



Odyssey Charter School

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

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

"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.

CALENDAR

APRIL

- 4/21 Field day for 3rd and 4th grades
- 4/23 Early Release
- 4/26 Holiday – no school
- 4/28 Field day for 5th grade
- 4/30 Dress Out of Uniform/Early Release

MAY

- 5/5 Field day for Kindergarten (on campus)
- 5/5 Next round of FSA testing begins
- 5/7 Early Release
- 5/13 Awards Night (grades 1 & 2)
- 5/14 Early Release
- 5/17 Awards Night (grades 3 & 4)
- 5/19 OCS Inc. Board Meeting 4:30pm
- 5/20 PasP Meeting - Data review & family survey to help us prepare for 2021-2022
- 5/21 Early Release
- 5/27 5th grade Stepping Up Ceremony at The Constance Ortiz Wellness & Performing Arts Centre (Wyoming campus)
- 5/28 Dress Out of Uniform/Early Release
- 5/31 Memorial Day/Holiday for All

JUNE

- 6/1 – 6/3 Final Exams & Early Release Days
- 6/3 Last Day of School/Report Cards Issued
- 6/7 Summer School begins

From the Desk of Principal Nolder

Odyssey Elementary is in full swing this spring and are excited about how committed our teachers and staff have been to educate and prepare our students for success. Presently, we are in the state testing cycle and have concluded our first round of state assessments, our 3rd grade Reading and 4th/5th grade Writing. Please ensure your children are prepared by making sure they get good sleep, nutritious food, fresh air and sunshine, and that our students are coming to school relaxed and with a positive outlook. Look for some exciting, hands-on projects and activities to round out the year!

It is wonderful to see most of our students face to face as we all move toward a more natural learning environment. Presently, almost 90% of our students are back in our schools and we have been educating them well and safely. Our eLearning teachers are digging in and ensuring our online students are also progressing well. Please know that eLearning will continue throughout this semester but will not continue at our schools for the next school year.

We are pleased that despite the pandemic, we have been able to achieve some normalcy within our schools, and our students have been able to safely take part in and enjoy a variety of clubs, an in-person book fair, field days, celebrations, and field trips onsite, to St. Augustine, and upcoming trips to the Brevard Zoo. We look forward to this trend continuing in the future!

Required Final Registration

Odyssey families, please mark your calendars for final registration, which will be held on July 16th from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM and is required for ALL Odyssey families. This includes new students to our school as well as returning OCS students. Without completion of the final registration documents, we will not be able to finalize your child's enrollment at our school for the 2021-2022 school year.

If you are not able to attend the event on July 16th, we welcome you to complete registration paperwork in the office (Monday through Friday) between the hours of 8:00AM and 3:00PM, from July 6th to July 15th.

Important Weblinks

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires for schools to provide parents with an annual school status report each school year. The Odyssey Charter School 2019-2020 Report Card can be accessed via the link below
<https://edudata.fldoe.org/ReportCards/Schools.html?school=6507&district=05>

The Odyssey Parent/Student Handbook, School Improvement Plan, and Parent and Family Engagement Plan can be found on the school's website at
<http://www.odysseycharterschool.com/reports>

Summer Camp is Coming!



Join us for Odyssey's Habitat Nature Camp! Camp kicks off on our OCS Elementary Eldron campus June 7th with fun and exploration through July 23rd. Each week, campers ages 3-12, will discover a new habitat: Salt Water Ocean, Fresh Water Lagoon, Tropical Rain Forest, Deciduous Forest, Desert, Savanna and the Arctic Tundra. Campers will enjoy fun, hands-on learning in their grade

level groups, arts & crafts, and sports with PE Instructor, Coach Badrack. Community partners such as the UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension Family Nutrition Program and FL Animal & Wildlife provide on-site interactive lessons. Campers in rising Kindergarten and up will enjoy field trips to the Brevard Zoo, Palm Bay Aquatic Center, Turkey Creek Sanctuary (K-2), Environmental Learning Center (3rd & 4th), Indialantic Beach Clean Up (5th and Up), and more! Camp activities are 8:00am – 3:30pm, however, the camp day includes Before & After Care option with our Monday-Friday hours being 6:30am-6:00pm for your convenience. Summer meals of breakfast and lunch will continue to be made from scratch with a focus on healthy, organic sourced components that meet or exceed USDA nutritional standards. Odyssey's Habitat Nature Camp will continue to follow health precautions for Summer 2021, although masks for our summer camp children will be optional. For more information, email Ms. White at WhiteA@odysseycharterschool.com or stop by our Front Office for a registration form. Summer fun awaits!



Ms. Berg's Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) update:

Our teachers and staff have worked very hard this year to ensure our students are ready and will be relaxed for the FSA assessment. We understand any test can be scary, so please know that we are working to ensure your children understand the strategies to use so they can feel confident going into these tests.

We are currently in the middle of the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) Window. Below you will see a chart with the assessment windows for by grade level. Keep in mind, we will be testing eLearning students on different days than we test our brick & mortar students. eLearning students all received their actual dates for each assessment weeks ago and your teachers will send you reminders prior to the dates.

Testing Windows	Assessment	Subject	Type	Grade
4/5-4/16	FSA-W	Writing	PBT	4, 5, 6,
4/5-4/16	FSA-R	Reading	PBT	3
5/3-5/14	FSA-R	Reading	PBT	4, 5, 6
5/3-5/14	FSA-M	Math	PBT	3, 4, 5, 6
5/10-5/21	NGSSS	Science	PBT	5
TBD	FSA-W	Writing SECOND WINDOW (only for students that missed the first writing window)	PBT	4, 5, 6
TBD for eLearners (parents have been contacted to arrange dates)	FSA - R/M	Reading, Math, Science	PBD	4, 5, 6

Spring Assessments – How Can You Help Your Child Succeed?

There are many ways you can help your child feel prepared and more relaxed before the state tests. Here are some do's and don'ts about tests and testing:

DO talk to your child about testing. It's helpful for children to understand why schools give tests and to know the different kinds of tests they will take. Explain that tests are used to measure what and how they teach and how well students are learning what is taught.

DO encourage your child. Acknowledge them for the things that they do well. If your child feels good about themselves, they will do their best on a test.

DO meet with your child's teacher as often as possible to discuss his progress. Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home.

DO make sure that your child attends school regularly. Remember, tests reflect children's overall achievement. The more effort and energy your child puts into learning, the more likely it is that he will do well on tests.

DO provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home and make sure that your child is well rested on school days and especially on the day of an assessment. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test.

DON'T get upset because of a single test score. Many things can influence how your child does on a test. They might not have felt well on test day or they might have been too nervous to concentrate. They might have had an argument with a friend before the test. Remember, one test is simply one test.

DON'T place so much emphasis on your child's test scores that you lose sight of their well-being. Too much pressure can affect test performance. In addition, they may come to think that you will only love them if they do well on tests.

DO help your child avoid test anxiety. It's good for your child to be concerned about taking a test. It's not good for them to develop "test anxiety." If your child worries too much about taking tests, you can help to reduce the anxiety by encouraging the child to do the following things:

- Plan ahead. Start studying for the test well in advance. Make sure that they understand what material the test will cover. Try to make connections about what will be on the test and what they already know. Review the material more than once.
- Don't "cram" the night before. This will likely increase their anxiety, which will interfere with clear thinking. Get a good night's sleep.
- Look quickly at the entire text to see what types of questions are on it (multiple choice, matching, true/false, essay). See if different questions are worth different numbers of points. This will help them to determine how much time to spend on each part of the test.
- If they don't know the answer to a question, remind them to skip it and go on. Don't waste time worrying about one question. Mark it and, if they have time at the end of the test, they can return to it and try again.

The Day of Testing

- Make sure they get a good night's sleep.
- Have your child eat a nutritious breakfast.
- Aim for a stress-free morning.
- Make sure students get to school on time.
- Encourage them to do their best and use their strategies

Scholastic Book Fair

A great place for our students and families to access books is through our "Scholastic Book Fair, Time Machine, where Reading Can Take You Anywhere!" which is in full swing from April 14th-23rd. Any time is a great time to read, especially when the books students choose today will help make them future readers tomorrow. If you want to come to the book fair, please contact Ms. Procter (procterm@odysseycharterschool.com) and arrange a time to shop!

Important information regarding eWallet - We strongly encourage the use of eWallet for convenience and prevention of lost funds. Please note, Scholastic has changed eWallet from a debit/credit to a gift card. If you place \$20 on your child's account, and your child spends \$15 on books, the \$5 remaining will stay in their name for the next book fair or online purchase - funds will no longer go back on your credit card. This was a change made by Scholastic. Anything \$1 or under that is on an eWallet account will be donated to our All for Books funds unless the account states otherwise.

All for Books is a way for you to round your change to the nearest dollar (or donate) to give free books to students in our school. You can also purchase a reusable tote bag for a \$1 donation. All of the proceeds go to students in our school.

COVID update – Ms. Berg

We are very happy to say that very few of our students have been ill with Covid this year and the cases we have had appear to have had their start outside of our school. Looking through the data for almost the entire school year, we have experienced 0 cases of Covid in areas of our school that have been mask free or mask optional, including our cafeteria, PE classes, and recess. Even though we followed CDC guidelines to quarantine some students through the year, we have not had any of our students that were near a child that tested positive, get ill! This is a huge blessing as we review and reduce numbers of required quarantines. We thank our families for your honest communication with us this year and for your understanding when we called to quarantine your child. We do not take these calls lightly and our staff is taking caution every day to ensure these calls are few and far between!

Volunteering at OCS!

We're using SignUp.com (the leading online SignUp and reminder tool) to organize our SignUps for volunteer opportunities. Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

- 1) Go to this link to see our SignUps on SignUp.com: <https://signup.com/go/QqBzgBk>
- 2) Review the SignUps listed and choose the one(s) you like. Please keep in mind that for some of our volunteer opportunities, only Registered Volunteers are allowed to participate. If you are not yet a Registered Volunteer, please contact Kristina Snelling at SnellingK@odysseycharterschool.com for information on how to become one.
- 3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.
- 4) If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kristina Snelling at SnellingK@odysseycharterschool.com

PE – Field Days and more!

With 7 weeks left of school, Physical Education is on the move! We are all looking forward to getting outside for fresh air, exercise, sunshine, and camaraderie as we enjoy Field Day. Field Days will be held: 3rd & 4th grade April 21st, 5th grade April 28th, and Kindergarten May 5th. The students are super excited and can't wait to get out there and release some energy and have fun! We also just kicked off Kids Heart Challenge this week, where students are learning about the importance of cardiovascular health and how to keep their hearts healthy. Our students are doing an AMAZING job only days into the program and our P.E. Department can't wait to see the results.



Discipline Notes - Mr. Monds

With the end of the school year coming, our OCS Discipline Team would like to commend our students and parents on a job well done. We want to thank you all for remaining supportive and understanding of our discipline procedures this year. In order for us all to remain that village that supports all children, we have a few reminders about our school behavioral policy:

- Students are to be in dress code uniforms every day, except for dress down days.
- The behavior interventions administered to students will continue to be supportive but will be more focused on deterring non-school behaviors and parents will be notified if this occurs.
- Due to the fact that we are at the last quarter of the year, students are expected to understand and adhere to classroom and school-wide behavioral expectations.
- We will offer appropriate consequences followed by constructive conversations/counseling as needed.

Again, thank you for being awesome olive branches from our school to your homes and we look forward to a strong finish of this school year.



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Search Odyssey Charter School Palm Bay, FL

Select our school and that's it!

Now 0.5% of your purchase will go to our school.

We are growing and hiring!

We are looking for talented and community-minded men and women who care for and value children to join our Odyssey family.

TEACHERS:

Elementary and Secondary Certified Teachers
Those interested, please email Ms. Janee Campbell at jcampbell@greenappleschools.com and/or employment@odysseycharterschool.com

BEHAVIOR TECH:

Jr/Sr High (Full Time)
Those interested, please email Mr. Mike Geuvara at guevaram@odysseycharterschool.com and/or employment@odysseycharterschool.com

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS:

Elementary and Secondary Substitute Teachers
Those interested, please email Ms. Wendi Nolder (OCS/OPA) at nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com and Dr. Monica Knight (JrSr) at knightm@odysseycharterschool.com

CAFÉ:

Cashiers, Serving Line, Food Prep, and Line Cooks (Part-time)
Those interested, please email Chapmanc@odysseycharterschool.com and/or employment@odysseycharterschool.com

TRANSPORTATION:

Bus Drivers (Full-time 37.5 hours a week)
Those interested, please email Ms. Rosie Greer at GreerR@odysseycharterschool.com and employment@odysseycharterschool.com

FRONT DESK:

Customer-Service Representative (Full-time)
Those interested please email HR at GreenK@odysseycharterschool.com and/or employment@odysseycharterschool.com

CUSTODIAL:

School custodial staff (Full-time)
Those interested, please email grantc@odysseycharterschool.com and/or employment@odysseycharterschool.com

SCHOOL-BASED LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ms. Constance Ortiz - Founder
Ms. Wendi Nolder - Principal/Site Administrator
Ms. Deb Berg - Assistant Principal
Mr. James Monds - Assistant Principal/Dean of Students
Ms. Carrie Young - Guidance Dean
Ms. DeAnna Bernardo - Instructional Coach
Mr. Michael Senick - Instructional Coach
Ms. Deb Munoz - Teacher Representative
Ms. Kristina Snelling - Office Manager/Registrar
Ms. Amy White - Director, Preschool/VPK and Before & After School Care

3rd grade gardening and NEHS beach cleanup



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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.