

*A Message from Ms. Constance,  
School Founder and CEO,  
Green Apple School Management*



inspired learning in "green" and healthy schools

September 2019

## Welcome

Welcome back to a new school year, and if you are new to our schools, we would like to extend a warm welcome to you as you join our Odyssey Family! We are thankful that Hurricane Dorian spared us and are excited about getting this school year off to a positive start.

Our mission is to help each child reach full potential in all areas of life while working in partnership with you, our families. We welcome you to work closely with us as we help your student(s) develop their full and unique potential. By collaborating and working together, trust deepens, and we keep all of our collective efforts focused upon each student's achievement. We agree to hold our students and each other accountable in order to make a tangible difference in our students' lives and help them achieve the highest level of academic achievement.

We have the wonderful recognition of being Brevard County's premier and most experienced charter school organization and its' only AdvancED accredited system of charter schools! Our team of professional educators strive to be their best every day, putting students and their academic needs first. Serving preschool through 12th grade students, we have been offering holistic education with our unique blend of Montessori, Classical, and College Preparatory educational methods since 1999.

Our schools continue to achieve high recognition and receive accolades for the individual and collective work we are accomplishing with students and families. As a parent whose son and grandchildren have or are attending our schools, I can say with certainty that our team is dedicated and truly committed to the success of all of our students. This commitment is achieved as a result of authentic teamwork, as well as a positive and heartfelt school culture where our students find a place to excel and shine.

**All the very best to a great year ahead!**

Ms. Constance Ortiz  
Chief Executive Officer  
Green Apple School Management  
Founder of Odyssey Schools



## Welcome to a Parent Tea

Come join me and our Leadership Team for a Parent Tea (and Coffee) and discuss the mission of our schools for children, our building plans, and other new initiatives. We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to hear your insights and suggestions. We will be meeting with parents at Odyssey-Eldron for tea on Thursday morning, October 3, from 8:30-9:30 and for the Wyoming Campus, the Parent Tea will be held the following week on Thursday morning, October 10, from 9:30-10:25. Please RSVP so we know how much to prepare by contacting Laney Eliopoulos at [leliopoulos@greenappleschools.com](mailto:leliopoulos@greenappleschools.com). For those who are not able to make the tea, but would like to offer suggestions, please email me at [cortiz@greenappleschools.com](mailto:cortiz@greenappleschools.com). Looking forward to seeing you all.

## Green Apple School Management (GA) Academic Team

GA is an AdvancED accredited district of schools. All Odyssey schools are affiliates of GA. We have a wonderful and hard-working team of academic leaders that work to provide updates in curriculum and coaching for coaches and teachers within our schools. The Green Apple academic team can be reached at (321) 676-8737.

Ms. Raquel Espinosa - Chief Academic Officer

Ms. Laura Lane - Director of Curriculum

Ms. Charlotte Chace - Director of Special Services

Ms. Megan Barnitz - Director of Gifted and Talented

Ms. Laurie Lane - Director of Secondary Learning

## Spotlight on Ms. Raquel Espinosa

Green Apple School Management has partnered with Ms. Raquel Espinosa, a highly-experienced educational service provider with an exceptional record of success in assisting K-12th grade schools, school leaders, and instructional staff in continuously improving the services they provide to their students. As our Chief Academic Officer, Raquel leads the academic team in the development of system-wide educational initiatives, ongoing AdvancED goals, curriculum development and implementation, and new teacher induction and coaching programs. Using her 35 years of experience in education and school leadership, Raquel has brought a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the Green Apple team that has taken our schools and students to higher levels of performance.



## Odyssey Charter School Inc. We have outstanding leadership teams at each campus:

### Odyssey Charter School (OCS)– Elementary (K-5)

Ms. Wendi Nolder - Site Administrator  
[nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com)

Ms. Deb Berg - Assistant Principal  
[bergd@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:bergd@odysseycharterschool.com)

Ms. Carrie Young - Discipline Dean  
[youngc@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:youngc@odysseycharterschool.com)

Mr. Brian Davidson – Guardian  
[davidsonb@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:davidsonb@odysseycharterschool.com)

Ms. Licelia Moo – Counselor  
[mool@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:mool@odysseycharterschool.com)

### Odyssey Preparatory Academy (OPA) – Elementary (K-6)

Ms. Wendi Nolder - Site Administrator  
[nolderw@odysseyprepacademy.com](mailto:nolderw@odysseyprepacademy.com)

Ms. Pat Carvil - Assistant Principal  
[carvilp@odysseyprepacademy.com](mailto:carvilp@odysseyprepacademy.com)

Mr. Mike Davis - Assistant Principal  
[davism@odysseyprepacademy.com](mailto:davism@odysseyprepacademy.com)

Mr. Steven Skinner – Discipline Dean  
[skinner@odysseyprepacademy.com](mailto:skinner@odysseyprepacademy.com)

Mr. Sean Antonio – Counselor  
[antonias@odysseyprepacademy.com](mailto:antonias@odysseyprepacademy.com)

### Odyssey Charter School (OCS) – Jr/Sr High (6-12)

Dr. Monica Knight - Site Administrator  
[knightm@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:knightm@odysseycharterschool.com)

Ms. Janee Campbell - Assistant Principal  
[campbellj@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:campbellj@odysseycharterschool.com)

Mr. Michael Guevarra – Lead Dean of Discipline Sr. High  
[guevarram@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:guevarram@odysseycharterschool.com)

Mr. Jose Padilla – Dean of Discipline Jr. High  
[padillaj@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:padillaj@odysseycharterschool.com)

Ms. Maria Moore – Academic Dean  
[moorem@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:moorem@odysseycharterschool.com)

Ms. Kari Finch – Social Worker  
[finchk@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:finchk@odysseycharterschool.com)

Mr. Michael Viola, College Counselor  
[violam@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:violam@odysseycharterschool.com)

Ms. Kim Havet, Guidance Services and  
Dual Enrollment Specialist  
[havetk@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:havetk@odysseycharterschool.com)

## Student Safety Comes First!

At all school campuses, our primary concern is to ensure the welfare of our students, staff, and community. As such, there is a full-time School Resource Officer (SRO) at the Wyoming campus to monitor and ensure the implementation of all safety and security guidelines, policies, and procedures for the OCS Jr/Sr and OPA school communities, in collaboration with school-site leaders. At the Eldron campus, a full-time School Security and Safety Specialist (Guardian) provides oversight of all safety and security guidelines, policies and procedures, in collaboration with the school's leadership. All campuses work closely with the Sheriff and Palm Bay Police to ensure that all necessary steps are being taken by the schools to maintain a safe and secure learning environment.

Being prepared for emergencies is critically important for all schools. Throughout the year, each school campus conducts safety drills and fire drills to ensure that all students and staff are fully aware of procedures that must be followed during actual emergencies. The faculty and staff at each campus receive training prior to the opening of each school year on the schools' emergency procedures, safety and security policies, and crisis management procedures. Additionally, each school has developed a mental health plan to assist staff in identifying students who may need additional support or referrals to outside agencies. To maintain a safe and orderly learning environment at all times, each school has Discipline Deans who work closely with students and staff to implement our positive behavior support programs for all schools and our Positive Discipline in the Classroom program for our elementary students.

Another key component in keeping our students, staff, and school community safe is to conduct proper screening of all employee candidates. At our schools, all potential employees are fingerprinted and given a national background screening by the Brevard County School District. The school is notified by the district if a potential employee fails to pass any security screening, which then renders the candidate ineligible to be hired by the school. When a candidate passes their screening, references are checked, including their last place of employment. Our schools adhere to a Drug-Free Workplace Policy.

## Spotlight on Brian Davidson – Eldron Campus Guardian

We are happy to have on board at our Eldron Campus, Mr. Brian Davidson. Mr. Davidson comes to us from a district school where he served and was trained by the Brevard County Sheriff's office as a School Safety and Security Specialist. Mr. Davidson spent 13 years in the Air Force and had deployments over many years to Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar, and Turkey. He brings a wonderful sense of dedication and determination with a sprinkling of humor to his position of Guardian at our school. He is a hero in our midst. Whenever you are on the Eldron campus, please say "hello" to Mr. Davidson and if you have suggestions or questions about school safety, please contact him at [davidsonb@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:davidsonb@odysseycharterschool.com). For safety and security at the Wyoming Campus, the Palm Bay Police assign an officer daily and we have gotten to know the officers in our community much better and appreciate their service to our students.



## All Students Deserve Enrichment - Newly Enhanced Gifted and Talented Programs (GATEway)

As we aim to meet the academic needs of a very diverse group of students, we have been shining a spotlight on the needs of our above grade level students. We welcome Ms. Megan Barnitz as our new Gifted, Talented, and Steam Coordinator, who is working with gifted teachers on our school campuses in a variety of ways:

- training teachers on understanding gifted and talented students,
- deepening curricular opportunities and experiences at both elementary and secondary schools, including enrichment clubs and academic teams,
- enhancing the rigor of coursework,
- developing plans for content acceleration, compacting, and enrichment at all grade levels,
- facilitating the implementation of the Renzulli Schoolwide Enrichment Model including providing interest inventories for gifted students,
- supporting the growth of our Accelerated, Honors, Advanced Placement and dual enrollment programs,
- and further enhancing the GATEway student time (pull out and push in services) through training on accelerated curriculum like Project Lead the Way, Junior Great Books and William and Mary gifted resources and program elements.

At elementary, GATEway students are provided enrichment through gifted teachers pushing in or pulling out students, in addition to daily Enrichment Time and weekly GATEway time. At the Jr/Sr High, acceleration is provided through Honors courses, higher grade course work, dual enrollment, early college, academic teams, and enrichment clubs.

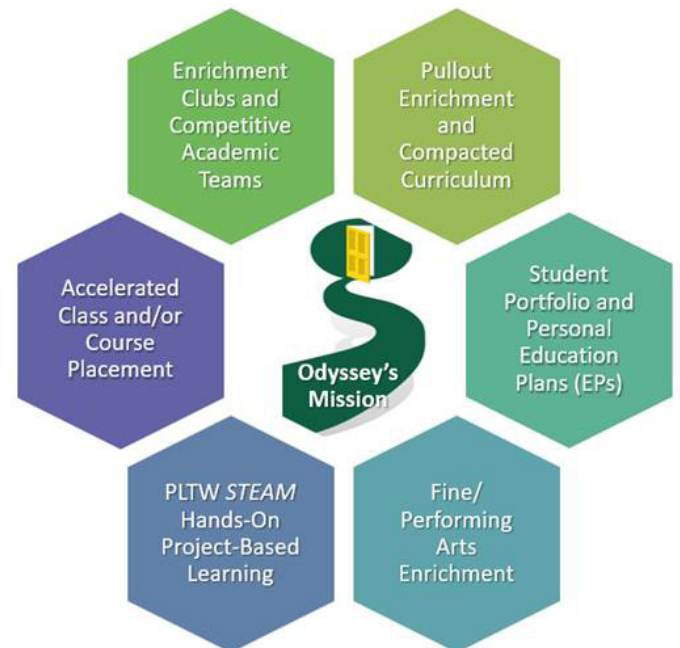
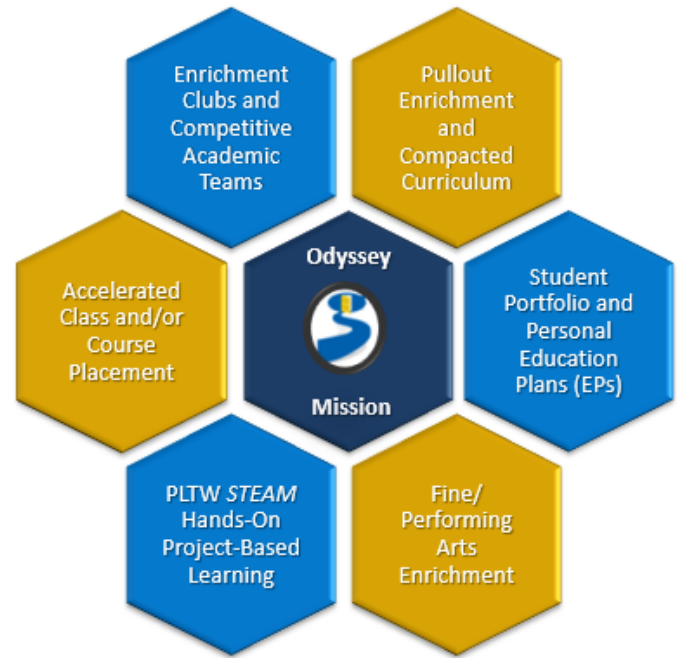
The Montessori Method of education, developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, is a child-centered educational approach. It values the human spirit and the development of the whole child. The Montessori philosophy of education is not a cookie-cutter educational method. It recognizes children as unique and individual human beings each with distinct needs and abilities. Montessori believes that children are not all at the same educational level but deserve to be met where they are and moved along a continuum of learning. We strive to follow these principles while planning for each student.

If you have any questions or would just like to reach out to speak with Ms. Megan Barnitz about our GATEway programs, please contact her at [mbarnitz@greenappleschools.com](mailto:mbarnitz@greenappleschools.com).

## Transportation

Around mid-September, we will have a brand-new 2020 Bluebird bus added to our fleet. Please know adjustments will be made to some of our routes to alleviate crowding on our buses, particularly in Jr/Sr High. You will receive a notification if your student is impacted. For any additional information or questions regarding bussing, please contact our new bus communications director, Ms. Rosie Greer, at [greerr@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:greerr@odysseycharterschool.com) or Mr. Rob Seneschal, transportation director, at [seneschalr@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:seneschalr@odysseycharterschool.com).

## Gifted and Talented – School-Wide Model



## Differentiation for ALL Children

All children deserve to have high quality instruction and acceleration. Besides gifted and talented students, our on-grade level elementary students are also provided acceleration opportunities through daily Enrichment Time. For students that struggle in Reading, Math, or Science, we are also providing acceleration opportunities by determining areas of need, providing instruction in high need areas, and offering additional time on task. At the Jr/Sr High level, weekly support is provided by teachers before school, during Finish Friday, and during Success Saturday. This additional support helps ensure that all students are ready for high school graduation.

## Customer Service - We are Here to Serve

We are deeply honored to serve our Palm Bay and surrounding community of students and families. What a wonderful group of students and families we have. With this deep honor, we strive to do our absolute best. Every year we commit to a strong work ethic with the understanding and acknowledgement that this is our students opportunity to receive an exceptional education. Our motto is: Students first, teachers second, and the rest of us are third. We have the greatest jobs in the world as we have been given the sacred labor of educating students who will be the leaders of our future. We steer away from controversial subjects and topics, respecting your boundaries as parents and caregivers, and as our students first and primary teachers. If you know of ways that we can improve customer service at our schools, all suggestions are welcomed and appreciated. Some-

times we are not aware of ways we could improve. We need your eyes, ears, and views. Please consider emailing your suggestions to [cortiz@greenappleschools.com](mailto:cortiz@greenappleschools.com). (We also are open to hearing about things that you love -- compliments and kudos!)

*"A customer is the most important visitor on our premises. He is not dependent on us. We are dependent on him. He is not an interruption in our work. He is the purpose of it. He is not an outsider in our business. He is part of it. We are not doing him a favor by serving him. He is doing us a favor by giving us an opportunity to do so."*

-Anonymous

## Construction Updates

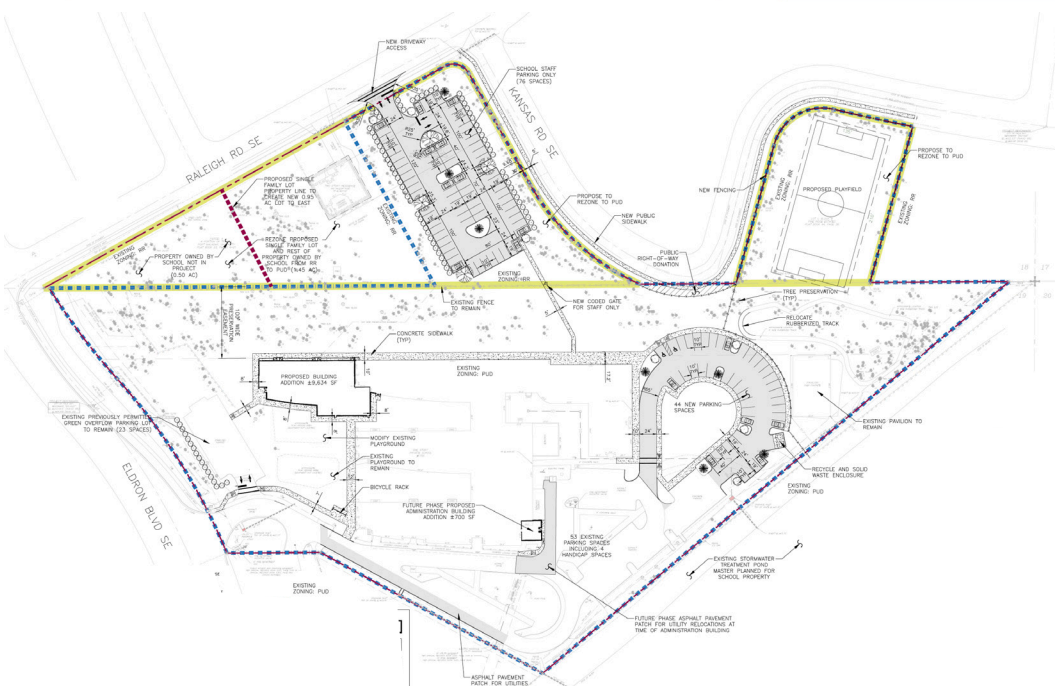
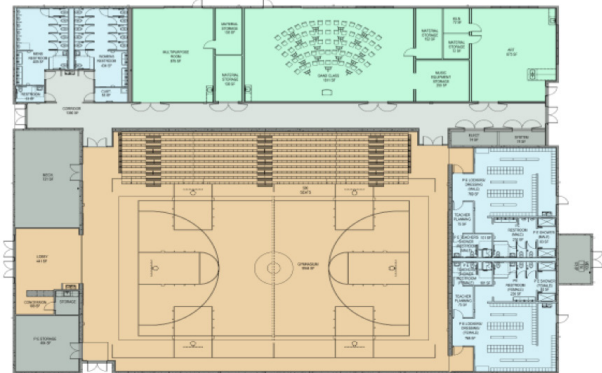
Odyssey Charter School, Inc., closed on our bonds for the new facilities and we are finishing up the permitting process on each campus. We are well underway to having a new gym and performing arts center, new soccer field and track at Wyoming, and a new addition, soccer field, parking lots, and extended car

loop at Eldron. We are on track for opening our new facilities by next summer. While our students are enjoying their new Gym and Performing Arts Center next school year, the Track and Soccer Field for the Wyoming Campus will be completed.

### NEW Wyoming GYMNASIUM and FINE ARTS Building



### NEW Wyoming GYMNASIUM and FINE ARTS Schematic



### Odyssey Charter School, Inc., Looking for Additional Board Member Candidates

The Odyssey Charter School Board is searching for two board members to serve on the Odyssey Charter School Board. Requirements include being available to meet 6-8 times annually for 1-2 hours to support board operations. Board members ensure the adherence to the mission of our schools and provide oversight for corporate operations. The board is looking for members experienced in business and/or marketing. If you are interested in serving on the Odyssey Charter School Board, please contact [cortiz@greenappleschools.com](mailto:cortiz@greenappleschools.com).