



inspired learning in "green" and healthy schools

Winter Newsletter

January 2023

Every moment is a fresh beginning. ~ T.S. Elliot

Our Mission for Every Child

Odyssey's mission is to work in partnership families and our community with the aim of helping each child reach their own unique and wonderful potential—spiritually, academically, emotionally, socially, and physically. Our child-centered programs are selected so that children have multiple opportunities to find and develop their passions.

Message from our Founder

Dear Odyssey Families,

As we begin the New Year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for entrusting us with your children. I believe there is no greater calling in the world than to educate children—our future and greatest hope.

We are excited to enter a new year which is filled with opportunities for our children to succeed.

Our goal is to support all students on their educational path and to assist them in achieving their full and unique potential.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, Leadership, and entire team of faculty and staff, we hope that 2023 brings you much hope and joy!



Warm regards,

Ms. Constance Ortiz

GA Chief Executive Officer and
Founder of Odyssey Schools

No Impact on Annual School Calendar

In December, the Brevard County School Board approved an amended school calendar that impacts second semester as a result of the school days lost due to Hurricane Nicole. While district students must now attend school on February 20th and April 24th, students at Odyssey schools will adhere to the original school calendar in which February 20th and April 24th are student holidays. **In other words, there will be no school for students on February 20th and April 24th.**

OCS, Inc. Annual Board of Directors Meeting

Odyssey's Board of Directors will hold its Annual Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 18th, at 4:30 p.m., at 1900 S. Harbor City Boulevard, Melbourne, FL 32901, Suite 120. Board meetings are open to the public and you are welcome to attend. Please visit the schools' websites to access the board meeting schedule, agendas, and minutes.

Parent Survey

Thank you to all who have completed our Parent Survey. If you have not completed one, kindly take a few minutes to complete the survey. We have extended the window period for completion of the surveys to Friday, January 13th, in order to elicit as many responses as possible. Parent survey data is very valuable to us. Your feedback helps us to improve the services we provide to our families. To complete a parent survey, please click on the link below for your child's school. If you have children who attend different schools, please complete a survey for each school.

Odyssey Preparatory Academy (OPA – Grades K-5)

<https://eprovesurveys.advanc-ed.org/surveys/#/action/209070/p39753>

Odyssey Charter Elementary (OCS ELEM – Grades K-5)

<https://eprovesurveys.advanc-ed.org/surveys/#/action/209068/p39753>

Odyssey Charter JR/SR High School (OCS Jr/Sr – Grades 6-12)

<https://eprovesurveys.advanc-ed.org/surveys/#/action/209069/p39753>

Faculty and Staff Openings

As you may know, there is a critical teacher shortage across our nation. There are thousands of faculty openings throughout the State of Florida. At Odyssey schools, there are a number of openings which we are looking to fill with the community's assistance. The following positions are currently available at Odyssey schools:

- Math Teachers – Elementary and Jr/Sr High
- English Teacher - Sr High
- Technology Coordinator
- Instructional Coach – Elementary
- Science, Math, and History Tutors/Interventionists – Jr/Sr
- Agriculture Teacher – Jr/Sr High
- Hall Monitor – Jr/Sr High
- Bus Driver

Your support in helping us find high quality professionals would be greatly appreciated. If you know of anyone qualified for any of these positions, please contact Dr. Monica Knight, Director of Special Projects, at mknight@greenappleschools.com.

Substitute Teachers

In addition to permanent full-time positions that are currently available at the schools, Odyssey schools are in dire need of daily substitute teachers. Qualifications for this position are different than the ones for certified teachers. We are looking for individuals with high school diplomas or beyond, and a desire to work with children to support their academic growth. Substitute teacher training will be provided for eligible candidates. Compensation for substitute teachers at Odyssey schools is between \$120-\$160 per day, based upon education level. Fingerprinting and background clearance are required. For more information on becoming a substitute teacher, please contact Dr. Monica Knight, Director of Special Projects, at mknight@greenappleschools.com.

Letters of Intent to Return

This week, a Letter of Intent to Return for current Odyssey students in grades K-11 will be sent home. These Intent forms indicate your family's intent to accept your student's seat for the 2023-2024 school year. This information will be used to guide us in our planning for enrollment for next year. To retain your student's seat for next year, please complete this form for every child in your home currently attending Odyssey and return the forms by January 16, 2023. If you need a Letter of Intent form, please contact your school registrar.

Rising 6th Grade Students

This week, Odyssey Charter School and Odyssey Preparatory Academy students moving from 5th grade to 6th grade will receive a letter of intent to return (and an application for Odyssey Preparatory Academy) for automatic placement in 6th grade at Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High School. No additional steps are needed if those forms are returned to your child's school by January 16, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact your school registrar.

New Student Applications (Grades K-12)

For parents of rising Kindergarteners or parents with siblings or new students to Odyssey, please go to our website for a student application at <https://www.odysseycharterschool.com/NewStudentApplication.html> (Odyssey Elementary and Odyssey Jr/Sr High) or <https://odysseypreacademy.com/admissions.html> (Odyssey Preparatory Academy). If you already have a student at Odyssey, please note this on the new student application to receive sibling preference in the lottery. New student applications are accepted through Feb 15, 2023, and can be dropped off at the school or emailed to the school's registrar.

School Registrar Contacts

Odyssey Charter Elementary School

Nancy Herasme

herasmen@odysseycharterschool.com, 321-733-0442

Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High School

Aimee Thompson

thompsona@odysseycharterschool.com, 321-345-4117

Odyssey Preparatory Academy

Nancy Gervais

gervaisn@odysseypreacademy.com, 321-372-7263

New VPK Student Applications

For parents of new 3-year-old and 4-year-old (VPK) students or returning students to our VPK, please go to our website for a student application at <https://www.odysseycharterschool.com/prek.html> (Montessori Village Green). It is requested that all new and returning student applications are received by Feb 15, 2023. Applications can be dropped off at the school or emailed to the school's MVG Assistant Director, Nina Lucchini at LucchiniN@odysseycharterschool.com.

New Semester Classes

Second Semester officially begins on January 12th due to the hurricane make up days. Please see your student's schedule for the spring using FOCUS.

Mid-Year Testing

During the months of January and February, the schools will be administering the middle of the year English Language Arts and Mathematics Progress Monitoring Assessments. Schools will be providing parents schedules through Blackboard announcements. Please help your students prepare for these tests by ensuring that they get a good night's sleep the night before testing and a good breakfast the day of testing. Also, please help your student get to school on time and refrain from checking your students out on these important dates.

GATEway Night Parent Information Night

Please join us for the GATEway (Gifted and Talented Education) Parent Information Night on February 7, 2023 at Odyssey Charter Elementary School at 6:00PM. This meeting is for all parents of students currently served in our gifted and talented/honors programs in grades K-12 from all three of our school campuses as well as for those interested in their students entering these programs. During the meeting, we will discuss the wide range of opportunities that we offer for GATEway students at all grade levels, as well as middle and high school honors students, advanced placement classes, and early college programming. We will also include details and presentations regarding our STEAM (science, technology, engineering, agriculture, arts, and mathematics) programs that support our gifted and talented learners.

Practical Life and Science Skills in the Gardens and New Farm Pavilion

We are happy to share that the school gardens at Odyssey Preparatory Academy and Odyssey Charter Elementary continue to flourish with student groups harvesting more than eighty pounds of tomatoes and other produce before the winter break for our healthy café. These garden lessons allow students to learn practical life and science skills while also getting fresh air and enjoying the natural environment. At Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High School, the aquaponics lab has reopened with thirty pounds of lettuce produced just this week. In addition, we are excited to share that The Farm at Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High has a new addition of a farm pavilion that will allow the agricultural and other classes at the Jr/Sr High to have an outdoor classroom space for learning and research. The pavilion has fans, wifi, and tables to make it a great alternative to a traditional classroom.

