

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

SUMMER 2015

"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.

Summer Registration

Mandatory Summer Registration for All Odyssey Families

Elementary summer registration is at the Eldron Campus
Jr/Sr High summer registration is at the Wyoming Campus

We thank all of the Odyssey families who came in early to complete much of the registration process this Spring. Please know that all families are required to attend Summer Registration (see calendar above for dates and times) to complete the following:

- Lunch Application
- Bus Assignment & Authorization to Ride
- Elementary Students: Teacher Assignments
- Final Schedules for Junior/Senior High Students
- Before and After Care Registration
- Health Card
- Student fees (check or money order only-cash will not be accepted)
 - **K-2nd** \$5.50 per student (\$2.50 field day, \$3.00 technology fee)
 - **3rd-6th** \$10.50 per student (\$5.00 planner, \$3.00 technology fee, \$2.50 field day)
 - **7th-10th** \$15.00 per student (\$5.00 planner, \$5.00 technology fee, \$5.00 lab fee)

**For those new families or returning families that were unable to attend our early registration events we will have your registration paperwork during the summer registration event. All families who registered early will be given a fast-track registration process.

Required documentation needed for registration.

Please know that these forms are required to be turned in before the first day of school on August 12.

- Birth certificate (grades K and all new students)
- Current Immunization form (grades K, 7, 9, new students)
- Current Physical Exam (grades K, 7, 9, new students)
- IEPs, EPs, Behavioral Plans, or 504 Plans (All new students to Odyssey)



School Calendar

- July 22 – OCS Board Meeting, Wyoming Campus, 5:15 pm
- July 23 – OCS Final Registration for All – K-10th grades
5:00 pm – 7:30 pm. Held at both OCS Elementary (Eldron Campus) & OCS Jr/Sr High (Wyoming)
- July 25- OCS Final Registration for All – K-10th grades
9:00 am-12:00 pm. Held at both OCS Elementary (Eldron Campus) & OCS Jr/Sr High (Wyoming)
- August 12 – First Day of School for Students
- August 26 – Early Release Day
- August 26 - OCS Board Meeting, Wyoming Campus
5:15 pm
- September 7 – Labor Day/Holiday for All

State Assessment News

The state of Florida has released some state assessment scores. A summary of our GREAT results for all released scores is listed below. Please note that individual student score reports for 5th and 8th grade Science and for Biology and Civics EOC's will be available from the school's front office beginning July 13th. Math and English/ Language Arts results from the new state test called the FSA, are not expected to be available until late September.

DID YOU KNOW?

Odyssey had 83% of 3rd grade students pass the brand new FSA Reading assessment, one of the highest pass levels in the City of Palm Bay. Congratulations to our hard-working 3rd grade students, dedicated teachers, and the 3rd grade families for their support!

DID YOU KNOW?

On the Spring 2015 5th grade Science FCAT, Odyssey students were in the top three schools in Palm Bay for academic performance. Congratulations to our 5th grade budding scientists, their teachers, and our science coach for their hard work this year.

DID YOU KNOW?

92% of the OCS Jr/Sr High 7th grade students scored proficient or higher on the Civics End-Of-Course Assessment this spring. **This was the third highest score in all Brevard Public Schools, placing OCS in the top 5% of the state.** Go 7th Grade (now rising 8th grade) Titans!

DID YOU KNOW?

Odyssey's 8th grade FCAT Science scores significantly surpassed all surrounding public and charter schools serving Palm Bay, as well as the Brevard County School District and State of Florida. The hard work of the students and teachers paid off! Congratulations. Here are the percentages: Odyssey – 65%, Southwest – 46%, Stone – 39%, Central – 52%, Royal Palm – 41%, Palm Bay Academy – 41%, Brevard District – 48%, State of Florida – 55%.

DID YOU KNOW?

OCS Jr/Sr High 9th grade students significantly outperformed Bayside, Heritage, and Palm Bay High and the state average on their Biology End-of-Course Assessments this spring. They will certainly do well as they move into the OCS Jr/Sr High 10th grade class. Keep up the great work!



School Hours and Calendar

The first day for your student to return to school is Wednesday, August 12. Please remember: Elementary school hours are from 8 am – 2:50 pm and the Junior/Senior High school hours are from 9 am – 4:10. Elementary Campus office hours are 7:30am-3:30pm and Junior/Senior High School office hours are 8:30am-4:30pm. Odyssey Charter School follows the Brevard County School calendar. To see the full Odyssey calendar, please visit www.odysseycharterschool.com/calendar.

Note: The district is offering additional Early Release days throughout the school year this year. Please follow carefully as there have been changes.

School Uniforms

All Odyssey students are required to wear a school uniform. Our uniforms can be purchased through our uniform provider, All Uniform Wear (321-608-3845) at 2585 W. New Haven Ave. (Rte. 192), West Melbourne, 32904 or online at www.alluniformwear.com.

School uniform reminders:

- Belts should be black or brown.
- Shirts should be tucked in at all times.
- Jackets and undershirts should be solid school colors.
- All shoes must have backs or straps.

Elementary Campus:

- Students will wear dark green or white polo's or tee shirts with proper logo.
- Students may wear khaki shorts, skirts, skorts, or pants.

Jr/Sr Campus:

- Students will wear grey, light blue, royal blue, or white polo's or t-shirts with the proper logo.
- Students may wear either khaki or black shorts, skirts, or pants.

Uniform Swap at Summer Registration

Has your student outgrown their uniforms? Bring their old uniforms to summer registration and swap them out for uniforms that fit them. You can also drop the old uniforms off before the registration event to our front office during our office hours. Any questions please call the Office Manager at (321) 733-0442 ext 111.

School Supply Lists

School Supply Lists are available for K - 10th grade students from your campus front office or on our website at odysseycharterschool.com.



Volunteer News

Get a jumpstart on your volunteer hours for the upcoming school year. Summer volunteer opportunities:

- Summer Registration
- Front office help



Parents and caregivers of Odyssey students are required to give volunteer hours each school year. The annual requirement is 18 hours for one student and 25 hours for two or more students. In order for your volunteer hours to be tracked, we ask that if you have not already done so, to please register as a volunteer in KeepNTrack. You can find the link to sign up to be a volunteer on Odyssey's website, located under the "Parent Tab." Look for the Volunteer Opportunities listing or you can register at the Brevard County School website under the Parents and Students tab. The price to register does vary depending on which level you register under. If you have any questions about registering for volunteering or volunteer opportunities at Odyssey, please contact our office manager, Melissa Todd at 321-733-0442 or email her at toddm@odysseycharterschool.com. As the school year begins, look for ways you can support our school and watch our students shine because of your efforts!

Preschool Applications

Now Accepting Preschool Applications for the 2015-16 School Year

Montessori Village Green offers a beautiful Montessori Early Childhood Education Program for children ages 3-5 (or preschool through Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)). Our certified Montessori and Early Childhood educators, truly support the development of the whole child. Our preschool is located in Odyssey's award winning green school building which will provide your child with a safe and healthy learning environment. Our Montessori program is supplemented with the Core Knowledge Reading program which is a rich literature-based program.

Our preschool program also offers a tuition-based morning and full day program for 3 year olds and non-VPK four year olds and a free VPK program. Please visit the following website <http://www.elcbrevard.org/p/232/registration-information> to learn if your child qualifies for VPK and steps to receiving your voucher. We accept School Readiness vouchers from the Early Learning Coalition to help parents who have a financial need with tuition. To learn more about School Readiness, please visit the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard's Website: <http://www.elcbrevard.org/p/218/school-readiness-subsidized-child-care-program>

All students that attend Odyssey for VPK receive priority enrollment into Odyssey's Kindergarten Program. An application for the 2015-16 preschool program is available at the school's front office. To learn more about our preschool program and to set up a tour, please contact Director, Ms. Amy White, at 321-733-0442 or email her at whitea@odysseycharterschool.com.

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten

A table will be set up at registration for any families still needing to submit required VPK enrollment information (birth certificate, voucher, registration form, and physical/immunization form). For more details, contact Director, Ms. Amy White at 321-733-0442, ext 126.

Green Ribbon School



This past June, Founder & Head of Schools, Ms. Constance Ortiz, traveled to Washington D.C., along with the Odyssey Administrators, Ms. Wendi Nolder and Dr. Jane Martin, and Odyssey alumni and Senior Energy Consultant, Galen Macpherson, to receive the US Department of Education's Green Ribbon School Award. This award recognizes schools that are national leaders in health and wellness, sustainability, STEM, and environmental education. Congratulations to the entire Odyssey family for receiving this prestigious award. We thank, Ms. Constance, and everyone in supporting Odyssey now and in the past for creating an innovative and beautiful "green and healthy" learning environment with the aim of helping children reach full potential.

Bus Transportation

If needed and requested, free bus transportation is provided to children who live between 2 and 4 miles from the school or more as defined by established bus routes. A bus slip must be completed for families who wish to sign up for bus service. Bus assignments will be available at registration.

Summer Reading Requirements – Just Read!



Summer reading assignments for Kindergarten through 10th grade are due during the first few weeks of school. Summer reading assignments are available on our website at www.odysseycharterschool.com and in the front office at either campus. Stop the summer slide and read!

WANTED: Substitute Teachers!

If you are yearning to make a difference in children's lives, and are looking for a part time job working during your child's school hours, look no further! Odyssey needs you! Please take a moment to apply to become an Odyssey substitute by contacting Robert Auer at (321) 345-4117 or Ms. Barbara Marcus at (321) 733-0442 x103.

Do you have a Special Skill or Expertise Area?

We are looking for parents, grandparents, and community members with special skills to help us enhance our learning community. If you are a photographer, speaker of another language, artist, gardener, musician, scientist, cook, elected official, or if you have some other special skill or talent that you would like to share with our students, please call our front office at (321) 733-0442 or email info@odysseycharterschool.com.

Elementary Campus Before and After Care

Our Before and After care program is on the rise and enrollment has increased dramatically thanks to the talent and organization of Certified 16 year educator / Before and After School Director, Ms. Amy White. Afterschool activities include homework support with certified teachers and enriching extra-curricular activities such as Green Team, Yoga, Lego Building, Creative Writing, Art Club, MinecraftEdu, and Tae Kwon Do. To improve upon the Aftercare Multi-Purpose room, Ms. White has partnered with Art instructor Karina Warren for Summer Under the Sea students to paint a "Tree of Life" mural in the Aftercare Multi-Purpose room. We invite all new students and their families to register with us and look forward to welcoming all of our Odyssey family back to an exciting new school year in our Before and After Care Programs.

Registration forms for Before and After Care will be available during registration or in the OCS Elementary front office. For more details, contact Director, Ms. Amy White at 321-733-0442, ext 126.

Our Exciting Expansion to High School

– Riding the Wave of Innovation for all Students!

Odyssey Charter School was founded in 1999 with a holistic mission to help children reach full potential in all areas of life. Since then, Odyssey has set the standard, and continues to raise the bar for all schools in Brevard in the areas of holistic education, green school facilities, sustainability, environmental education, STEM, and health and wellness. The school, recognized by both the US and Florida Departments of Education, has strengthened our community as well as provided an innovative and vital education service and choice for families.

We have grown from our original church home with 112 students to three charter schools located on three campuses with over 1400 students, and more schools may be on the way in the near future, and we are excited to make Odyssey's model of education available to even more students. This year, at Odyssey, we are expecting 300 Junior High students and another 125 High School students. Odyssey is well on its way to become Brevard's only K-12 school. It is a wonderful experience to see our students grow with us from Kindergarten as we watch them develop into well-educated, well-rounded, caring citizens, who possess the awareness and ability to positively impact our world.

In 2015, we continue the expansion of our mission and vision for our high school students. If there has ever been a time in Palm Bay that our young men and women need a unique school which provides a demanding and caring environment for their preparation as adults, it is now. The need for a generation that cares about one another and the environment around us is greater than ever, and our team at Odyssey Charter School Jr/Sr High is prepared to meet this challenge by building a dynamic school community offering a rigorous academic program and global and local awareness programs. Our highly qualified teaching staff, Honors coursework, Advanced Placement classes, dual enrollment, and imaginative and innovative hands-on electives will allow exploration of the world and edification of the student through a program that is as diverse as our population and as demanding as any in the county.

We not only talk to our kids, we listen to what they say. We know and understand our Palm Bay community and are fully committed to the mission at hand. We are here to change the world of high school. If you have any questions about our growing Jr/Sr High, please contact Dr. Monica Knight at knightm@odysseycharterschool.com.

OCS Jr/Sr High STEM A2

The Odyssey Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Academic Acceleration Program (STEM A2) is a program for students who are gifted, talented, interested, and motivated in deeper STEM knowledge and skills. Honors/Pre AP/AP STEM A2 courses place a special emphasis on mathematics and science competency-driven learning experiences that are integrative, inquiry-based, and problem-centered. By participating in the STEM A2 program, students will acquire knowledge and skills that transfer across content areas and help participants deepen their investigative, synthesis, analysis, comprehension, problem-solving, communication, and leadership skills. Key STEM A2 components include:

- **Challenging Curriculum** - The program offers challenging/rigorous inquiry-based, experiential curricula related to real-world applications that encourage critical thinking, problem solving, and team work. The program expectations go beyond minimum competencies, as well as local, state and/or national standards.
- **Inquiry-Based Learning Environment** – STEM A2 offers a learning environment where students work together as active learners and teachers facilitate student discovery. STEM A2 teachers have access to and time allotted for professional development that hones their science knowledge and experiential teaching approach. Students have necessary curriculum materials to ignite their thinking and promote hands-on outcome-based learning. Student diversity, individuality, and uniqueness are recognized and respected in the community of learners.
- **Culture of Learning** – STEM A2 students have personal short term and long term goals for learning that are developed at the start of their STEM A2 courses. Student participants are expected to be motivated in the classroom, school, and broader community through community and service learning projects.

Applying for STEM A2

Students wishing to apply for the STEM A2 program need to submit a two letters of recommendation and a cover letter to Dr. Monica Knight, site administrator, explaining why they are a good candidate for the STEM Academic Acceleration program, along with two letters of recommendation from teachers or community members. These letters should be submitted no later than June 30 of each year.

High School Sports

All NEW High School Sports for the 2015-2016 school year – Coaches Wanted!

Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High has joined the Florida High School Athletic Association. If you need more information about the sports offerings, are interested in coaching a sport, or if you are interested in our Titan Booster Club, please contact Mr. Davis at (321) 345-4117 or email him at davism@odysseycharterschool.com

- Basketball (boys and girls)
- Competitive Cheerleading
- Cross Country (boys and girls)
- Flag Football (girls)
- Soccer (boys and girls)
- Swimming & Diving (boys and girls)
- Track & Field (boys and girls)
- Volleyball (girls)
- Golf (boys and girls)
- Tennis (boys and girls)



Attention Parents of Jr/Sr High Students

Students at charter schools may participate in their local high school sports and extracurricular activities, like the marching band, if the charter school does not offer the specific extracurricular activity. If your child is interested in an extracurricular activity at one of the local high schools and Odyssey is not offering the activity and you want more information about how to get your child involved, please contact Mr. Davis or Dr. Knight at 321 345-4117.

OCS Facebook Page



Please "like" our new Facebook page, as we will be keeping it updated throughout the school year with events that we have going on. It is a great way to stay informed with our many activities and events all year. Links to the Facebook page can be found on the school's website at www.odysseycharterschool.com.

Did you know?

- Odyssey is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).
- Odyssey is designated a high performing charter school by Florida's Commissioner of Education.
- Odyssey has won both national and state awards for innovation in education and leadership.
- Odyssey has qualified and experienced leadership and operates its schools with a collaborative approach.
- Odyssey is adding a Spanish Program at our elementary campus this year.
- Our gifted program is expanding to offer additional hands-on and critical thinking opportunities?
- Jr/Sr High outperformed our three neighboring district Junior Highs this year and plans to do the same every year?
- Odyssey's Senior High is growing to 125 students this year and adding 10th grade.
- Odyssey Junior/Senior High is increasing hands-on opportunities for every child in STEM (science, engineering, technology and math).
- Odyssey Junior/Senior High's first phase for its farm is in process provided through a Lowes grant and many volunteered engineering hours. Our Aquaponics farm will be a learning tool to teach children hands-on engineering applications on how to grow fruits, vegetables, and fish and offer countless problem solving opportunities.
- Odyssey formed partnerships with the Florida Institute of Technology and Eastern State College for Dual Enrollment.
- Odyssey is forming a new partnership with the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS, who is the sole manager of the International Space Station U.S. National Laboratory. The mission of CASIS is to maximize use of this unparalleled platform for innovation, which can benefit all humankind and inspire a new generation to look to the stars.

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.