

Odyssey Charter School

NEWSLETTER

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

OCS Jr. / Sr. High Campus: 1350 Wyoming Drive
S.E. Palm Bay, Florida 32909 • 321-345-4117

SPRING 2016

"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.

Florida Standards Assessments

Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) will be taking place this spring. A few reminders: a good night sleep before a testing day is always encouraged; please also make sure your student has a healthy breakfast with protein; and please make sure your students arrive on time. The FSA website is a great place to get lots of information about testing, dates, rubrics and practice tests. Visit <http://www.fsassessments.org/>. Click on Students and Parents for information. For testing dates, please refer to the testing calendar at the end of the newsletter.



What is Rigor?

According to Mindsteps, rigor is "a quality of instruction that requires students to construct meaning for themselves, impose structure on information, integrate individual skills into processes, operate within but at the outer edge of their abilities, and apply what they learn in more than one context and to unpredictable situations."

What does this mean for your student at Odyssey? Looking at each of the components individually rigor requires students to:

- **Construct meaning for themselves:**

Rigorous instruction goes beyond merely helping students memorize facts, acquire understanding of concepts, and develop basic skill proficiency. In a rigorous learning environment, students learn how to unpack concepts, ask interesting questions, develop their own ideas, and think critically about the content presented.

School Calendar

March

3/15 Kindergarten Field Day (Eldron campus)
3/16 Early Release Day
3/16 OCS Inc. Board Meeting
3/17 Elementary Report Cards Issued
3/18 Spring Individual Picture Day
1st/2nd grade Field Day (Fred Lee Park)
3/21-3/25 Spring Break
3/28 Secondary Report Cards issued
3/30 Early Release Day

April

4/14 4th grade field trip to St. Augustine
4/14 Parents as Partners meeting
4/20 Early Release Day
4/20 OCS Inc. Board Meeting
4/27 Early Release Day
4/23 Annual Founder's 5K – "Heart & Sole"
4/28 4th grade field trip to St. Augustine

5/2-5/6 Teacher Appreciation Week



- **Impose structure on information:**

By imposing structure on information, students learn how to organize concepts, make connections among and between concepts, and deal with ambiguity and complexity. Doing this helps them to think accurately, consider multiple meanings and interpretations, and engage in both inquiry and deep thought.

- **Integrate skills into processes:**

Students aren't just asked to know information or perform a skill; students are asked to develop their individual thinking skills about what they are learning and then combine their thinking skills into thinking processes which they then apply to the content.

- **Apply what they learn in more than one context and to unpredictable situations:**

Rigorous instruction teaches students to use or adapt what they have learned AND how they have learned to think to solve real-world problems in multiple contexts, even when the "correct" answer is unclear and they are faced with unknowns.

In short, rigorous instruction creates an environment that is conducive to student learning. It takes time to develop a classroom environment that encourages students to persevere, make mistakes, and try again. The learning environment fosters students' ability to think critically, problem solve, and truly understand what is being taught. These students are the problem solvers of the future.

Info from <http://mindstepsinc.com/2012/04/what-is-rigor/>.

2016-2017 School Year Registration

It's time to register your student for the 2016-2017 school year. Please plan on attending one of the mandatory registration dates for your student's grade level. You will be given a registration packet to complete and return while at registration. Elementary campus registration will take place in the multipurpose room for returning students and in the café for new students. Please make certain to bring with you any of the required documents listed below. All parents will be notified of our final registration dates via a newsletter this summer. Finalized papers such as transportation form, health form, lunch form, bus registration and class assignments will be completed during final registration. Please remember that attending our summer final registration is mandatory.

Please gather the following required documents in preparation for registration.

- Birth Certificate (all NEW students)
- For Kindergarteners, 7th graders or 1st time in Brevard County Public school system ONLY:
- Physical- dated within one year of registration
- Physical used for VPK registration will not qualify if dated more than one year from registration.
- Current shot records (7th graders require TDAP)
- Legal Guardianship documents (if applicable)

Look for 2016-2017 registration dates coming soon.



Yearbook Ads and Student Dedications

Business card size ad space is available in the 2015-2016 OCS Yearbook.

For just \$25.00, your business card will be placed in full color in the yearbook. This is a great way to promote your business and connect our Odyssey families with our community.

In addition to selling ad space, we are also saving space for student dedications for just \$7.00 a space (similar to the size of a business card ad space). This is an amazing way to let your student know how proud you are of their accomplishments this past school year.

To place an ad or dedication in the yearbook, please submit your business card or dedication along with your name, your student's name, your phone number and your email address along with your check or money order, payable to OCS to your classroom teacher on the elementary campus or to Kristin Pitts on the Jr/Sr. campus. Money for yearbook ads or yearbook dedications is due 3/18.

For elementary campus questions, please contact Mrs. Jolene Rose madaffarij@odysseycharterschool.com) for Jr/Sr High questions, please contact Ms. Pitts .

OCS Facebook Page

Please "like" our Facebook page as we will be keeping it updated throughout the school year with events that we have going on and it is a great way to keep up with what we have going on. Visit our website at www.odysseycharterschool.com and look for the Facebook links. We are striving for 400 likes!



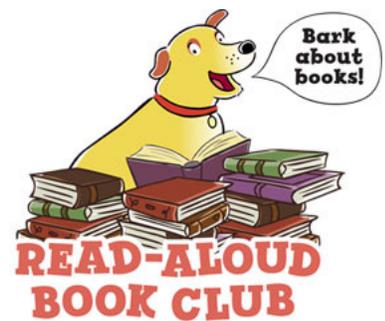
Read Aloud Book Club

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!

Here's how the program works:

- Read to your child each night for at least 15 minutes.
- Refer to the Read Aloud Recommended Book Lists at the school's website (<http://www.odysseycharterschool.com/read-aloud.html>) to select a book to read – parents may select other high quality literature as well as student textbooks, etc.
- Record the book title, author, and minutes read on the Read Aloud recording form which are available at the front office or at the school's website (<http://www.odysseycharterschool.com/read-aloud.html>).
- At the end of each month, return the form to your child's teacher.
- You will receive volunteer hours, up to 1 hour per week, 4 hours per month per child.

Note: parents must be registered through KeepNTrack to receive volunteer hours. Please contact Cynthia Waszkiewicz, volunteer coordinator for help, waszkiewicz@odysseycharterschool.com. madaffarij@odysseycharterschool.com) for Jr/Sr High questions, please contact Ms. Pitts.



Keep the Flu Away!

Student Health Tips from the OCS Clinic

As you know it is flu season in Brevard County. To prevent the spread of the flu and other illnesses we encourage you to have a conversation with your children to let them know when it is appropriate to ask the teacher to go to the clinic. Here are some tips to help your family stay healthy this season:



Students should only come to the clinic if they feel sick or are injured in order to minimize their exposure to students who are ill. Each time your child visits the clinic a form is sent home describing their visit. Proper hand washing is the most basic tip – but also one of the most effective in keeping germs away. Wash hands with warm soapy water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the bathroom or before you eat. In the classroom, we teach children to cough appropriately and wash their hands well. If your student has had a fever or is vomiting, they need to be kept out of school until they are symptom-free for 24 hours. Our front office staff are trained to assist injured students and administer medications. The clinic is available to take temperatures, give out ice packs and Band-Aids. We do not diagnose illnesses. If you have a concern that your child is sick or running a fever please keep them home and seek medical attention. We have a strict medication policy for the safety of our students on campus. Some reminders are listed below and the full policy is available in the front office.

Ways Parents Can Support Reading and Writing at Home

From Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

1. Let your children see you read for pleasure. Share vocabulary, quotes, characters, and the story with them. Compare similarities and differences between your book and the books your children are reading.
2. Talk to your children about how your parents read to you or told you stories.
3. Let your children see you write for pleasure. Send family letters to relatives or friends. Let everyone in the family contribute a part or an illustration.
4. When you're riding in the car, tell your children a story about when you were little or tell them a story about something that happened at work that day. Leave off the ending and let them provide an ending.
5. Have your children select three things they want to include in a story. Make up a story that includes those three things. For example, the selections might be a princess, a race car, and an ice cream cone. The children will love helping you find clever ways to include three things in the story.
6. When you look up at the sun/moon or pass a landmark/building, take turns making up a story to go with them. At night, point out the face in the moon and make up a story about the "man in the moon." Follow up these storytelling events with a trip to the library to explore legends about people and places from our own country and others countries.
7. Try different ambiances for reading a story aloud or storytelling. If it's a scary story, tell it in the dark or read it with flashlights. If it's a story about when your child was little, bring out an old toy and hold it as you tell the story. Try themes in your family literacy events. This works naturally with holidays. Find books about the First Thanksgiving and read them aloud. Find pictures of the Thanksgiving holiday and make a collage. Explore foods that go with the Thanksgiving holiday. Make some of these foods and let everyone help read the recipe and prepare the foods. Trade stories about Thanksgiving.
8. Make a family book that is a collection of stories: favorite stories retold generation after generation or stories of family events (first visit by the tooth fairy). Any time that stories are recorded, younger children can dictate to an older family member.
9. Help your child find a place in your home that is his/her favorite reading spot. A place where he/she can read comfortably with little distraction. Put a basket of books near the spot. Include pens, crayons, pencils, erasers and paper in the basket to encourage writing too. Every now and then, put a "literacy gift" in their basket to discover and explore.
10. Read aloud daily to your child. Talk about the pictures. Make predictions about a story and see if they come true. Read aloud a chapter-book before bed.
11. Help your child notice people reading and the writing all around them. Watch other people read. Count all the people on a bus, in a library or café reading. Read signs posted all around you.
12. Visit bookstores and libraries with your child. Window shop as you pass a bookstore, look at the books and imagine the storylines inside them. Then go in and see if your predictions came true.
13. Take books on trips with you. Read to your child on vacation or during a long wait at the doctor's office. Encourage the people you are visiting to read to your child aloud.
14. Leave notes for your child in his lunch box or school bag. Leave notes for him/her around the house. Ask your child to leave notes for

you. Have your child create a to-do list. Have him/her turn it into a checklist to encourage self-monitoring.

15. Encourage friends and relatives to give books to your child as gifts. Markers, colored pencils, pads of paper make excellent birthday or holiday gifts.
16. Subscribe to a children's magazine and have the magazine sent directly to your child. Show interest when it arrives. "Show me your favorite article." "I love that picture of _____." Popular magazines include: Highlights, Click, Ranger Rick, Sports Illustrated for Students, and National Geographic Junior. Large bookstores have many magazines to choose from. Find your favorite magazine and take one of the subscription cards located inside it.
17. Play word games such as Scrabble Junior, Boggle, ABC Bingo, Word Concentration, etc. Tell jokes, riddles and limericks. See how many words rhyme with _____.
18. Encourage your child to read aloud to younger siblings, cousins, neighbors, even stuffed animals.
19. Talk about your own childhood memories. Share your own favorite children's books and authors. Share your successes and struggles in school.
20. Encourage your child to imagine or share stories from pictures in magazines, newspapers or family photographs.
21. Listen to your child's retellings and expand them. Encourage them to add more detail. Say, "That would make an amazing story." Then, imagine the story together." Say, "You should write about that." Say, "The way you said that sounds like a poem." Then, encourage him/her to write it down as a poem.
22. Tell lots of family stories. Ask lots of questions when your child tells you a story. Ask them to identify the beginning, middle, and end or climax of the story.
23. Look back over your child's writings with them. Notice and praise the growth your child is making as a writer.
24. Encourage your child to bring their writer's notebook whenever they go on family outings. Whether it's to grandma's house, a soccer game or restaurant, there will be plenty to notice, wonder and write about.

ELEMENTARY NEWS

Fifth Grade's Annual Journey to the Brevard Symphony Orchestra!

Our 5th grade classes attended the Brevard County Symphony on Wednesday, February 3rd. The students enjoyed a musical score entitled, "Ari the Ferret" by Gregory Smith. This interactive performance between not only the composer and the symphony, but also the composer and the audience was enjoyed by both students and teachers alike. The students enjoyed making the "tuk-tuk-tuk" sound of the adventuresome ferret. They also enjoyed watching the symphony members interact with the story of the ferret scurrying through the music shop. All of our Titans relished in doing the wave as the mischievous ferret scurried throughout the audience. To incorporate language arts and writing skills, the 5th grade students will be writing to Gregory Smith, the composer to thank him & the symphony for their wonderful performance.



Second Grade News

Second grade has been working on measuring standards in math. Ms. Samways and Mrs. Krasny's class have been measuring a variety of items, including our class pet Ringo! In addition, we have been studying life cycles in science. As part of our experiments, we placed a chicken egg in a jar of vinegar. We measured the circumference prior to placing it in the jar. After three days, we measured the circumference again. Not only was the circumference an inch larger from the water from the vinegar entering the egg, but the egg turned rubbery do to the vinegar eating away the shell.



Kindergarten News

While February is the shortest month of the year, it seems to be the busiest, even with the extra day this year. Recently Kindergarten celebrated the 100th day of school. They found many ways to count to 100! We also celebrated Chinese New Year and all three Kindergarten classes collaborated to make a dragon. It is proudly displayed in our hallway! This month our Kindergarten students are also learning about different aspects of our country: regions and states, presidents, symbols, monuments, and famous Americans. February is an exciting month in Kindergarten!!!!



A Peek at Espanol

Febrero will be another busy month at OCS. Students will be interviewing each other using the key questions presented this quarter. The main objective of the Spanish Pilot program for this quarter is to improve confidence when speaking Spanish with native speakers around the school, such as introductions and asking simple questions to maintain a short conversation in Espanol. Please be open to practice with your child if they try to teach you some new Spanish vocabulary or questions.

Gracias y hasta pronto,
Miss Munoz- Ricketson



Gifted

5th and 6th grade Gifted and Talented Enrichment, GATE, students met a polymer chemist, Dr. Leonore Rasmussen, turned innovating entrepreneur at the NASA Education Center in Cape Canaveral. Going to college was an against-all-odds challenge for her, but she persevered. Once she made a mistake in a university lab, recovered, and later reused what she learned from the mistake to reinvent a substance that will help her improve the life of people who need prosthetics. Now, NASA, the military and the robotics industries are interested in helping her in her work. She never thought she would have experiments conducted on the International Space Station. Her life went from VERY hard to exciting and accomplished because of her determination, mentors in college and hard work. She personifies Odyssey Charter School's mission to see all mistakes as learning opportunities.



Computers

The 3rd-6th grades are gearing up for the first ever "Typing Olympics". The Olympics will take place after FSA testing. Please help your child(ren) by allowing them time to practice their keyboarding skills and encouraging them to use "home row". The students are excited to compete!

Physical Education

Over the past two weeks in P.E. the students participated in balancing and jumping activities in preparation for The Jump Rope for Heart fund raiser to benefit the American Heart Association. The next two weeks the students will participate in health related fitness activities. This will include aerobic games which include flag/tag games. This standard is intended to help students to prepare for the president's council of physical fitness which will take place starting in late March.



Art

March is Youth Art Month! We are looking forward to participating in the 35th Annual Southern Division Elementary Art & Science Fair Open House to be held at the Melbourne Auditorium March 10th 3:00pm-6:00pm. Also, the K12 School Board Art Show Reception will be 4:00-5:30pm on April 12th. the award ceremony to follow.



Music

All Kindergarten through 6th grade classes are studying the science of acoustics as it relates to sound reproduction. Students will also be learning about Russian composer Modest Mussorgsky.



Brevard Art and Science Fair

Congratulations to the following scholars for representing Odyssey Charter School Elementary campus at the Brevard Art and Science Fair from March 8-10. We are so proud of their ongoing efforts to do their best and their commitment to excellence!

Art Fair: Kira Baker, Tiana Pressley, Manndy Damas, Jaylee Lindsay, Clarissa Sheer, Ryan Ewan, Ethan Davis, Ryder Cookson, Callie Macpherson, Lily Rameau, Naia Macpherson, Hailey Trillo, Taylor McCarter, Esha Ali

Science Fair: Callista Macpherson, Jacob Hakes, Keaton Billings, Naia Macpherson, Milana Foley, Brooke Fitzpatrick, Cole Sandberg, Emily Broom, Elly Bachman

OCS Jr/Sr High English

The Honor Society is offering English peer tutoring in preparation for the upcoming FSA assessments. Tutoring will start Feb 8th at 8:30 in Room 248.

Mrs. Pitts, Mrs. Williams and Ms. Vincente are working with students to prepare them for the FSA Writing Assessment which will take place March 3 (7th grade), March 8 (8th Grade), and March 9 (9th and 10th grade). Please help your student rest well the night before the test and have a positive morning and healthy breakfast.

Parents can help their child prepare for the Writing Assessment by working with them to recognize the parts of different genres of writing. By deconstructing a writing sample students will be better able to organize their thoughts and express themselves on paper. Use the Deconstruct Essay organizer (below) to guide your child through the process using any type of writing; magazines, newspapers, or essays.

Deconstruct the Essays

After reading both essays, go back and mark the following:

1. Draw a star on top of the sentence that includes the writer's **claim**.
2. Underline the writer's **reasons** that she believes her claim is true.
3. Highlight or use a colored pencil to underline everything that should be considered **evidence**.
4. Circle any sentences that include the opponent's **counterclaim**.
5. Draw a rectangle around any **transitional words or phrases**.

Ms. Romeo's classes are using literature to understand how writing is constructed and how the author presents themes and morals through words. Her 9th and 10th grade are getting ready to read *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson. The theme of this beautiful story is healing and forgiveness. Ms. Romeo's 7th and 8th graders are preparing to read the classic novel *The Outsiders* by SE Hinton. The themes of this coming of age story are individual identity, self-sacrifice, and honor. Both readings touch on the challenges faced by our students these days.

Reading at Home Continues into High School - Ask your students to describe the novels they are reading at school to you? Ask about the plot sequence, the climax of the story, the character development, and the conflicts in the novels. Compare something you are reading with something your Jr/Sr High student is reading. Also ask how the reading evokes a sense of time and place. Make connections to the real world from the text you are reading or your student is reading. Ask your student to cite a textual evidence that supports their analysis of the text being read. Start your own family reading circle and read a novel series that excites everyone and then consider watching a play or movie based on the series and discuss/compare/critique both versions. These ideas are all based on core middle and high school ELA state standards.

- LAFS.7.RI.3.7 Compare and contrast a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version of the text, analyzing each medium's portrayal of the subject (e.g., how the delivery of a speech affects the impact of the words).
- LAFS.8.RL.1.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- LAFS.9-10.RL.2.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone).

Tips to help your Jr/Sr High Student reach his/her full potential

Check Edline Weekly - Using Edline (our school's online grading system) is another great way to help ensure your child is making adequate progress and completing all of their work. OCS Jr/Sr High teachers post grades to Edline on a weekly basis. If you do not have access to this useful tool online, please contact the school for instructions on how to log in. You can also call the school and leave a message for Ms. Chapman. You can also ask for a printed grade report if you do not have computer access at home.



Review Interim Reports - Interim grade reports were delivered home with your student on Thursday, February 11th. If you need another copy, please call the front office and speak with Ms. Chapman. If you would like to contact any of the teachers, e-mail is best. E-mail addresses can be found on the school website at odysseycharterschool.com.

Morning Tutoring - If your child is struggling in any subject, FREE morning tutoring is available every day from 7:30 to 8:55. Saturday School is another option for support or enrichment, as there is always a teacher willing and ready to help Jr/Sr High Students from 9:00-11:30 every Saturday.

OCS Jr/Sr High Math

The Junior/Senior High School Math department is off to another great start this semester! Upper campus teachers and students are working diligently to prepare for the FSA and EOC tests in April and May. Parents should expect their students to come home with homework practice between 3 and 4 nights a week on average. In addition, all upper campus students are being assigned weekly Study Island assignments as a major tool to practice and demonstrate mastery of the Florida state standards in preparation of the Florida State Assessments (FSA's) for grades 7 and 8 as well as the End of Course Exams (EOC's) for Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II.

Parents can help their students master the new state standards by taking an active role in monitoring their progress on Study Island on a weekly basis. Remind your students to practice using the Study Island program weekly, ask your student questions about their progress, and have them physically show you the program to demonstrate their mastery levels of each practiced objective. Objective mastery is continuously averaged as the student continues to practice, and is indicated as a percentage. Pay special attention to the percentages your child achieves for each practiced objective.

OCS Jr/Sr High History/Social Studies

The social studies department continues to push students to understand the world around them but focusing on the events that lead to our current state of being. Mr. Tucker is introducing and motivating students to interact with technology as well as Civics through his innovative use of online resources. Students interact with content in an engaging, student centered environment. Students learn concepts and key content while engaging in "gamification," learning through playing educational software titles. Mr. Ayala has been working closely with the language arts department and integrating writing across his curriculum.

Students are learning about proper research methods and crafting formal research papers. This important skill sets up students for success at the high school level. Mr. Sluzky has been exposing students to difficult and complex issues such as world war and slavery (both historical and modern day). To assist students in digesting complex content, students have been introduced to online discussion boards where they are able to reflect on the content presented and share their thoughts with their classmates.

OCS Jr/Sr High Science

The science department continues on its quest to have its students master the standards. Ms. Perez conducted a field trip on February, 4th and 5th to supplement the 7th grade standards on the human impacts on the environment. An 8th grade field trip to the county planetarium is planned for early March to supplement the ongoing study of the space science standards. Chemistry rolls onto the next chapter transitioning from its prior emphasis on stoichiometry, limiting reagent and percentage yield problems towards the quantitative investigation of gas laws. Biology is transitioning from studying photosynthesis to investigating the underlying science of DNA and RNA in cells.

Brevard Renaissance Fair

The 9th and 10th grade students went back in time during a field trip to the Renaissance Fair in the Shire of Wickham (aka Wickham Park). Touring the grounds, they absorbed the essence of the period while joining in combat games and axe throwing lessons, spending time with flame-throwing pirates, greeting royals, craftsmen, fairies and even a unicorn. They sampled new foods, tried a new language, acted in skits, and completed a photo scavenger hunt. The only disappointment was having to leave before the day ended.



OCS Jr/Sr High Honor Society News

Congratulations to our recently elected Honor Society officials. Michelle Azarre represents our Junior Chapter while Layla Pineda represents our Senior Chapter. Beginning the week of February 8, both chapters began offering peer tutoring beginning at 8:30 am in room 248. This way, students will be able to work in pairs to help one another learn material or practice academic tasks. The Honor Societies are also planning a trip to Coconut Point Park in Melbourne Beach in order to collect trash and keep the shore clean. Coconut Point Park is recognized by the Sea Turtle Preservation Society, and we will be doing our part to protect these creatures from the dangers posed by garbage along the beach line.

MathCounts

The MathCounts club is still accepting new members! If you are interested in some fun and clever brain-teasing problems, or are looking to join our competitive MathCounts team, please see Ms. Williams in Room 256. Currently, our club is preparing to join an online competition where we will compete against schools from around the nation. Meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month in Room 256. We would love to see you at our next meeting!

Odyssey Walking Club (Daily 8:30-8:50am)

Odyssey Walking Club was started in September of the 2015-2016 school year. The Walking Club gives our students a chance to wake up and get the blood flowing for the day. Not only that, but walking is proven to have many health benefits. Harvard Medical Journal sites that "walking improves cardiac risk factors such as cholesterol, blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, vascular stiffness and inflammation, and mental stress and depression".

The Odyssey Walking Club has grown in popularity and averages around seventy students per morning. We are proud to say that the aggregate total of miles walked through January is estimated at 1,500 miles! Go Titans!!

Spanish Club

The purpose of this organization is to promote the study of the Spanish language to our beginner and intermediate level Spanish students; and to celebrate the Hispanic culture with different activities. Some of these activities are: making different crafts (piñatas, flowers, skulls, etc.), organizing a cultural sharing. Also, doing fundraising activities to collect money for the Spanish t-shirt and for the Hispanic cultural field trips. The club meets every Wednesday from 8:30 to 9:00 AM. The Spanish Club is always looking for new ideas for club activities and students are always welcome.



Engineering Club

Engineering club has been actively meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the purpose of designing, innovating, building, and repairing useful tools and equipment. We have been involved in fundraising activities as a means towards the end of designing and constructing a chicken coop for the school farm.

Latin Dance Club

Latin Dance Club needs more members and they want YOU to join! Whether your intention is for fun or fitness, learning Latin Dance is a great way to make new memories that will last a lifetime. Latin Dance Club is a foundation of movement for any student with little or no dancing experience. In this club, members learn the basics in 'Salsa and Merengue.' Emphasis is on the development of partnering skills, lead and follow, the basic principles of timing, as well as basic foot work and variations of simple turn patterns. Our club meets every Friday in the Cafeteria from 4:15-5:00. Club instructors/ sponsors are Ms. O'Dea, Ms. Burgoon, and Mr. Padilla. No student fee is necessary, but shoes that slide easy with a sole are preferred (rather than tennis shoes). If you have any questions, see Ms. O'Dea in room 354. Bring a partner with you this Friday and come join the fun!

1st Annual Coffee House

With more than 100 visitors, the OCS Jr/Sr High 1st Annual Coffee House was an exciting event. Fourteen student performances displayed an array of Odyssey talent from singing, to guitar, to piano, to cheerleading, and more. We even had a Fire Dancer light up the sky during the program finale. STEM Honors students sold their fresh spearmint tea (dried from spearmint leaves grown on The Farm at Odyssey) and coffee to raise money for the growing farm, along with a great healthy dinner made with farm-fresh ingredients. Funds were also raised for the Art and Music Departments.

OCS Jr/Sr High Valentines Dance

The OCS Jr/Sr High Valentine's Dance was a huge success with more than 125 students attending. Thank you to the Titan Social Club for the great decorations and photo booth, the STEM Honors Engineering students for selling carnations and roses to raise money for The Farm at Odyssey, and the Engineering Club for selling popcorn to raise funds for the building of the Titan Chicken Coop.



Eating Up The Farm

Have you eaten in our Healthy café yet? Check out the salad bar at either location – Eldron or Wyoming – and find fresh veggies grown at the OCS Jr/Sr Farm (The Farm at Odyssey). We welcome you for a tour of The Farm at Odyssey on any Wednesday at 10:00AM to see how our students learning in hands-on, standards and inquiry-based STEAM (science/technology/engineering/agriculture/mathematics) on our growing farm. Check out the fresh carrots in this photo. We have also served kale, lettuce, and tomatoes from The Farm this year at both locations.



Titan Pride Pep Rally

On Friday, Feb 12th, OCS Jr/Sr High celebrated the Academic, Athletic, and Arts successes at our school through our Titan Pride Pep Rally. The 65 student band played "We will rock you" as our many athletic teams tore through celebration banners.



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

**Dr. Jane Martin 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. Dr. Martin can be reached at 321-733-0442.

OCS Jr/Sr High Dual Enrollment

Dear Parents of Rising 10th and 11th Graders Interested in DUAL ENROLLMENT, I have included important resources below if you are interested in Dual Enrollment or Early College for your student. If you are interested, please attend one of our Dual Enrollment Parent Nights or set up an appointment with Dr. Knight or Dr. Weimer, our school guidance counselor. Our next Dual Enrollment Parent Information Night is February 24th at 7:00PM.



EASTERN FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE – Dual Enrollment

Eastern Florida's Dual Enrollment Program is an Acceleration/Honors program that allows students in grades 10 through 12 to take college courses while earning credit toward high school graduation.

- Eastern Florida State College (EFSC) DUAL ENROLLMENT INFORMATION <http://www.easternflorida.edu/admissions/dual-enrollment/publicprivateschoolstudents.cfm>
- EFSC GUIDE TO DUAL ENROLLMENT <http://www.easternflorida.edu/admissions/documents/priv-public-school-guide.pdf> (also attached)
- EFSC Frequently Asked Questions <http://www.easternflorida.edu/admissions/dual-enrollment/frequently-asked-questions.cfm>



Florida Institute of Technology
High Tech with a Human Touch

FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY – Early College

Florida Tech's current dual enrollment policy dictates that applicants must be junior or senior level high school students. In addition, admitted dual enrolled students may only complete a total of 12 semester credit hours at Florida Tech. In some circumstances, very high achieving students have been permitted to enroll in more than 12 total credit hours. These students are evaluated on a case by case basis. If you wish to look into FIT early enrollment, please contact me. We will work collaboratively with you and your student to apply to Florida Tech.

- For more information on dual enrollment with FIT, please see their website. <http://admission.fit.edu/>
- Sample FIT application - http://admission.fit.edu/documents/doc_mgr/232/dual-enroll-application.pdf

OCS Jr/Sr High Student Perspective on Dual Enrollment

By: Claire Tucker, Junior

Dual Enrollment is an experience that I wish all high school kids could have. It has taught me how to be self-motivated and has shown me that I can do anything I set my mind to. It is more difficult, but by the time I graduate I will have completed two years of college and saved my family a total of about \$60,000. I am so grateful for the opportunities and support that I have gotten from Odyssey with my Dual Enrollment courses. I would recommend Dual Enrollment to anyone and everyone.

8th grade Grad Venture - May 6, 2016

Don't forget to make your payment for Grade Venture. The cost per student is \$80.00 which covers admission to Grad-venture, a meal voucher, and charter bus transportation to and from the park. Deadline for payment is March 25, 2016. We will be leaving from school at 4:30 p.m. The event starts at 7p.m. and ends at 12 a.m. Parents must be at school by 1:30 a.m. to pick up their child/children. All parents please bring/provide ID to pick up your child/children. For any questions please contact Ms. Castro @ 321-345-4117 or castrol@odysseycharterschool.com.

