

## Welcome

Dear Odyssey Family,

Wishing you all a peaceful and love-filled Thanksgiving holiday from our board, faculty and staff, and from me, personally. May we all practice gratitude for those little things in life that bring us joy. As always, we are honored to serve you and your family. I hope you enjoy the pictures of our lovely students.



Sincerely,

*Ms. Constance Ortiz*  
GA Chief Executive Officer and  
Founder of Odyssey Schools

## Our Mission for Every Child

Our holistic mission keeps us focused upon how we can help all students reach their own unique potential, not only through a balanced and enriched curriculum, but also through developing a healthy culture for learning. One of our goals this year is to help all students feel valued and capable through the ongoing development of a caring community. Our community approaches this in numerous ways. We model courtesy and respect, acknowledge student success, demand each student's best, continue to transform our classroom practices to meet the needs of all students, and by caring enough to create an attractive and educationally-rich environment. After all, there is nothing more important in the world than children.

## COGNIA Accreditation and Continuous Improvement Model

We are preparing diligently for our reaccreditation through COGNIA. COGNIA is the largest accrediting agency for K-12 schools and universities in the world. The Green Apple School Management team and our schools have been working our way through numerous performance standards in preparation for the visit. Accreditation standards are designed to benefit every type of learner. During the month of February, we will have an Accreditation Engagement Review. A parent survey will come out in January. We count on your honest feedback in order to continually improve our schools. If you are interested in becoming a stakeholder for this review, please contact Dr. Monica Knight, Director of Special Projects, at [mknight@greenappleschools.com](mailto:mknight@greenappleschools.com). Thank you for your partnership and support.

## New Faces on Campus

We welcome our new staff to Odyssey.



**Mr. Michael Fredenburg**  
Assistant Principal  
Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High School

Please help us welcome Mr. Michael Fredenburg to Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High School as a new Assistant Principal. Mr. Fredenburg comes to us with 23 years of experience in secondary and elementary education serving as a Teacher, Assistant Principal, Interim Principal, Athletic Director, and Special Education Coordinator in multiple districts and states, including Brevard County. We look forward to his support with our growing Jr/Sr High in many areas, such as secondary curriculum and instruction, student services, including ESE, ESOL, and gifted, as well as athletics and extra-curricular programs.



**Ms. Alia Hartwick**  
Director of Montessori Village Green  
and B/A Care

We welcome Ms. Hartwick to our schools as an administrator from Hope Montessori Schools in Eureka, Missouri. Ms. Hartwick has many years of training and experience with early childhood education and Montessori and we look forward to her support in the continued growth and development of our VPK and Enrichment/Before/After Care Programs. Her specialty area is to work collaboratively with teachers to create high-quality Montessori environments and help share the Montessori philosophy with children, parents, and teachers/guides.



**Ms. Nina Santos**  
Assistant Director  
Montessori Village Green  
and B/A Care

We are excited to share that Ms. Nina Santos will be returning to Odyssey schools as the new Assistant Director to support Mrs. Hartwick with our expanding MVG programs. "Ms. Nina" has been a VPK director and Montessori teacher in our schools for many years and is well-loved by students and parents alike for her caring and gentle ways and supportive collaboration with families in the primary years. We are delighted that she has decided to return to our Odyssey family after the birth of her newest granddaughter.

## Celebrating Florida History with our Annual Wax Museum

Odyssey Elementary 4th grade scholars presented their research on their Famous Floridian through our Night at the Wax Museum on Wednesday, 11/10/21. The event was a successful fundraiser to support their annual trip to St. Augustine in the spring, culminating a year of studying Florida history! Odyssey Preparatory students will do a similar project this spring.



## Celebrating our Heroes – Odyssey’s Annual Veterans Day

On Wednesday, Nov. 10, in special ceremonies on both campuses, we honored the brave men and women who have helped protect and serve our great nation. We consider them our superheroes, sacrificing time with family and friends, and often paying the highest cost, to ensure our freedoms and keep our country safe! Thank you, Veterans



## Student Behavior

Odyssey is filled with many delightful students, but as the holidays come upon us, we often see an increase in behavioral issues in our schools and on our buses. Sometimes the holidays can have a negative effect. Please help us keep our focus on education by providing a calm and peaceful environment for your student before they come to school and by being aware and discussing their moods and inclinations. In order to keep our community thriving and learning, consequences for misbehavior most often result in an in- or out-of-school suspension. We count on your support to bring your student to our schools ready to learn. Together we can continue to achieve great things for our deserving students.

## Homecoming Dance

The Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High School 2021 Enchanted Night Homecoming was held in our beautiful gymnasium earlier this month. Students and staff celebrated Fall with dancing and fun with friends.



## Help Us GROW – Please consider making a Farm and Garden Donation

From the beginning, Odyssey Charter School has done things differently. With a holistic and health focus, we attempt to enrich our children's bodies and minds, in order to grow not just good students, but wonderful people and citizens.

The garden and farm projects at Odyssey start as young as Pre-K and grow more structured as the students themselves grow more capable. In elementary, the students work in small gardens, learning the basics of food production, and how organic gardening aligns with what they're learning about the natural world in their science classes.

Middle school and high school is where, should the students choose, they can truly take their agricultural education to the next level. With a 4000+ gallon aquaponics lab and a 1/4-acre soil production field on site, students are encouraged to learn the methodology and science behind organic agriculture. The science programs are empowered to use this farm and garden framework in order to conduct experiments and challenge how students relate their education to the natural world.

The farm also provides the students an opportunity to experience the joys and hardships of agribusiness. The food produced goes into the school lunches. Students are involved in every stage of food production: from planting, to cultivation, to harvest. We will be using these funds to support the growth of our raised garden beds at each elementary school and our Farm at Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High School. Please donate below:

Odyssey Charter School Farm and Garden Program - SeedMoney - <https://donate.seedmoney.org/6314/odyssey-charter-school-farm-and-garden-program>

The Farm at Odyssey had a very successful Fall Harvest Stand after school this month. All sales were donation based and the featured crop was eggplant!



Montessori Village Green VPK students dug in deep and enjoyed learning about the lifecycle of the pumpkin. They investigated the insides, counted the seeds and ordered the pumpkins from largest to smallest. The children then repeated the cycle by planting their own seeds.



Earlier this month, Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High School was awarded a Bright Ideas Grant from Northrop Grumman and the Brevard School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Program to build a Farm Bot to study agricultural innovation and yield. Exciting combination of student efforts from Engineering, Computer Coding, Robotics, and Agriculture will help us expand our Farm programs. This is a great STEAM opportunity for our teens!

## Communication

As the schools continue to grow, we are working with our leadership teams on better communication strategies, which are being put into practice. Please contact me or Dr. Monica Knight directly if you have any suggestions or are struggling with communication on any of our campuses. We can be reached via email at [mknight@greenappleschools.com](mailto:mknight@greenappleschools.com) or [cortiz@greenappleschools.com](mailto:cortiz@greenappleschools.com). Please always include your phone number and a good time to reach you.

## Healthy Café and Wellness

We believe that fresh, seasonal, local, sustainably grown foods are a primary and recommended source of nutrition for growing, highachieving children and we offer these FREE daily in our healthy café at breakfast and lunch times. YES, WE SAID FREE. Odyssey students all qualify for free breakfast and lunch. So please help your child take advantage of our great food. We believe it enhances our students' academic and behavioral development. You can find our wellness policy and menus on our websites.

## Odyssey Athletics

Congratulations to the Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High Women's Bowling Team for being named the 2nd in the District, allowing them to once again go to the state where they came in 11th place. Check out our athletics page on our website at <https://www.odysseycharterjrjr.com/athletics>.



Titan Middle School Basketball is lighting up the score boards over the past few weeks with HUGE wins over New Hope Private School, Pineapple Cove Charter, and Royal Palm Charter. Keep it up, Titans! We are on the way to the regional championship at this pace!



## Odyssey Robotics

Thanks to Mr. Zelonski for sponsoring and coordinating this amazing 1st Robotic League Meeting on our campus this year! The assistance of Mr. Grimaldi in this event is appreciated as well. It was great to see Odyssey's Robotic Team in action supported by staff members, families, and friends. If you didn't attend, you won't want to miss the next one!



*"This a wonderful day. I've never seen this one before."*

- Maya Angelou

*"Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were they big things."*

- Robert Brault

*"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."*

- John F. Kennedy

*"Reflect upon your present blessings—of which every man has many—not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some."*

- Charles Dickens



We will be increasing our communication on our Facebook pages and encourage all new families to like us on Facebook. Our Facebook pages are a great way for parents to have a window in our schools and is a place we will be posting upcoming events. See you there!

<https://www.facebook.com/ocselementary>

<https://www.facebook.com/OdysseyCharterJr.Sr.HighSchool>

<https://www.facebook.com/odysseypreppy>

