

Odyssey Charter School

OCS Elementary Campus
1755 Eldron Blvd. S.E. • Palm Bay, Florida 32909 • 321-733-0442

FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER

"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.

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SCHOOL-BASED LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Ms. Constance Ortiz** - Founder
 - Ms. Wendi Nolder** - Principal/Site Administrator
 - Ms. Deb Berg** - Assistant Principal
 - Mr. James Monds** - Assistant Principal/Dean of Students
 - Ms. Carrie Young** - Guidance Dean
 - Ms. DeAnna Bernardo** - Instructional Coach
 - Mr. Michael Senick** - Instructional Coach
 - Ms. Deb Munoz** - Teacher Representative
 - Ms. Kristina Snelling** - Office Manager/Registrar
 - Ms. Amy White** - Director, Preschool/VPK and Before & After School Care
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CALENDAR

- Friday Early Release Days** – K-2 dismiss at 1:15p.m. and 3rd-5th dismiss at 1:30p.m.
- Casual Dress Days** – Last Friday of each month (10/30, 11/20, 12/8, 1/29, 2/26, 3/26, 4/30, 5/28)
- 10/23 – End of First Nine Weeks
- 10/30 – Elementary Report Cards Issued
- 11/11 – Veterans' Day / Holiday for All
- 11/25 – 27 Thanksgiving – Holiday for all
- 12/1 – Second Interim Ends
- 12/8 – Elementary Interim Reports Issued
- 12/21-31 Winter Break
- 1/1 – Holiday for All
- 1/4 – Students Return

From the Desk of the Principal:

Happy fall, everyone! We had a strong start to our school year and now serve over 770 Titans in Kindergarten through 5th grade through brick & mortar and eLearning. Our goal upon returning to school was to ensure the safety of our students and staff and get back to the important business of educating your children.

With the support of our Founder, Ms. Constance, and our OCS, Inc. Board of Directors, we are excited about our ongoing construction projects that are well underway – including the new classroom addition, car loop extension, additional parking and staff parking lot (adding over 110 parking spaces to our campus), and a regulation under-12 soccer field.

Our holistic mission to support students academically, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually remains central to our efforts. This year, we are happy to have Ms. Jeannette Russell on our team who is providing experiences with Project Lead the Way (PLTW) for all students. Through PLTW, students engage in hands-on activities in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, as they become creative, collaborative problem solvers ready to take on any challenge.

We are also continuing our focus on the needs of our Gifted and Talented Education (GATEway) students and programs with Ms. Suzette Jewell Ventura supporting these students in our pull out and Acceleration programs. Students will have experiences with William & Mary Gifted Curriculum and Junior Great Books, and will continue the opportunity to experience Renzulli, an interactive online system providing a personalized learning environment for students, identifying strengths, interests, learning and expression styles. Our GATEway curricula and programs provide our GATEway students with the opportunity to learn and develop critical thinking skills, teamwork/collaboration, responsibility, leadership, self-advocacy, innovation, creativity and problem-solving.

We truly welcome your feedback and encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas with us always. As partners in your child's education, we count on you to share what is going well and what might need improvement. Partnering together, we can offer your child a wonderful educational experience. Please feel free to reach out to me any time at nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com or 321-412-3141.

Wendi Nolder, Principal

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Water Bottles and Water Refilling Stations

We have replaced all of our water fountains with water refilling stations. Please make sure you are sending your child with a refillable water bottle each day in order to stay hydrated throughout the day. Water bottles should be labeled with your child's name.

eLearning at Odyssey Charter School - Elementary

e-Learning at OCS Elementary has settled into a solid routine this fall and we are thrilled with the implementation of the Canvas platform. Our teachers, students, and families have really stepped up to the plate to ensure that we are able to effectively educate our students through the distance learning model of education. Below is a reminder of the responsibilities of both students and families while students are engaged in our eLearning to provide each eLearning student to with an effective education.

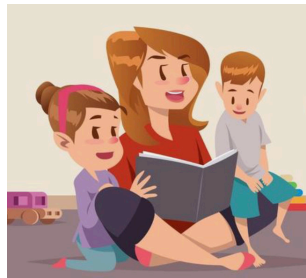
Student Responsibilities

- Students are dressed properly with acceptable background and ready for eLearning.
- Be prompt – allow yourself extra minutes to get on ZOOM link. Follow the routine and eLearning schedule provided.
- Homework and assignment expectations will mirror Brick and Mortar instruction.
- Complete all work independently or with teacher assistance and not parent.
- Participate in CANVAS eLearning and Welcome meetings and training.
- Students need to be dressed appropriately online without any distracting clothing such as blankets, snuggles, towels or any other distracting clothing.
- Student are expected to follow all classroom and school based behavioral requirements.

Parents Responsibilities

- Parents must have a high level of involvement.
- Participate in welcome meetings, CANVAS eLearning training, and virtual parent/teacher conferences.
- Set up quiet learning space in the home with supplies & materials.
- Post eLearning schedule and support students daily.
- Assist your child with accessing online instruction.
- Monitor your child to ensure attendance, participation and engagement.
- Communicate concerns with teacher promptly.
- Parents are NOT to assist students on any standardize test.
- As we have all heard, patience is a virtue. Please continue to practice patience with our teachers and school during these uncharted times. We are all in this together and we want the best for each of our students and families.
- If you have any eLearning questions, please contact Mr. Monds via email at mondsj@Odysseycharterschool.com.

Read Aloud Program Updates – for Volunteer Hours



The Read Aloud program is a wonderful way for parents to fulfill their volunteer hours while supporting their students academically, socially, and emotionally. In 1983, the U.S. Department of Education report “Becoming a Nation of Readers” found that, “the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading

is reading aloud to children.” To participate in the Read Aloud program, parents should spend at least 15 minutes reading aloud literature to their child that is about two grades above their independent reading level. Then complete the Read Aloud log which can be provided by your classroom teacher or through the front office. Next turn in your log at the end of each month to your classroom teacher or to the front office and you will receive volunteer hours for the time spent reading aloud to your child.

For more information about the importance of reading aloud to your child, please visit Jim Trelease’s web site at: <http://www.trelease-on-reading.com/> or you can visit our website at <http://odysseycharterschool.com/readaloud.html>.

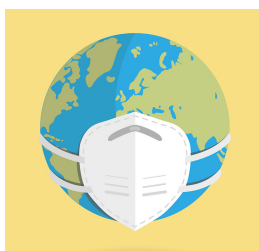
Parents are invited to check out books from our Media Center for their Read Alouds. Please feel free to contact Ms. Melissa Procter at procterm@odysseycharterschool.com if you have any questions or concerns.

ClassLink – Odyssey Launchpad Online Instructional Support



Elementary students will have access to i-Ready, myOn, Studies Weekly, Study Island and Discovery Science online programs to support instruction in the Florida State Standards through their single sign on through the Odyssey ClassLink Launchpad. Following a diagnostic assessment, i-Ready provides individualized online instruction that targets each student’s specific needs

in both reading and math. Students take a diagnostic 3 times per year to set their learning path and work their path in between. Students are encouraged to utilize i-Ready for 45 minutes per week in both reading and math to progress toward their expected annual growth. MyOn is an online program that allows students to read (or listen and follow along) books in their areas of interest and at their reading level. Students are encouraged to use myOn at home daily to help with reading fluency and comprehension (don’t forget to answer the quiz questions at the end of each book). Studies Weekly is an online program supporting Social Studies instruction. Study Island (5th grade) and Discovery Science (all grades) provide practice for students in science concepts and supports science instruction taking place in the classroom. We encourage parents to take an active role monitoring students’ progress on these programs, and to remind students to utilize these programs weekly. If you need support with any of the programs, contact your child’s teachers or our instructional coaches, Ms. Bernardo bernardod@odysseycharterschool.com or Mr. Senick senickm@odysseycharterschool.com.



Masks

Just a reminder to send your child each day with a mask. Masks are required during hallway transitions, in line in the café, and during times when social distancing is not possible (for example, small group instruction). We have a limited number of donated masks that we can distribute to children who forget or

lose their mask. We thank you in advance for helping ensure your child comes prepared each day with their mask.

FOCUS

FOCUS for Parents – if you have not received your FOCUS log in (new students/parents) please email Ms. Berg at bergd@odysseycharterschool.com. FOCUS for students who returned to OCS Elementary is the same for both students and parents from last year. If you have questions, please email Ms. Berg.

FOCUS App – there is a new FOCUS app. You can download it to your smartphone and get easy access to grades and communication with your child's teachers.

Tardy Policy

Both brick and mortar and eLearning students are expected to be in their seats and ready to learn by 8:00 AM. If brick and mortar students arrive at 8:00 AM or later, parents must park and walk their child into the office, sign them in, and have a tardy slip issued for admittance to class. Parents, please do not park in the fire lane – this is a safety concern. We thank you for making the effort to have your students to class on time each and every day.

Parents as Partners

Parents as Partners (PasP) is a collaborative effort between parents, teachers, and administrators. The PasP team develops ideas and plans programs to support student success. Our Fundraising committee will be raising funds for the Parents as Partners account which provides funds for students who are not able to afford to pay for field trips and also supports Teacher Appreciation.

Note that ALL Parents are our Partners. However, in order to become an active member, please join us at the meetings held via ZOOM this fall. Please contact Ms. Carrie Young for more information at youngc@odysseycharterschool.com.



Transportation

We would like to thank all the parents who have logged on to our new system EZRouting, and to all of our families that have signed up for transportation. We are asking that all students continue to wear masks and use the hand sanitizer when getting on the bus. We are using this and many other steps to ensure the safety of all our students.

If you would like to sign up for one of our bus routes, and live 2 miles or more away from your child's campus, please contact our transportation department and they will be happy to assist you. We would like to kindly remind all parents that Transportation changes may not be made over the phone. You may, however, submit these requests in writing.

Please feel free to contact our transportation department at:
Transportation office 321-345-4117 Opt. 3
Email greerr@odysseycharterschool.com

Schools, Families, and Social & Emotional Learning

Ten Things You Can Do at Home



1. Focus on strengths. When your child brings home a test, talk first about what he or she did well. Then talk about what can be improved. Praise specific strengths. Don't just criticize things that were done wrong.

2. Follow up with consequences for misbehavior. Sometimes parents say things in anger that don't curb the behavior in the long run. You might say, "Because of what you did, no television for a month." Both you and your child know that after one or two days the TV will go back on. Decide on consequences that are fair, and then carry them out.

3. Ask children how they feel. When you ask your child about his or her feelings, the message is that feelings matter and you care.

4. Find ways to stay calm when angry. It's normal to get angry or irritated sometimes. Learn to recognize trigger situations and do something about them before you lose control. Try taking deep breaths for a few moments. Consider having a quiet area where people can go when they are upset. Or you can just stop talking and leave the room for a while. Sit down as a family and talk about what everyone can do to stay calm.

5. Avoid humiliating or mocking your child. This can make children feel bad about themselves. It can lead to a lack of self-confidence and, in turn, problems with schoolwork, illness, and trouble getting along with friends. Unfair criticism and sarcasm also hurts the bond of trust between children and parents. Be mindful of how you speak to your children. Give them the room to make mistakes as they learn new skills.

6. Be willing to apologize. Parents need to be able to apologize to their children if what they said was not what they meant. Calmly explain what you really wanted to say. By doing this you're being a good role model. You're showing how important it is to apologize after hurting someone. You're teaching that it's possible to work through problems with respect for the other person.

7. Give children choices and respect their wishes. When children have a chance to make choices, they learn how to solve problems. If you make all their choices for them, they'll never learn this key skill. Giving children ways to express preferences and make decisions shows that their ideas and feelings matter.

8. Ask questions that help children solve problems on their own. When parents hear their child has a problem, it's tempting to step in and take over. But this can harm a child's ability to find solutions on his or her own. A helpful approach is to ask good questions. Examples include, "What do you think you can do in this situation?" and "If you choose a particular solution, what will be the consequences of that choice?"

9. Read books and stories together. Reading stories aloud is a way to share something enjoyable and learn together about other people. For example, stories can be a way to explore how people deal with common issues like making or losing friends or handling conflicts. Ask your child's teacher or a librarian to recommend stories on themes that interest you and your children.

10. Encourage sharing and helping. There are many ways to do this. Together you and your child can prepare food in a homeless shelter or go on a fund-raising walk-a-thon. You can help out elderly neighbors or needy families. This teaches children that what they do can make a difference in the lives of others.

ID cards

We are excited that all our student will now have ID cards. These will be used for the cafeteria, Media and for the buses. If you have lost or misplaced your ID card, please reach out to Rosie Greer. We will be happy to assist you in replacing it.

If a card is lost or misplaced there will be a \$3 replacement fee for the first replacement and \$5 for additional replacements cards
Rosie Greer 321-345-4117 Opt. 3, Email greerr@odysseycharter-school.com.



Scholastic Book Fair

Dear families,

You're invited to shop our Scholastic Book Fair online from October 26th-November 8th! All purchases benefit our school and connect kids with new books, favorite characters, complete series, and more.

You'll love the NEW option to shop for Book Fair exclusives directly from the interactive booklist and enjoy these special online shopping features:

- Over 6,000 items, including new releases, best sellers, and value packs.
- All orders ship direct to home
- FREE shipping on book-only orders over \$25*
- All purchases support our school and earn 25% in rewards

Visit our Book Fair Homepage and click "Shop Now" to get started:
<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/odysseycharterlowerschool>

Happy reading,
Melissa Procter
Media/Book Fair Chairperson



**Free standard shipping is available on book-only orders of \$25 or more, after all discounts are applied. Free standard shipping (books) must be selected during checkout. Orders containing products other than books are not eligible for this shipping promotion.*

Odyssey Charter School is committed to **academic excellence** and the **education of the whole child.**

Amazon Smile

Did you know that you can help raise money for OCS when you make purchases? Do you shop at Amazon? AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your purchases to Odyssey Charter School.

- Go to www.smile.amazon.com (use the same log in that you use for Amazon.com)
- Search Odyssey Charter School Palm Bay, FL
- Select our school and that's it!
- Now 0.5% of your purchase will go to our school.

National Walk to School Day

Wednesday, October 7, was International Walk to School Day, a global event that involves communities from more than 40 countries walking and biking to school on the same day. This event began in 1997 and has become part of a movement for year-round safe routes to school. Our

staff was staged along the route and our buses dropped off at the Beef O'Brady's plaza at 7:15 am for our walk to school. Teachers and staff were staged along the route and led students to school. Thank you to all who were able to participate!



Important Weblinks

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires for schools to provide parents with an annual school status report at the beginning of each school year. The Odyssey Charter School 2018-2019 Report Card, (we still are working off this report card due to no FSA from last year), can be accessed via the link below
<https://edudata.fldoe.org/ReportCards/Schools.html?school=6507&district=05>

The Odyssey Parent/Student Handbook, School Improvement Plan, and Parent and Family Engagement Plan can be found on the school's website at
<http://www.odysseycharterschool.com/reports>

Grievance Procedures

- Step 1: Request Teacher conference to clarify issue
- Step 2: Contact Principal 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

**Ms. Cindy Gilmore 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. Ms. Gilmore can be reached at cgilmore@greenappleschools.com or 321-676-8737.