. You will find directions in the last section on how to set up a parent/Guardian monitoring page. Students and parents/guardians are able to call, e-mail, text, or live chat with their teacher until 8p.m. at night. Please be sure your child is working at home during the week or weekend to complete the hours necessary to complete their weekly FLVS work. This is the same as having homework in a regular class.

Please call Kristina Anderson, our FLVS Facilitator, at 321-733-0442 ext. 524 to leave a message.

**Our technology Lab is open Tuesday-Friday from 3:00-4:15 p.m. for the convenience of students to work in FLVS or other school related assignments.**

### 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@academiacfl.org](mailto:cortiz@academiacfl.org), or 321-676-8737, ext. 2001.

## WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

Walk-To-School-Day is just around the corner and we hope many Odyssey Charter School Students, Parents, and Guardians will join in. This year Walk-To-School-Day is Wednesday, October 5, 2011. We will walk from the Beef-O'-Brady's/Publix's Parking Lot to School. Our buses that morning will bring the students to the parking lot at 7:30am for the walk. We invite all car riders and walkers to join us also at 7:30am.

Walk-To-School-Day is a great way to give parents and children an opportunity to walk to school together, ease traffic congestion around school, give families an opportunity to practice safe pedestrian rules, and to promote walking as a physical activity which can alleviate health problems.

All are encouraged to join in for the Walk-To-School-Day. Breakfast will be served later on Wednesday for those students, parents/guardians and families that are participating in the walk.

We could use teacher and parents/guardians to help with the walk; for traffic control, crossing guards, and to supervise the students. Any questions or concerns please call the school at 733-0442.

## READ ALOUD



The Read Aloud Book Club is a great way for parents to fulfill their volunteer hours. All that is required is for parents to read to their child every night for 15 minutes!

Reading aloud to children helps build attention span and listening skills, vocabulary development and reading fluency and comprehension. Most importantly, it creates a bond between the parent and the child. With so many working parents and single parent families, this is an excellent way for parents to spend quality time with their child each day while reinforcing their educational experience.

Here's how the program works:

The parent selects read aloud books from the 'startup list' of literature provided Odyssey Charter School (available on our website at [www.odysseycharterschool.com](http://www.odysseycharterschool.com)). The parent then spends a minimum of 15 minutes per evening reading literature that is above the child's independent reading level. At the beginning of each month, submit the recording form (available on the 'downloads' page on our website) to your child's Homeroom Teacher. The forms are turned in to our volunteer coordinator and parent hours are logged in. A maximum credit of one hour per week will be given per child.

Allow time for home discussions and sharing with your child the meaning of some of the vocabulary and ideas. Read slowly and with expression. Your child is learning reading habits by your modeling good reading. Be flexible. If your child does not enjoy the story, try another.

This program does not replace your child's independent reading, but it is an excellent addition to your child's education. At Odyssey, we believe that the Read Aloud Club will create a significant difference in the state achievement tests as well, and nothing can surpass that warm, fuzzy feeling of a good night-time read aloud with your child.

For more information on the Read Aloud Program, please contact your child's homeroom teacher or visit our website at <http://www.odysseycharterschool.com/ReadAloud.html>

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