

Odyssey Charter School

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

SUMMER 2024 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. Beatrice Benjamin, Guidance Counselor

Ms. Kayla Senick, Social Worker

Mr. Mike Senick, Instructional Coach

Ms. Christina Hutchinson, 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

7/8 – Online Re-Enrollment for 2024-2025 school year opens on FOCUS

7/11 – OCS Final Summer Registration (10am-6:00pm)

7/24 – OCS Inc. Board of Directors Meeting 4:30pm

8/1-9 – Preplanning for Teachers

8/12 – First day of school (1st-5th and VPK)

8/15 – First day of Kindergarten

9/2 – 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 to your child helps grow their attention spans, 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 (and earn your required 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 12 (Kindergarten Titans on August 15). I am thrilled 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 11, 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.

We are looking to grow our Gifted and Talented opportunities and need your support! We would love to have parent volunteer sponsors for enrichment programs such as Odyssey of the Mind, Future Problem Solving, Math League, and more. If you have a passion for supporting our students, please reach out to me via email or phone (below) so we can launch some of these high-quality endeavors.

As a reminder, re-enrollment is online this year and opens on July 8 on FOCUS (please see article on Summer Re-Enrollment and Final Registration). Our Final Summer Registration takes place on Thursday, July 11, from 10am-6:00pm. Our team is excited to see 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. It remains an honor and privilege to serve your family. Together, I know we will make this coming year an enjoyable and successful one of growth and achievement for all children.

Wendi Nolder



Annual Re-enrollment and Mandatory Final Registration:

Required for All Odyssey Elementary Families

Annual Re-enrollment will open on July 8, 2024 and will need to be completed in your FOCUS Parent Portal before July 31, 2024. It will be available in your FOCUS portal under the child's tab. The district has announced changes to the Annual Re-enrollment process to that will shorten and make the process more user-friendly. Should you need any assistance with this process, please do not hesitate to contact the main office at (321)733-0442.

Mandatory Final registration will also take place beginning July 8. Families can come to the front office between 8am and 3pm Monday through Friday to complete registration.

On Thursday, July 11, we will be hosting an onsite Re-enrollment & final registration event for all returning and new students from 10:00am to 6:00pm. Our computer lab will be open for families to complete Annual Re-enrollment.

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

- Re-enrollment for each student: This step can be completed in advance in focus or you can complete onsite during Final registration.
- Income Verification Form
- Questions Regarding Bus Assignment
- Before and After School Care Registration
- Health Card
- Uniform policy, school conduct, cell phone, technology, and bus behavior agreements
- **OCS Elementary Student Fees 23-24 School Year** (bring a check or Money Order made out to *Odyssey Charter School* and write *Student Fees* in the memo line)

Student fees are \$15 per student for Kindergarten through 5th grade and include:

- \$4 Interactive Notebook (3-5) OR Fine Black Expo Markers (K-2)
- \$6 Technology
- \$5 Student ID & lanyard

FOR ALL Kindergarten and NEW students to Brevard County, the following documents must be provided in order to successfully complete the registration process for the 2023-2024 school year, which begins August 12, 2024:

- Birth Certificate
- Physical- School Physicals MUST be dated within one year of the first day of the next school year – August 10, 2024.
- Current Immunization records
- **If applicable:**
 - Legal Guardianship/Custody documents (if applicable)
 - Current copy of IEP, EP or 504 (if applicable)

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, helped your child achieve their best. 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	75%	59%	55%	73%	58%	61%
4	66%	57%	53%	69%	60%	58%
5	61%	57%	55%	52%	55%	56%

Grade Level	Science Achievement		
	Odyssey Charter - ELEM	Brevard Public Schools	State of Florida
5	61%	58%	53%

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 below dates: August 30, September 27, October 25, November 22, December 20, January 31, February 28, March 28, April 25, May 23

Student Placement

As a reminder, a great deal of time, effort and thought has gone into the process of student class assignments for the 2024-2025 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.

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, FL 32904



(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 or 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>.

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).



New Staff

Each year brings positive change and this includes a few additions to our staff. We are happy to welcome Ms. Beatrice Benjamin to our team as our school Guidance Counselor. We are also thrilled to announce Ms. Guccione has moved into our new Health & Wellness special activity class. In addition, we are excited to welcome some new teachers to our talented instructional team.



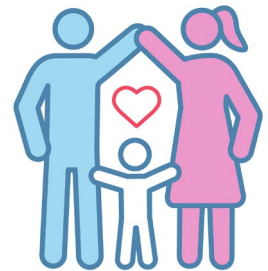
Healthy Café and Wellness

One of our school's Essential Elements is Wellness, Health & Nutrition. 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 them FREE daily in our healthy café at breakfast and lunch times. Yes, FREE! We encourage you to help your child take advantage of our nutritious and delicious food. We are certain 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>.



Positive Discipline in the Classroom

At Odyssey Charter School, we are committed to a Positive Discipline in the Classroom model that focuses on building compassionate, resilient students who possess excellent communication skills. This model works miracles in helping students develop the self-discipline needed to become academically, socially and emotionally successful. Positive Discipline class meetings promote ways to build classroom community, help students feel a sense of belonging, and develop problem solving skills.



The topic for our first morning meeting will be, "Beginning the Almost Perfect School Year." We will be asking each student, "What do you want to do to make this the best school year ever?"

We are looking forward to a great school year as we continue to implement Positive Discipline throughout our school. We have some wonderful lessons and activities planned so be sure to ask your child what they are discussing in their morning meetings!

We will also be sharing some Positive Discipline parenting tips with you each month so that you have access to some tools/strategies that can be used at home. Our hope is that we can align together to support each child. We want the Positive Discipline model to be a school and family partnership!

School Hours

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>.

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 students' 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.



Supply Lists

Odyssey Charter School grade level supply list will be available during registration on 7/11. 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 email radsicka@odysseycharterschool.com Please allow 72 hours for all changes. At the start of the school year, it may take longer.

Here is a snapshot of the enhanced Transportation Services for the 2024-2025 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) - EZ-Routing is the online registration tool for families applying for bus transportation. Computers will be available for families to use during summer registration on July 11. We recommend that families register for transportation for the 2024-2025 school year in advance from home (on computer or on the phone using Google Chrome) at the following link www.ezrouting.com/odysseyfl. To ensure we can get all students routed, ensure you have registered by the 07/31/2024.

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 2024. 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.**
- **Scan ID when board the bus.**

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Annette Radsick, Transportation Assistant.

Annette Radsick, radsicka@odysseycharterschool.com
321-345-4117 ext. 1120

Or

Rosie Greer, Fleet Coordinator

greerr@odysseycharterschool.com

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

STUDENT CLUBS

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 2024-2025. 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. During our summer registration, parents will have an opportunity to sign up to sponsor or assist in 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

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>.



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 \$75.00 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 \$40.00.

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 art projects, fun with movement, nature trail, digital learning, and homework support. The weekly rate for After-Care is \$75.00

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 \$85.00.

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. This year, we are planning to offer in-person and zoom meetings to build our membership, which tapered off with the pandemic. If you are interested in joining this very important organization, we will have a table at the July 11th registration or you can reach out to Ms. Nolder by email at nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com.



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.*