



ODYSSEY
CHARTER SCHOOL

NEWS

SUMMER 2011

"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 much achieve a balance of intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual and social skills as a foundation for life.



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Dear Odyssey Families,

We welcome you to the 2011-2012 school year! We have spent the summer preparing the school for our students and families and look forward to your return. As you approach our building, you will see some exterior improvements, specifically our new preschool/kindergarten play structure and beginnings of our covered front walkway and overhang.

Our school grade dipped to a B this year, missing the A grade by 1 percentage point. We have spent much time this summer examining our curriculum, instruction and discipline in order to make necessary improvements. We have analyzed our FCAT and MAP scores and have worked hard to determine each student's academic need. We have also been working to ensure that each classroom has the best qualified teacher(s) for each of our students. You will see some familiar faces in new places, as well as some new names on our list of teachers and staff. We are also happy to welcome our new Middle School Dean, Gomer Morgan, to work with our middle school students and staff.

There are some new programs we are bringing on board as well as the continued implementation of our essential Odyssey programs: Montessori philosophy/observation, positive discipline, and nutrition education. Our new programs include MacMillan/McGraw Hill Florida Math Connects for 3rd-8th grades, Springboard Language Arts for middle school, and Pearson Comprehensive Science for 7th-8th grades.

We look forward to seeing you at registration. Enjoy the remainder of your summer!

Wendi Nolder
Principal

VOLUNTEERS

Calling all listed or registered parent volunteers! Start the new school year off with a head start on the required 18-25 parent volunteer hours! We need friendly faces to help welcome our new families and assist school staff with the registration process. If you are interested, please contact school registrar, Ria Tutzarakis at 321-733-0442 ext. 100 or tutzarakisr@odysseycharterschool.com.

OFFICE HOURS

Our office is open this summer from 8:00 a.m. until 4 p.m. Beginning August 1, our office hours will be 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Important Registration Information

All new and returning students are required to attend registration. Registration will be held on the following dates and times:

➤ Saturday, July 30, 2011

9 a.m. – 12 noon (K – 5th grades)
1 p.m. – 3 p.m. (K - 8th grades)

➤ Tuesday, August 2, 2011

6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (6th-8th grades)

Parents with children in multiple grade levels may come to any registration period.

Registration Requirements

- Birth certificate (Kindergarten and new students)
- Immunization form (Kindergarten – 3rd grade, 7th grade)
- Physical examination (Kindergarten, 7th grade, new students)
- Parent driver's license (Kindergarten & new students)

No student will be admitted on the first day without these documents.

Student Medication

Any students who require medication during the school day, must have a parent check in the medication through the front office, and fill out a medication form. Students may not bring medication to school at any time. The only exception to this rule is that a student may carry an asthma inhaler if a doctor deems it medically necessary. The parent would still need to check this in through the front office with a written script from the doctor stating that the child must carry the inhaler with them at all times.

Due to limited parking on the first day of school, we ask that parents bring their children's medication in the original prescription package to registration. Our school health technician will be available to receive medication and assist parents in filling out the required paperwork.

Note - Classroom Assignments will be handed out during registration

Student Fees

K-2 = \$8 (\$5 - Studies Weekly)(\$3 - Technology)
3-6th = \$13 (\$5 - Studies Weekly)(\$3 - Technology)(\$5 - Planner)
7-8th = \$13 (\$8 - Technology)(\$5 - Planner)

Student fees are accepted in the form of a check made payable to Odyssey Charter School. Please put 'student fees' in the memo section of the check.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Bus transportation will be provided to children who live 2 to 4 miles from the school and further based upon varying student population needs. At registration, a table will be set up for families who wish to sign up for bus service. Students who live less than two miles from the school are not eligible for bus transportation.

PRESCHOOL/VPK OPENINGS

We have a few select openings in our Montessori Village Green Preschool and VPK programs. Odyssey Charter School offers a Montessori preschool program for children age 3 which is tuition based and a free Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program for students who turn 4 on or before September 1st of the school year they wish to enter.

Our Montessori program offers children a peaceful, beautifully prepared environment to work in and grow social and emotionally. Our Montessori directresses will present individual and small group lessons to each child in the classroom. Every child will be treated as an individual and their Montessori education plan will reflect the areas in which they are especially strong and areas in which they may need extra support. The materials and curriculum in the classrooms are designed to meet all the educational and developmental needs of the children. Children will work in the areas of language, mathematics, science, geography, practical life and sensorial. Along with our Montessori program, we offer a strong literacy program, a health and nutrition program and a gardening program.

Please call the school at 733-0442 or visit our website at www.odysseycharterschool.com for more information about the programs or to enroll your child.

ENRICHMENT

Odyssey Charter School offers an enrichment program which provides before and after school child care. Students have daily activities schedules such as art, science exploration, building and construction and team sports. A healthy snack will be provided to your child each day through our school's Healthy Café. Children will be given time during the indoor activity to complete homework.

Students can also enroll in extracurricular activities that meet one time per week for a small fee. An extracurricular activities list will be sent home with your student in late August or early September and it will be available on our web site.

Enrichment Fees

- Registration Fee \$25.00 per family
- Before Care \$35.00 per child per week
- After Care \$50.00 per child per week
- Before and After Care \$65.00 per child per week
- Siblings will receive a 10% discount
- School Readiness vouchers are accepted



NEW PROGRAMS

- Springboard Language Arts (from the College Board) – 6th-8th grades
- New math curriculum – Macmillan/McGraw Hill – 3rd-8th grades
- New 7th-8th grade Science books
- School Advisory Council (SAC) – to help with our School Improvement Plan
- Continue Montessori philosophy/observation courses
- Continue Montessori certification courses
- Continue implementing Carnegie Math in 6th -8th grades
- Continue positive discipline – per our SACS accreditation team required actions
- Continue Measures of Academic Progress – delve deeper into assessment results to drive instruction

FCAT RESULTS/ ALGEBRA EOC RESULTS

FCAT results for students in grades 4 through 7 are available at the front office and will be available at registration. Algebra End of Course results will be mailed directly to students.

OASIS PROGRAM

We have re-evaluated our OASIS program and are working on strengthening the program elements and ensuring that we are preparing our students to be successful. For the 2011-2012 school year, our OASIS program will offer Algebra I for high school credit.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Volunteering is a requirement for each family to attend Odyssey; 18 hours for 1 child, and 25 hours for 2 or more children. There are many volunteer opportunities at Odyssey as well as the Read Aloud Program at home. Parents can get up to 4 hours per month to read to their children and log their time on the Read Aloud form that can be downloaded from our website.

SUMMER READING REQUIREMENT AND INFORMATION

Summer reading assignments for Kindergarten through 8th grade are due by August 24th. Summer reading assignments are available on our website, www.odysseycharterschool.com, on the homepage, and are available at our front office. Summer office hours are 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

All students Odyssey Charter School are required to wear a school uniform. Our uniforms can be purchased at School Time (723-3223) or online at www.schooltimeuniforms.com. Their location is 4175 West new Haven, near Sam's Club and Cinema World on 192.

Students may wear either green or white Odyssey polos or the green Odyssey P.E. shirt with Khaki pants, shorts, capris skirts or skorts. Shorts and skirts must reach mid-thigh or below in length and all pants/skirts should fit properly (not too snug or too loose). On cooler days students may wear a long-sleeved t-shirt under the uniform shirt. Students may also wear a solid black, green or white sweater, jacket or pullover without a hood.

SUPPLY LISTS

Student supply lists are available on our school's website: www.odysseycharterschool.com, or at the front office.

Grievance Procedures

- Step 1: Request Teacher conference to clarify issue.
- Step 2: Contact Principal if unresolved with the teacher
- Step 3: Contact identified person at Academia Central Florida Man. Co.
- Step 4: Contact the President of the Governing Board
- Step 5: Present issue at the next monthly Board of Directors Meeting if unresolved
- Step 6: Seek mediation with the Sponsor

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