

# 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

DEC 2015 - JAN 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.



## Simulated School Grades Released for 2014-2015

Congratulations to Odyssey Charter School for the simulated grade of "A" for the 2014-2015 school year. One of only three public elementary schools in Palm Bay and one of only two "A" public high schools in Palm Bay. There were no "A" charter schools or middle schools in Palm Bay. We are proud of the hard work of our students and our teachers!

## Parents as Partners

Our Parents as Partners (parent volunteer organization) is up and running. We have been planning events for the year and WE NEED YOU! Upcoming events needing volunteers include:

- Read-A-Thon (during Celebrate Literacy Week – January 25-29) – contact Literacy Coach Jeannie Myers at [myersj@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:myersj@odysseycharterschool.com)
- Barnes & Noble Book Fair (Wednesday January 27) – contact Literacy Coach Jeannie Myers at [myersj@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:myersj@odysseycharterschool.com)
- Bingo for Books (Thursday March 10) – contact Literacy Coach Jeannie Myers at [myersj@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:myersj@odysseycharterschool.com)
- Annual 5K Fun Run/Walk (Saturday March 12) – contact Wendi Nolder at [nolderw@odysseycharterchool.com](mailto:nolderw@odysseycharterchool.com)
- Elementary Field Days (week of March 14 or week of March 28) – contact PE Coach Todd Williams at [williamst@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:williamst@odysseycharterschool.com)
- Jr/Sr High Field Days (dates TBD) – contact Dean of Students Mike Davis at [davism@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:davism@odysseycharterschool.com)
- Elementary Teacher Appreciation (week of May 2-6) – contact Wendi Nolder at [nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com)
- Jr/Sr High Teacher Appreciation (week of May 2-6) – contact Monica Knight at [knightm@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:knightm@odysseycharterschool.com)

This is a great way to earn your required volunteer hours for OCS Elementary and Jr/Sr High (18 for one child, 25 for 2 or more children) for the school year. You also get volunteer hours for attending our Parents as Partners meetings. Our monthly meeting schedule (at the Eldron campus) is as follows: January 14 6:30pm, February 11 6:30pm, March 10 6:30pm, April 14 6:30pm, May 12 6:30pm. We will have committee meetings on additional days before each event.

## School Calendar

### December

12/16- OCS Board Meeting-Wyoming Campus-5:15pm  
12/21 thru 01/04- Winter Break

### January

01/05- Classes Resume  
01/06, 01/13, 01/20 & 01/27- Early Release –  
Elementary 1:30pm; Jr/Sr High 2:30pm  
01/18- Holiday for all  
01/25-01/29- Literacy Week  
01/27- Barnes and Noble Book Fair  
01/28- OCS Board Meeting-Wyoming Campus-5:15pm

### February

02/03, 02/10, 02/17, 02/24- Early Release –  
Elementary 1:30pm; Jr/Sr High 2:30pm  
02/05- 3rd Interim ends  
02/05 or 02/12- Jr/Sr High Valentine Dance  
(final date and time TBD)  
02/11- Secondary Interims Issued  
02/12- Elementary Interims Issued  
02/15- Student Holiday  
02/17- OCS Board Meeting-Wyoming Campus  
02/26- OCS/OPA Family Dance- Wyoming Campus

### Sporting Events

#### December

12/15- JV Boys Basketball Titans vs. Brevard Heat  
@ Grant St Community Center 6:00pm  
12/18- JV Boys Basketball Titans vs. Covenant Christian  
@ 5:00pm

#### January

01/15- JV Boys Basketball Titans vs. Covenant Christian  
@ 5:00pm  
01/19- JV Boys Basketball Titans vs. Cocoa Beach HS  
@ 6:30pm  
01/23- JV Boys Basketball Game - Titans vs. Barnabas  
Christian Academy : Minsky Gym @ 5:00pm  
01/26- JV Boys Basketball Titans vs. St. Edwards HS  
@4:00pm

## School Spelling Bee

The week of January 4th, 4th through 8th grades will be hosting their classroom spelling bee. The classroom finalist will then participate in the school spelling bee on January 15th. Parents of finalists are invited to attend the school bee on Jan 15th. The event will include all 4th-8th grade finalists on the elementary and junior high campus. The spelling bee will be held in the Lower Campus café starting at 9am. The school winner will go on to compete in the Brevard County Spelling Bee on February 24th at the Brevard Public Schools Educational Services Facility. There, a winner and runner-up will be chosen to attend the Orlando Sentinel Spelling Bee in Orlando in March 2016.

# Celebrate Literacy Week

"Literacy Changes Our World" - January 25th-29th

Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida is an annual event during which students, teachers, administrators and parents help students strengthen their literacy skills and become better prepared for academic success. Throughout this week students are encouraged to keep reading and improving in their language skills toward increasing student achievement in literacy. We know that if our students are going to shoot for the moon and achieve great success they must have the literacy skills required for 21st century careers. The goal of "Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!" is to promote the enjoyment of reading for children and adults of all ages. Here are a few exciting events taking place at our school in celebration of literacy:

- Million Minute Reading Marathon
- Book Drive (for Bingo for Books)
- Get Caught Reading Bulletin Board
- Read A Thon
- Barnes & Noble Book Fair



## Letters of Intent

Letters of Intent will be sent home with your student on Monday, Jan 11th and are due no later than Friday, Jan 15th. This form lets us know that you plan on having your student return to OCS next year.

Your child's seat may not be reserved for the 2016-2017 school year if this form is not completed and returned. If your student will not be returning to OCS next year please complete one form per family indicating this. Any family that does not turn in a form will be contacted. Siblings not in attendance this year but who plan on attending OCS next year, must complete a new student application. This application is available at the front desk or on our school website.

## Uniform Policy Reminders

Cold weather appropriate dress:

- Solid Black, Green, Navy, Grey, or White jacket or sweatshirt (with or without an Odyssey logo)
- Long sleeve under shirts – solid color black, green, gray, navy white (only under uniform shirts)
- Leggings or stockings under skirts for girls – solid color black, green, gray, navy white (skirts and shorts MUST be mid-thigh or below)
- Elementary Campus: Khaki pants/shorts/skirts
- Jr. / Sr. High Campus: Khaki or black pants (jeans are not allowed)

DRESS DOWN DAY REMINDERS

- Please wear shorts and skirts no lower than the mid-thigh
- Please do not wear items with holes or rips
- Please do not wear flip-flops or sandals

## ELEMENTARY NEWS

### The Five Finger Test

#### Helping Your Child Choose that "Just Right Book"

Sometimes it is difficult to know if a book is going to be too easy or too hard just by looking at it. The Five Finger test is one way to "test" a book before you spend too much time with it and get frustrated.

1. Choose a book you would like to read.
2. Open it to a page near the middle.
3. Begin to read the page. It is best to read the page aloud while doing the test so you can hear the places where you have difficulty.

4. Each time you come to a word you don't know right away, hold one finger up.

5. If you have all five fingers up before you get to the end of the page, this is a book that mom or dad might need to read to you. Right now it is too difficult for you to read it on your own. All five fingers up is called a Too Hard Book.

6. If you have no fingers up when you finish the page, then the book may be an easy read for you. No fingers up is called a Too Easy Book.

7. If you have less than five fingers but more than one or two fingers up when you finish reading the page, the book may be just what you need to grow as a reader. Some fingers up is called a

#### Just Right Book.

**Too Easy Books** - This is the kind of book that can be read independently as it will build your child's confidence. You can still have fun reading it, but next time try to choose a book that is a little more challenging.

Qualities of a "Too Easy" Book:

- You have read this book many times before
- You understand the story very well without much effort
- You know and understand almost every word
- You read it smoothly without much practice or effort

**Just Right Books** - This is the kind of book a child can read independently and can be used for guided instruction. These are the books that will help you make the most progress in your reading.

Qualities of a "Just Right" Book:

- A book that is new to you
- You can understand most of the book
- A few words per page you aren't familiar with

**Too Hard Books** - This is a book that an adult can read to the child. Alone, the child will reach frustration.

Qualities of a "Too Hard" Book:

- More than a few words on a page that you don't recognize or know the meaning
- You are confused about what is happening in most of the book
- When you read, you struggle and it sounds choppy

## What is happening in Spanish class?



Every grade level has a Spanish curriculum that continues as they go on to the next grade level. For example in kindergarten students will learn the basics such as body parts, colors, shapes, greetings and simple commands. In Grades 1st through 6th students gradually move on from the basics to more complex concepts by using TPR (body language). Students of every grade level will be learning Spanish vocabulary concepts that help them with what they are learning in class. This will make their language study more meaningful if they are able to relate it to what they are studying in class.

5th and 6th grade are using an interactive program in the computer lab that allow them to practice listening skills and vocabulary in a fun way once a week. I can say that I am extremely proud how many students are greeting and using Spanish vocabulary in our school community. Here some links that can help your child practice Spanish at home.

- <http://interactivesites.weebly.com/spanish.html>
- <http://www.digitaldialects.com/Spanish.htm>
- <http://www.myspanishgames.com/Spanish-games.html>

## Musical Notes

This month all classes are learning about Ludwig Van Beethoven. We are discussing and listening to his 5th 6th 7th and 9th symphonies. We are also discussing how the Napoleonic wars affected his compositions.



Kindergarten and 1st graders are learning songs from core knowledge including "Michael Row Your Boat" and "Go In And Out The Window".

2nd graders are learning to play "Mary Had A Little Lamb" on their recorders.

3rd through 6th graders are learning how to play "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" on violins using the Suzuki variations.

We will be having our Glee Club concert on Monday the 14th of December for the students to attend. They will also perform on Tuesday the 15th of December for parents to attend. This evening performance will begin at 6:30 P.M.

Reminder:

The Talent show will be coming in January. Help your children prepare for the auditions. *Remember that any song or dance must be appropriate for a school performance.*

## Elementary Titan Sports Update

The Fall Sports Season has begun with a great start. Our 5th & 6th Grade Girls Volleyball Team presented well this season under the direction of Coach Caitlin Miller and Coach Cynthia Waskiewicz. The girls had a great time and we are proud of their accomplishments this season! The girls had two wins!!!!

Cheerleading has been working hard to cheer on our Boys Flag Football Team as well as preparing for the upcoming Basketball season. Our OCS Titan Cheerleaders are working very hard alongside Coaches: Melissa Proctor and Barbara Marcus and gearing up to their very first Cheer Competition this Spring!

The 5th & 6th Grade Boys Flag Football Team has had a great season and played in the Championship game on Saturday 12/12/15. They ended up in 2nd place in the division. We are so proud of our team for giving it their all! A special thanks to Coaches DeAnna and Bernie Bernardo for your hard work!

Soccer and Basketball will be getting under way, games beginning in January. Please be on the lookout to hear from your coaches via phone calls and emails. We had an amazing turnout for Soccer and we appreciate the patience as we looked for enthusiastic and hardworking coaches to allow all of the students who registered the opportunity to play!

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Ayala x 103 or ayalaj@odysseycharterschool.com

## Sixth Grade News

There is so much going on in the 6th grade this year. One major change from last year is that we are departmentalized, with 3 separate classes (ELA/Social Studies; Science/Reading Intervention; and Math). All students have 3 class periods that are approximately 90 minutes long in addition to specials. It is great being able to teach all 95 6th graders on a daily basis. Each class has incorporated station work within the curriculum with cooperative learning the cornerstone. We are also using an instructional program called Study Island in all classes that includes lessons, videos, and practice for students to use in order to master content area. In addition, all 6th grade students and teachers look forward to visiting NASA on December 15th.

## Fifth-Grade Team Clean-Up!

In the spirit of keeping our school clean & healthy for our students, the Fifth Grade classes have chosen to adopt our playground & participate in a daily clean up! Each day, several volunteers from each of the classes will take five minutes & do a sweep of the playground & surrounding field area for any trash or recycling. Doing so will educate our students about the importance of taking care of their environment in & out of the building. We hope this will encourage our Titans to carry this charge with them throughout their educational journeys.

## Kindergarten News

Our Kindergarten classrooms continue to be very busy. During the next three weeks our scholars will learn about some of the holidays and traditions that are celebrated around the world during this time of year. This aligns with our Social Studies standard; comparing our nation's holidays with holidays of other cultures. Also our scholars will read Polar Express and do various writing activities as part of our Holiday's Around the World studies.

In Writer's Workshop, we continue to focus on narrative writing and putting ideas on paper. The students continue to develop and refine their writing skills and are independently writing a sentence. In science we continue to focus on nutrition and how the foods we eat are grown. Each Kindergarten class works in the garden with Mr. Ian, our organic gardener once a week. They are excited to care for the garden and observe the plants and their growth. We are also talking about the foods we eat within our different families and cultures. Before you know it, half of the school year will be over and we will be celebrating the 100th Day of school in January!



## Extracurricular Activities

Over 200 students from Pre-K through 6th grade are learning in Afterschool Extracurricular Activities. From physical fitness in All Star Sports, Zumba, and Tae Kwon Do to the mental challenge of Chess, Book Club, and Coloring for Health, students are acquiring new skills. Our last day of Session I Clubs is Friday, December 18th. Please be advised that Thursday, December 17th and Friday, December 18th are Early Release Days, and Clubs will occur on those days from 2:00pm to 3:00pm. Please be in the car loop at 3:00pm for pick-up. Over the Winter break, encourage your students in Cooking Club to make their famous guacamole, our budding photographers to snap a few shots of the family, and our Green Team experts to recycle and inspire others to care for the environment. When we return, look for Session II registration forms coming home in book bags at the end of January 2016.



(Black and white photo from Photography Club)

## Science Research Celebration

Congratulations to All of Our 4th, 5th and 6th grade students for their outstanding efforts and achievements in Science Research! On Thursday, December 3, 2015, we held our Science Research Gala and Awards Ceremony. Students presented their research to the community at an open house event that included an inspiring message from special guest, Sean Stanton. Sean is a 7th grade student at Odyssey's Junior Senior High and earned the very prestigious "Harris Best of Show" award at the district competition last year for his outstanding research as an Odyssey 6th grade student. The first portion of the event concluded with the students taking the stage to introduce themselves and their projects to the entire audience. The awards ceremony to recognize research projects of exceptional merit immediately followed.

As you know, Odyssey is the thoughtfully created, holistic education model founded by Montessori teacher and innovator Ms. Constance Ortiz. In multiple ways, Science Research and science projects embody the foundational pillars of Odyssey Charter School.



One of the founding beliefs held by Ms. Constance is that "mistakes are opportunities for learning". This is especially true and valid in science research, as there are no mistakes, there are just outcomes and opportunities for further investigation!

Another fundamental element of the Odyssey education model is our Montessori based philosophy. "Follow the Child" is one of Ms. Constance's strongly held beliefs and one of her favorite quotes from Dr. Maria Montessori. As best practices have demonstrated, **students learn best when they lead their own learning; this is the premise for student science research projects.**

Children are natural scientists, born with an innate sense of curiosity and exploration. In education, this natural behavior or process is called **inquiry based learning**. Science Research projects allow students to follow their passions and interests as they explore the world around us.

Science projects are the ideal platform for integrating and applying knowledge from all subjects, particularly language arts, math and technology. In addition to mastering Florida State Standards related to scientific inquiry and the nature of science, **these self-guided, independent research projects help students to learn and practice essential life skills such as analytical reasoning, project management, time management, effective communication, self-confidence, perseverance, collaboration and self-reliance and leadership.**

The projects were truly phenomenal in scope and application to real world problems. This year, we had an unprecedented number of student projects that scored as exceptional. It required a series of tie breaker evaluations by independent judges to discriminate and determine the competition placements.

The results:

4th Grade Biological: 1st place - Callista Macpherson | 2nd place - Emma Mondoor | 3rd place - Dominic Tarry

4th Grade Environmental: 1st place - Jacob Hakes

4th Grade Physical: 1st place - Keaton Billings | 2nd place - Gabrielle Glover | 3rd place: Noreina Fleming

5th Grade Biological: 1st place - Naia MacPherson | 2nd place - Courtney Costa | 3rd place - Vanessa Kish

5th Grade Environmental: 1st place - Milana Foley | 2nd place - Jessica Matias

5th Grade Physical: 1st place - Brooke Fitzpatrick | 2nd place - Zachary Hodgdon AND Reece Brooks | 3rd place - Carmela Burian

6th Grade Biological: 1st place - Cole Sandberg | 2nd place - Kaylee Abramovs | 3rd place - Adryan Apollos Horrell

6th Grade Environmental: 1st place - Emily Broom | 2nd place - Kaitlyn Coco

6th Grade Physical: 1st place - Elly Bachman | 2nd plac - Brandon Desmaris | 3rd place - Eileen Stanton

***Congratulations again to all the students for their outstanding work and dedication to addressing the needs of society and the planet.***

## JR / SR HIGH NEWS

### Social Science/History

The OCS Jr/Sr High Social Science/History Department is hard at work preparing students to be ready to succeed in the high tech 21st century world. Teachers have been hard at work prototyping new lesson planning approaches to ensure that we are able to reach and support all of our students. Bringing real life into the classroom, the Social Science/History department has been leading the charge in developing our student government organization and instilling an appreciation of civic responsibility and action. Students have been engaged in discussions about current events, civics, and our responsibilities as engaged citizen leaders. Social Studies students have engaged in online discussion boards, quizzes, videos, and historical simulations. Students have explored diverse issues such as propaganda, Native American struggles, and the responsibilities of citizenship. The social studies department is focused on preparing our student to be fluent in the skills that employers want from today's workers: Collaboration, Communication, Digital Fluency, Critical Thinking, Innovating, and Ethical Decision Making.



### English/Language Arts

The OCS Jr/Sr High English/Language Arts Department received a boost in reading materials in November. Mrs. Pitts attended the National Council of Teachers of English conference followed by the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the NCTE (ALAN) in Minnesota and returned with over 200 new and upcoming novels. While there, she met dozens of publishers and authors, attended motivating workshops and sessions to bring back valuable lesson ideas to share with the department. Ninth and tenth grade students are excited to get their hands on the Advanced Reading Copies and offer book reviews to the authors before the books are even released to the public!



## Math

The OCS Jr/Sr High School Math Department is working hard to close the second term of the school year with mastery learning and success. Study Island, a standards-based online program continues to be one of our major tools to help prepare for the Florida State Assessments (grades 6-8 "FSA's") and End of Course Exams (Algebra and Geometry "EOC's"). FSA and EOC tests will take place in late April and early May. All students are expected to work on Study Island at home as part of their grade on a weekly basis. Each week, students have a minimum number of practice problems to complete on Study Island in order to reach 70% mastery for that week's assigned skills. Some teachers require 80% accuracy for mastery.

Parents can help their students master the state Math standards by taking an active role in monitoring their progress on Study Island. Please remind your students to practice using the program weekly, ask questions regularly about their progress, and have them physically show you the program to demonstrate their mastery levels of each practiced skill. Mastery of each objective is continuously averaged as the student practices, and indicated as a percentage. Pay special attention to the percentages your student achieves for each practiced objective. If students are struggling with a particular objective or perform below a 70%, there are lessons embedded in the program as well as Khan Academy video tutorials to help them increase their level of mastery. Students are expected to review these embedded lessons and use the videos as remediation, and then continue to practice the objective until they reach their goal.

If your student struggles with the Study Island objectives or needs extra help with any other assigned math work, morning tutoring is available every day in the Math department hallway (classroom varies) from 8:30 to 8:55. Saturday School is another option for Math support or enrichment, as there is always a Math teacher willing and ready to help Upper Campus OCS students from 9:00-11:30 every Saturday. If you have any questions or concerns, always feel free to contact your student's math teacher by e-mail or phone.

## STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)

**The Farm at Odyssey: Aquaponics Systems: A Better Tradition?**  
By: Kathryn Vidal, 7th Grade Student

Compared to traditional agricultural methods, and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) that have the public concerned, many farmers are putting their focus and investments into aquaponics systems (laclefdesterroirs.com). Aquaponics systems do not need farmers to use polluting machinery, aquaponics systems save water, they don't need fertilizers or chemicals, and the aquaponics' plants grow healthier and at an accelerated rate. Because there is no soil to till, there is no longer a need to use tractors and gas-powered farm equipment (innerself.com). Since we don't have soil to till, there are machines that give off gases into the air causing pollution. Water is either sprayed or flooded through fields where a huge amount either evaporates into the air on a hot day, or seeps past the plant roots and into the water table, pulling chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides down with it (aquaponicssystems.net). Aquaponics also uses less than a tenth the amount of water a comparable soil-based garden uses. The aquaponics system saves water and doesn't involve using chemicals in our food we eat. Aquaponics is a self-watering closed-loop system that uses fish effluent and plants in a complementing recirculating environment to grow vegetables at an accelerated rate (innerself.com). In other words, the aquaponics system is self-circulating, the plants grow at an accelerated rate, and all the plants are organic, nutrient-rich, and healthier for both people and the Earth.

## Civics

Knowledge of government is key to a democracy. Our students can practice the knowledge they are gaining by going to [www.icivics.org](http://www.icivics.org). They do not have to create an account to review. Just click on play, (red button near the top right of the screen) choose a game, and they are reviewing the material without the concern of "this is homework."

## OCS Jr/Sr High Electives Update

### FLVS/ED OPTIONS Online Courses

We are in our fourth year of providing virtual online classes for our students and students are excited about all the different classes that are offered through the two companies we are using (FLVS and EdOptions). Students love that they can work independently but best of all it is also preparing them to be able to take online classes at the college level. Currently, the students are working very hard to finish up their classes. Many of our students have taken at least one to three classes during this school year. Ms. Castro encourages parents to stop by or call me to learn how virtual classes work so they can help their children from home.

### Art

The growing OCS Jr/Sr High Art Elective students attended a field trip with Ms. Warren to the Foonsaner Art Museum in the Eau Gallie Art District on December 8, 2015. Activities included a docent-led tour of the museum exhibit, which featured the visionary works of folk artist Reverend Howard Finster, followed by drawing their own visionary pieces at the Renee Foonsaner Education Center.



### Yoga

Thursdays: 4:30 pm - 5:20 pm in Room 224 (Beginning Thursday, January 7th) Join Dr. Harrison, an Internationally Certified Yoga Instructor for FREE yoga classes. A limited number of yoga mats are available. Students, staff and family members (with prior approval) are welcome to participate.

### Citing Textual Evidence

We are diligently teaching Jr/Sr High students to use textual evidence to prove themselves in their discussions and in their writing.

Sit with your student at home and ask him/her to:

- define evidence;
- explain why textual evidence is important in writing and discussions;
- use a text from school to explain what he/she is learning citing the text explicitly;
- cite evidence to support the analysis of fiction, poetry, nonfiction, and photographs; and
- use evidence to make logical inferences about texts.

Here is a great video giving more details on the importance of learning to cite textual evidence. <https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/teaching-about-textual-evidence>



*Students citing textual evidence in class during a novel study.*

## OCS JR/SR High School Sports

This year, we started began our first year of FHSAA sports. We have already had several successful seasons, such as JV Volleyball and Bowling. Currently, we are in our JV Boys Basketball season and they are playing very well for their first year. There are 10 players playing and having the best time learning and competing against varsity and junior varsity teams from Brevard and St. Lucie County. This year they were able to secure a 12 game schedule. Next year we are looking forward to scheduling more games and having more home games. We want to thank all the coaches, student athletes, and parents for supporting all the sports programs.

### MS Boys Basketball

We are now in our 4th year of playing in the SCCA league. We want to thank to Coach Moreno for taking on the coaching job this year. The parents have also been very supportive to the student athletes and making sure they always make it to their games. Let's not forget the Burks who made a donation which allowed us to buy new uniforms this year and Ms. Pollack for always supporting the team where ever it was needed.

### MS Girls Basketball

This is our first year having a girls' team. Coach Wulf has done an excellent job coaching this season and we look forward to her coaching again in the future! The girls have taken everything that she has taught them and finished 3rd place in the league. We are very proud to announce that the girls won the SCCA tournament championship on Saturday, Dec 12th. The parents have been very supportive to the student athletes. Let's not forget the Mrs. Weems who made a donation which allowed us to buy new uniforms this year.



### MS Boys Flag Football

Practice will start in January and games will begin in February. We are hoping to have more than one team so everyone can play without having to have tryouts. Our school will be playing in the SCCA league. Last year, we had two teams and one of them finished in 1st place. We are looking forward to another exciting year.

### Tae Kwon Do



Congratulations to our 1st OCS Jr/Sr High Tae Kwon Do team for winning their first match last month. Special thanks to Coach Padilla for starting this new competitive team.  
**GO TITANS!**



## Dual Enrollment

Rising 10th and 11th Graders Interested in DUAL ENROLLMENT, On January 12, 2015, we will have an OCS Dual Enrollment Parent Information Night from 5:30-6:30PM at OCS Jr/Sr High. Information for dual enrollment is listed below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Knight, Site Administrator, or Dr. Weimer, our school guidance counselor.

### EASTERN FLORIDA

- 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>
  - o STEPS 1-3: You will complete these steps with your student.
  - o STEP 4: At this time, we are unable to give the PERT at the school. If you wish to have your child apply for Session C this summer, please register your child now. We will notify you if EFSC allows us to offer the PERT at our school site.
    - Free PERT Practice Materials are noted below.
      - PERT Video Modules -<http://www.irsc.edu/Videos/PERT-Module/player.html>
      - Student Guide - [https://college.measuredsuccess.com/mcollege/help\\_resources/P.E.R.T\\_Study\\_Guide.pdf](https://college.measuredsuccess.com/mcollege/help_resources/P.E.R.T_Study_Guide.pdf)
      - PERT Practice Test - <https://www.mdc.edu/main/testing/examprep/3ps.aspx> and <https://www.irsc.edu/uploadedFiles/Admissions/AssessmentServices/PERT-Practice-Test.pdf> and <https://valenciacollege.edu/assessments/documents/cpt-Reading-review.pdf>
        - o STEP 5: This step your student will complete with Dr. Weimer.
        - o STEP 6: The EFSC advisor for Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High School will be David Houk. She is located on the EFSC Palm Bay campus at 321 433-5250.
        - o STEP 7: Your student will work with Dr. Weimer on the course textbooks.
      - EFSC Frequently Asked Questions <http://www.easternflorida.edu/admissions/dual-enrollment/frequently-asked-questions.cfm>

### FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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. For more information on your child's future enrollment with FIT, please see their website. <http://admission.fit.edu/>

## Preparing for 11th Grade

Attention ALL 10th grade parents – We are setting up all the necessary components for your child to continue at OCS through the 12th grade and become our first graduating class in 2018. Please join us to hear about the expansion of our rigorous college-prep program that includes new coursework and electives during the 11th grade Open House and Dual Enrollment Night on January 12th from 5:30-6:30PM. For more information, please contact Dr. Knight, site administrator for the Jr/Sr High, at [knightm@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:knightm@odysseycharterschool.com).

## 8th Grade Grad venture Field Trip

May 6th, 2016

The 8th graders will be attending Universal Studios/Island of Adventures for their field trip. The deadline to make their payment of \$80 is March 25, 2016. At that time we will decide if we will extend the deadline. The students are looking forward to their end of the year trip. We will be leaving from school on May 6th and returning sometime around 2:00 am. Any questions please contact Ms. Castro at [castrol@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:castrol@odysseycharterschool.com) or 321-345-4117.

