



Odyssey Charter School

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

SUMMER 2023 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.

Founder

Ms. Constance Ortiz

School Leadership Team

Ms. Wendi Nolder, Principal
Ms. Deb Berg, Assistant Principal
Dr. Maxine Powell, Dean of Discipline
Ms. Sarah-Kate Smith, Guidance Services
Ms. Kayla Senick, Social Worker
Mr. Mike Senick, Instructional Coach
Ms. Christina Hutchinson, Instructional Coach
Ms. Becky Kolesnik, Instructional Coach
Ms. Nancy Herasme, Office Manager/Registrar
Ms. Alia Hartwick, Director, Preschool/VPK and Before & After School Care

CALENDAR

- 7/4 School Holiday – Office is closed
- 7/13 OCS Final Summer Registration (10am-6:00pm)
- 8/1-9 Preplanning for Teachers
- 8/10 First day of school (1st-5th and VPK)
- 8/15 First day of Kindergarten
- 8/24 OCS Inc. Board of Directors Meeting 4:30pm
- 9/5 Labor Day Holiday for all

*Our student calendar is available at <https://odysseycharterschool.com/Calendar.pdf>.

From our Principal, Ms. Wendi Nolder:



Happy summer, Odyssey Families,

I hope you have been enjoying summer with your children and have had time to relax and spend some quality time together. When my children were young we enjoyed our summer break and spent time together at the public library, zoo, local parks, beach, and walking/hiking nature trails. One of the most important things you can do this summer is to read to your child and to provide time and opportunities for your child to practice reading. Reading aloud helps build your child’s attention span, builds their vocabulary, and improves their comprehension skills, all of which lead to increased academic success! In addition, it increases the chance that your child will develop a love of reading and become a lifelong reader. You can continue to track the time you read to your child (volunteer hours!) on our Read Aloud Program logs, found on our website at <https://odysseycharterschool.com/read-aloud.html>.

We have been preparing for our upcoming school year and are excited to welcome back our teachers on August 1 and our Odyssey Titans on August 10 (Kindergarten Titans on August 15). I am delighted that your family is part of our Odyssey community and I look forward to welcoming each and every student back in August. I look forward to seeing you in person at our Final Summer Registration on July 13, as well as during the school year at our meet and greet events, open houses, family education evenings, and of course, during arrival and dismissal.

As a reminder, our final registration takes place on Thursday, July 13, from 10am-6:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there. We appreciate your commitment to our schools. Remember, you can reach out to me with any questions you might have. I can be reached via email at nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com or via cell phone at 321-412-3141. I am here to help! It remains an honor and privilege to serve your family. Together, I know we will make this coming year another successful one of growth and achievement for all children.

Warmest Regards,

New Staff

Each year brings positive change and this includes a few additions to our staff. We are excited to welcome Coach Andrew Johnson back to our elementary team as our PE Coach. We are also happy to announce Ms. Gilmore has moved into our Project Lead the Way (PLTW) special activity class vacated by Ms. Russell, who has retired. We also welcome Ms. Caisee Rogers as our new GATEway, Gifted and Talented Teacher, replacing Ms. Ventura, who has moved into our management company. In addition, we are thrilled to welcome some new teachers to our talented instructional team.

School Hours

For the 2023-2024 school year, students will begin their day at 8:00am; the school day will end at 2:50pm for all K-5 students. Our early release dismissals are every Friday at 1:30pm for K-5th graders. For the safety of all, we will continue with the implementation of Silent Dismissal with each family assigned unique car placards. As a reminder, our schools follow the Brevard County School calendar which families receive during registration, also available on our website at <https://odysseycharterschool.com/Calendar.pdf>.



Early Release Days

We will continue early release days on Fridays throughout the school year following the same schedule as Brevard Public School's schedule. We dismiss at 1:30pm on Fridays.

Dress Out of Uniform Days

Students have an opportunity to dress out of uniform on the last Friday of each month. Reminder, please ensure that your student follows the Brevard Public Schools dress code for out of uniform days. This year, our Dress Out of Uniform Days will be on the following dates: August 25, September 29, October 27, November 17, December 22, January 26, February 23, March 22, April 26, and May 24.

Student Placement

As a reminder, a great deal of time, effort and thought has gone into the process of student class assignments for the 2023-2024 school year, beginning with input from our teaching staff. Careful consideration was given to student placement and learning styles, and classrooms have been balanced both academically and socially. Our class lists are structured to provide equitable class sizes at each grade level. Moving students is difficult without causing imbalances and inequities.

End of Year F.A.S.T. Results

I would like to extend a huge thank you to our teachers, staff, and families for their support and encouragement last school year. Our teachers and staff worked diligently to provide your child with a strong educational foundation this past year and to make their learning meaningful. Your commitment to your child's education and well-being, coupled with your child's efforts every single day paid off! Below are our end-of-year F.A.S.T results for our intermediate grades:

Odyssey Charter School ELEMENTARY - Percentage of Students Achieving Passing Scores

Grade Level	English Language Arts Achievement			Mathematics Achievement		
	Odyssey Charter - ELEM	Brevard Public Schools	State of Florida	Odyssey Charter - ELEM	Brevard Public Schools	State of Florida
3	66%	56%	50%	74%	61%	59%
4	75%	62%	57%	76%	60%	61%
5	72%	58%	55%	71%	55%	55%

Summer Registration

Required for All Odyssey Elementary Families

Final mandatory registration is taking place July 5th through July 13th. Families can come to the front office between 8am and 2:30pm Monday through Friday to complete registration. Our Thursday, July 13, final registration will take place from 10am to 6pm.

Please be prepared to complete the following for your student(s):

- Income Verification Form
- Questions Regarding Bus Assignment
- Before and After School Care Registration
- Health Card
- All 'Dress for Success', school conduct, cell phone, technology, and bus behavior agreements
- **OCS Elementary Student Fees** 23-24 School Year (bring a check for \$15 to Final Summer Registration made out to Odyssey Charter School – write FEES in the memo line)
 - Kindergarten through 5th grade - \$15, includes:
 - \$4 Interactive Notebook (3-5) OR Fine Black Expo Markers (K-2)
 - \$6 Technology
 - \$5 Student ID & lanyard

FOR Kindergarten and NEW students, the following documents must be provided in order to successfully complete the registration process for the 2023-2024 school year, which begins August 10, 2023

- Original birth certificate (All NEW students) – we will make a photocopy
- Current immunization form (NEW Grade K)
- Physical- dated within one year of first day of school (All NEW students)
- IEPs, EPs, Behavioral Plans, 504 Plans (All NEW students - as applicable)

Healthy Café and Wellness

We believe that fresh, seasonal, local, sustainably grown foods are a primary and recommended source of nutrition for growing, high-achieving children and we are happy to be able to offer these **FREE** daily in our healthy café at breakfast and lunch times. **Yes, FREE!** This year, Odyssey Charter School students all qualify for free breakfast and lunch so please help your child take advantage of our nutritious and delicious food. We believe it enhances our students' academic performance and behavioral development. You can find our wellness policy and monthly menus on our website at <http://odysseycharterschool.com/cafe.html>.



Parents as Partners

Parents as Partners (PasP) is a collaborative partnership between parents, teachers, and administrators. The team develops ideas and plans programs to help support student success. If you are interested in joining this very important organization, we will have a table at the July 13th registration or you can reach out to Ms. Nolder by email at nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com.

Uniform Policy (Grades K-5)

All Odyssey Charter students are required to wear a school uniform. Our uniforms can be purchased from our uniform provider:

All Uniform Wear - 4335 W New Haven Ave, West Melbourne

Discount coupons will expire on July 15th and are available at:

<https://www.odysseycharterschool.com/Uniform-Coupon-23.pdf>

(Note: Please be certain you select Odyssey Charter School uniforms and not Odyssey Preparatory Academy uniforms.) You can find our uniform policy on our website at <http://odysseycharterschool.com/OCS-Uniform-Policy.pdf>.

- Reminder that students must wear their school-issued ID badge / lanyard at all times while on campus. The replacement cost for an ID badge is \$5.
- All students are required to wear full-length solid-colored uniform-style pants, shorts, skirts or skorts. Inappropriately rolling or altering the pants in any way is in direct violation of the dress code. Shorts, skirts and skorts length must be at least mid-thigh. Leggings worn alone as pants are not permitted.
- Pants, shorts, skirts and skorts that are too big or too tight, as determined by Administration, are not acceptable and will be deemed in violation of the uniform code. Joggers are allowed. Jeans, stretch pants, and athletic wear are not allowed. Students may wear solid-color leggings under uniform shorts or skorts, but leggings worn alone as pants are not permitted.
- Students must wear a uniform t-shirt or collared polo shirt. Student shirts must be a solid color and in accordance with the individual schools' uniform guide below. All shirts must bear the School logo.
- Any attire, including backpacks, displaying gang related paraphernalia or symbols, profanity or any inappropriate logos or displays are strictly prohibited.
- All headgear (hats, scarves, bandanas etc.) are prohibited on school property.
- Shoes must be closed or be strapped in the back. Flip-flops, slippers, or high heel shoes are prohibited.
- If a student chooses or needs to wear a jacket or sweatshirt due to cold weather, it must be a solid color of blue, black, or grey and in accordance with the individual schools' uniform guide <http://odysseycharterschool.com/OCS-Uniform-Policy.pdf>.

Parent/Student Handbook

Please take a moment to review our Parent/Student Handbook. It is full of important information for you and your student and is available on our website at <http://odysseycharterschool.com/Parent-Student-Handbook.pdf>.

Odyssey Charter School – Supply Lists

Odyssey Charter School grade level supply list will be available during registration on 7/13. The list can also be found on our website, <http://odysseycharterschool.com/supplies.html>.



Bus Transportation



Odyssey Charter Schools provide bus transportation to students who live between two and four miles from the school. Students living more than 4 miles will be assigned a pick up and drop off location as per established bus routes, space permitting.

Each student is allowed one designated bus stop. Changes

to assigned routes or bus transportation needs will not be permitted until a parent/guardian with proper ID completes a change of address form with the front office and then contact the Transportation Coordinator, Ms. Rosie Greer. Please allow 72 hours for all changes. During the start of the school year it may take longer.

Here is a snapshot of the enhanced Transportation Services for the 2023-2024 school year:

- 1) Student Grade-Level Identification badge (ID badges)** - Each Odyssey student will receive one ID badge at the start of the school year. Students are required to wear their ID badge at all times as part of their school uniform. This is to support student safety, issuing of school breakfasts/lunches, library book checkout, and bus transportation. The replacement cost for an ID badge is \$5.
- 2) Online Student Transportation Registration (EZRouting)** – EZRouting is the online registration tool for families applying for bus transportation. Computers will be available for families to use during summer registration on July 13. We recommend that families register for transportation for the 2023-2024 school year in advance from home (using Google Chrome – must use a computer – will not work on a phone) at the following link www.ezrouting.com/odysseyfl. To ensure we can get all students routed, ensure you have registered by the 07/30/2023.
- 3) Student Tracker System (Here Comes the Bus “HCTB”)** - This system will give you a “real-time” notification when your student’s bus is within 100 yards of the bus stop. The system will send “real-time” notification to your phone or computer when your student scans his/her ID upon entering the bus. If you have not already signed your student up for HCTB You will be able to as of August 7th 2023. Our district code 29456.

Here Some of the School bus expectations.

- We are kind to one another.
- Follow the bus driver’s directions.
- Speak in a conversational voice.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please call Ms. Rosie Greer, Fleet Coordinator, below.

Rosie Greer, Fleet Coordinator

greerr@odysseycharterschool.com

321-345-4117 option 3 • 321-338-5187 cell

Clubs/Extra-Curricular

We need you for our Clubs/Extra-Curricular!

Do you have a special talent you can share with our students for nine (9) weeks out of the school year after school? Our Before and After School Enrichment Program offers a variety of afterschool club opportunities to our students. Last year we were able to offer students a variety of extra-curricular clubs led by parents, teachers, and staff. Look for information to come out in September and December on our available clubs for 2023-2024. Parents with a special talent or skill may volunteer to lead one of the clubs listed below or may suggest a club idea of their own. Please help us enrich our students through an extra-curricular club. At our summer registration, parents will have an opportunity to sign up to sponsor a club.

Possible Club Offerings (*Prospective / Tentative (based on interest)*):

- Art Club
- Computer Coding Club
- Culinary Club
- Lego Club
- Musical Theater/GLEE
- Spanish Club
- Dance Club
- Basketball – Skill
- Soccer – Skill Building
- Guitar
- Odyssey of the Mind (Parent Volunteer Coach)
- Tae Kwon Do
- Chess Club
- Running Club
- Sign Language Club

Volunteering at OCS

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 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: Mon. - Thurs. 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (No appointment necessary)

If you are planning to chaperone any field trip please complete this process as soon as possible so it is completed before any field trips might occur. We are seeking parents who may have a special talent or skill to lead a club (for volunteer hours). At our summer registration, parents will have an opportunity to sign up to sponsor a club.

Substitutes

We are always looking for parents or community members to join our OCS family as substitute teachers. We need positive and driven individuals looking to make an impact in our Titans daily academic goals. Training is provided. Substitute teaching rates are as follows: HS Diploma (\$100/day; \$50/half day); Bachelor's Degree (\$120/day; \$60/half day); Certified Teacher Substitute (\$160/day; \$80/half day). If you are interested in joining our team as a substitute, please contact Barbara Marcus at MarcusB@odysseycharterschool.com.

Before and After-School Enrichment Programs

We are delighted to offer our Before and After School Enrichment program to our families who need it. Registration forms are available in the front office of Odyssey Charter Elementary School. There is a one-time registration fee of \$50.00 for one child and \$75 for two or more children. Before and After-Care payments are due every Monday (via ProCare App or by check or money order). Please pay online, or hand in a check to the front office. For more information about Before and After-Care Enrichment at Odyssey Charter Elementary School, please contact: Alia Hartwick at HartwickA@Odysseycharterschool.com.

School Age Before-Care

Before-Care begins at 6:00am. Students participate in art, a variety of team-based games, and social fun. Every student enjoys a healthy breakfast in the café before the school day commences at 7:30am. The weekly rate for Before-Care is \$35.00.

School Age After-Care

After-Care is available to students until 6:30pm each day, and every student is provided a healthy snack. Students are grouped by grade levels and activities include Yoga, art projects, nature trails, digital learning, and homework support. The weekly rate for After-Care is \$65.00.

Full Time School Age Before-/After-Care

Full time Before/After-Care is available from 6:00am-7:30am and after school through 6:30pm daily. The weekly rate for Before/After-Care is \$75.00.

Summer At-Home Readings

All Odyssey Charter School students are required to read the grade-specific novels(s). The



book(s), reading list and accompanying assignment was provided to students in late spring and is also available on our website: : <http://odysseycharterschool.com/summer-reading.html>. Stop in the front office if you still need your book(s).

Grievance Procedures

- Step 1: Request Teacher conference to clarify issue
- Step 2: Contact the Site Administrator 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

***Mrs. Amber Miller 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. Miller can be reached at millera@odysseycharterschool.com or 321-442-2742.*