



Odyssey Charter School

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

FALL 2022 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.

SCHOOL-BASED LEADERSHIP TEAM

Founder -

Ms. Constance Ortiz

Principal/Site Administrator -

Ms. Wendi Nolder

Assistant Principal -

Ms. Deb Berg

Assistant Principal -

Mr. Mike Davis

Discipline Dean -

Dr. Maxine Powell

Guidance Services -

Ms. Sarah-Kate Smith

Social Worker -

Ms. Kayla Senick

Instructional Coaches -

Mr. Michael Senick

Ms. Christina Hutchinson

Ms. Becky Kolesnik

Ms. DeAnna Bernardo

Office Manager/Registrar -

Ms. Nancy Herasme

Early Childhood & Before &

After Care Director -

Ms. Alia Hartwick

From the Desk of the Principal:

Titan families,

We have had a great start to a new school year and we remain honored to serve your children. We are happy to be back to the most important and sacred of work: educating students. Odyssey is very excited to report that in spite of a challenging school year, our students, teachers, and staff's hard work last year paid off. Although Odyssey Charter School (K-12) earned a school grade of "B", we are proud to share that our Elementary grades (K-5), had it been graded by the FLDOE separately, would have earned a school grade of "A"! Our school continues to be a high performing public charter school as defined by the Florida Department of Education.

Our holistic mission to support students academically, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually remains our top priority, along with student safety. Students will have experiences in Art, Media, Music, PE, PLTW, and Spanish to round out their academics, and this year we have added Computer Lab to our Special activity rotation. We are happy to announce that Ms. Jennifer Coto will be working with children in our computer lab – and she will ensure children in K-5th grades have opportunities to learn keyboarding, learn Microsoft office programs, conduct research, and to build missing skills on i-Ready.

This year, we welcome back Mr. Mike Davis, Assistant Principal, who is joining our team to oversee Safety, Transportation, and Discipline. We are also excited to share some new additions to our team this year to support students. Ms. Kayla Senick, Social Worker, Ms. Sarah-Kate Smith, Guidance Services, Ms. Bonnie Dubrow, Guidance Support, and Dr. Maxine Powell, Discipline Dean will be a vital part of our Social Emotional Learning Team to help support student behaviors to ensure learning takes place.

Our Gifted and Talented Education (GATEway) program has expanded this year and we have added an assistant to support Ms. Suzette Jewell Ventura. Ms. Rachel Gallegos Wirkkala has joined the GATEway team and will help Ms. Ventura provide experiences with William & Mary Gifted Curriculum, Junior Great Books, and additional Project Lead the Way (PLTW) modules. GATEway students will also have an 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. Ms. Ventura also works with our classroom teachers to support compacting the curriculum and offering choice board activities for students who have already demonstrated mastery of specific standards.

This year, we are focusing on the important partnership between the school and your family, and on effective communication. As we collaborate together to educate your child, please know we value and welcome your feedback. Your input on what we have done well or where we need to improve helps us to make any adjustments needed in order to serve our students better. We ask that lines of communication be two-way between families and the school, and that we work to make all interactions respectful, friendly and optimistic. Working together, we can offer your child a wonderful educational experience and have the best year yet.

As always, we thank you for the honor of serving your child. Please feel free to reach out to me any time at nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com, 321-733-0442 ext. 110 (office), or 321-412-3141 (cell).

Wendi M. Nolder
Principal

CALENDAR

Friday Early Release Days –

K-5th dismiss at 1:30p.m.

Casual Dress Days –

last Friday of each month (9/30, 10/28, 11/18, 12/16, 1/27, 2/24, 3/31, 4/28, 5/26).

September – American Founder's Month

9/26-9/30 – Celebrate Freedom Week

9/29 – Dad's Take Your Child to School Breakfast (1st, 2nd, 5th) 7:15-8:15am

9/29 – Open House (K, 3rd, 4th) 5:30-7:00pm

October

10/4-10/14 – Scholastic Book Fair

10/5 – National Walk to School Day

10/7 – End of First Nine Weeks

10/10 – Teacher Workday / Student HOLIDAY

10/12 – Parents as Partners (PasP) Title I ELA Night and Book Fair Night

10/14 – Elementary Report Cards Issued

10/20 – Elementary Student-Parent-Teacher Conference Night (by appointment)

10/26 – Harvest Luncheon – Kindergarten & 4th

November

11/2 – Harvest Luncheon – 1st & 2nd grades

11/9 – Veterans' Day Event

11/10 – Second Interim Ends

11/11 – Veterans' Day Holiday for All

11/16 – Harvest Luncheon – 3rd & 5th grades

11/16 – OCS Inc. Board of Directors Meeting

11/21-25 – Thanksgiving Holiday for all

December

12/15 – PasP Title I GLEE and Specials Holiday Exhibition Event

12/19-12/21 – Early Release / EXAM days (students release at 1:30pm)

12/21 – End of 2nd Quarter

12/22-12/31 - Winter Break

January

1/1-1/4 – Winter Break

1/5 – Students Return

Read Aloud Program – for Volunteer Hours!

The Read Aloud program is a wonderful way for parents to fulfill their required annual volunteer hours while supporting their student's academic growth. 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."

We make it easy for parents to volunteer at our school by spending your time in the comfort of your own home with your child. To participate in the Read Aloud program, parents spend 15 minutes reading aloud quality literature to their child. Find a book that both you and your child will enjoy. Then log your time on the Read Aloud log which can be provided by your classroom teacher, or through the front office, or from the school's website. 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>.

Our media center has many books recommended by Jim Trelease. 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 would like to come a check out a book or have any additional questions.

Parents as Partners

We welcome all parents to join our Parents as Partners (PasP) organization. We need your support to be the best we can be. The PasP organization supports the school by working on annual goals that will directly impact your student and their success. This year we are eager to provide enriching field trip experiences for all our students to help round out their education. Our fundraising committees this year will be raising funds to prepare for our Students Award Ceremonies, Annual 5k, Field Trips, and Teacher Appreciation.

Note that ALL Parents are our Partners. However, in order to become an active member, please join us at the meetings held in person. Mark your calendar for our upcoming PasP meetings:

- September 29 – Open House for Kdg, 3rd and 4th – Title 1 PASP Annual Meeting
- October 12- Title 1 PASP ELA night and Book Fair
- December 15 - Title 1 PASP and Glee Caroling and Specials Holiday Exhibition Evening
- March 2 - Read Across America - Title 1 Book Bingo/and Book Fair night
- May 11 - Parents as Partners Survey + Data Review and Family input + At-Home Summer Reading

Please contact Ms. Wendi Nolder for more information at nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com.

Positive Discipline

We have been implementing our Positive Discipline in the Classroom program, sharing compliments and appreciations, building community within the classroom and beginning to develop the problem-solving process within our class meetings. An important aspect of Positive Discipline is the importance of encouragement, rather than praise. Check out the link below for some ways to use encouragement with your child at home.

<https://www.positivediscipline.com/articles/encouragement-what-does-it-mean-and-how-it-done>



Spotlight on Dr. Powell, our Dean of Students

We are excited to spotlight our Dean of Students, Dr. Maxine Powell. Dr. Powell has been in education for 19 years. She is married, with two boys who both attended Odyssey Schools. Dr. Powell has her Bachelor's degree in Education K-6, her Master's degree in Instructional Education, and her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership in Administration. She has taught many grade levels, including 3rd grade at Odyssey Charter School and 6th grade World History at Odyssey Jr/Sr High, and has served as team lead, behavioral interventionist, and Dean of Students in schools in St. Lucie County. She really enjoys working with students and is enjoying a great start to the school year.



GATEway

Our GATEway students have started the new school year with their "Thinking Caps" on. Students have been introduced to the "Six Thinking Hats" method. These hats can be used to help students think critically to solve a problem or make an important decision. This critical thinking method or tool was originally introduced by Dr. Edward de Bono. This tool or method was created to help people of all ages think in organized ways to problem solve, create and innovate.



- The white hat: Focuses on facts and logic.
- The red hat: Focusing on emotion and what the heart feels.
- The black hat: Focuses on negative outcomes or consequences.
- The yellow hat: Focuses on the positive outcomes.
- The green hat: Focuses on creativity and a new way of doing something.
- The blue hat: Focused on organization or a plan.

School Events - OCTOBER

October 5 - National Walk to School Day:

National Walk to School Day is coming on Wednesday, October 5, 2021. Our students, teachers, and staff (and parents!) are encouraged to join us for a lovely walk to school from the nearby plaza. Walk to school day is a great way to get some exercise, fresh air, and to reduce our carbon footprint.

October 4-14 - Scholastic Book Fair:

Come celebrate a love for reading at our Scholastic book fair! Our Hollywood themed "Lights, Camera, Read!" book fair will be held from October 4th-14th. Our family event will be held on Wednesday, October 12th from 5:30-7 along with our ELA Title 1 night. Each family will receive one free reusable tote bag with any purchase (quantities limited). Don't forget to purchase from your teacher wish list bucket to help their classroom library. Our teacher wish list will be located by the front registers. Families can round up their change for All For Books which helps students in our school win free books. It is estimated that when children have a home library, as few as 20 books of their own at home, they may achieve three more years of schooling than children who don't have books at home. Our Scholastic book fair can help your family find the latest and greatest books your child will love to read. For more information or to set up an eWallet- a cash free way for your child to shop the book fair- please visit www.scholastic.com/bf/odysseycharterlowerschool.

October 12 - Title I Parents as Partners (PasP) English Language Arts (ELA) Night and Evening Book Fair:

Families, bring your child and join our teachers and staff for our annual ELA Night and experience a night filled with hands-on reading activities that will help you support your child at home. While you are here, check out our book fair! We encourage you to get in the spirit of things and come dressed for a movie premiere!

October 16 - Harvest Lunches (K and 4th Grades):

We welcome you to come join your child for our annual Harvest Celebration Lunch and Wellness Expo at our Odyssey Charter School Healthy Café. Our menu includes roasted chicken thigh (or tofu), roasted potato medley, fresh baked whole grain roll, garden fresh salad bar, fresh fruit choice, and fall dessert.

October 20 - Student-Parent-Teacher Conference Night:

Teachers will be sharing information on how to sign up for a conference appointment to talk with you and your child about their progress thus far. Students will share their successes as well as goals they have set for the year and their plans to meet their goals.

School Events - NOVEMBER

November 2 and 16 - Harvest Lunches:

We welcome you to come join your child for our annual Harvest Celebration Lunch and Wellness Expo at our Odyssey Charter School Healthy Café. Our menu includes roasted chicken thigh (or tofu), roasted potato medley, fresh baked whole grain roll, garden fresh salad bar, fresh fruit choice, and fall dessert.

- November 2 - 1st and 2nd grades
- November 16 - 3rd and 5th grades

November 9 - Veteran's Day Ceremony and Breakfast @8:30am.

Ms. Constance Ortiz, School Founder, and our Leadership team welcome all veterans to be honored and celebrated! Our students may bring their Veteran Father, Mother, Uncle, Aunt, Grandfather or Grandmother to school to enjoy breakfast. This important event acknowledges the bravery and courage of our military men and women and increases respect for their service and sacrifice.

November 16 - Odyssey Charter School, Inc., Board of Directors Meeting:

You are welcome to attend. Our board meetings are held several times annually at the historic 1900 Building, Suite 120, 1900 S. Harbor City Boulevard, Melbourne, FL 32901 or you are welcome to attend via zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81749678859>

Tardy Policy

Students are expected to be in their seats and ready to learn by 8:00 AM. Students miss important beginning of the day instruction and cause a disruption to the classroom when arriving to class after 8AM. If students arrive at 8:00 AM or later, parents must park and walk their child into the office, sign them in, and receive a tardy slip 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.

Water Bottles and 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.

FOCUS

FOCUS for Parents - if you have not received your FOCUS log in (new students/parents) please email Ms. Berg at bergd@odysseycharter-school.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.

Title I Corner

Odyssey Charter School has been designated a high performing charter school by the Florida Department of Education. Our school is also accredited for Kindergarten -12th grades by COGNIA, the largest accrediting agency for K-12 schools.

As a Title I school, we continue to hold the highest academic expectations for your child. Title I documents are available online for your review and are accessible at www.odysseycharterschool.com under the "about us" section under school reports: <http://odysseycharterschool.com/reports.html>.

Odyssey Charter School es una escuela de Título I que tiene las expectativas académicas más altas para su estudiante. Los documentos del Título I están disponibles en línea para su revisión y son accesibles en www.odysseycharterschool.com en la sección "acerca de nosotros" en los informes escolares: <http://odysseycharterschool.com/reports.html>.

Student ID Badges

Odyssey student ID Badges are now considered a part of the everyday uniform. Please ensure your child has their ID badge daily. Badges have a variety of uses at our school. Students wear their badges for safety purposes, as well as for entry on our school buses, purchase of school breakfast/lunch, and book checkout in our media center. We are happy to report we have about 95% of our students following our school uniform policy and wearing their Student ID Badge daily.

If your child loses their ID, replacements are \$5. Please send ID replacement money with your child's name and the name of their homeroom teacher. Please send a check or money order made out to Odyssey Charter School with your child's name, grade, and 'school badge' in your check's tagline. Families, we ask that you help your child develop a system where they remember to wear their ID badge every day. We appreciate your support!

Transportation

We would like to thank all the Odyssey families that have signed up for transportation.

Just a reminder few reminders:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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 to your child's teacher or to the front office.
- 3) If your child loses their ID, replacements are \$5. Please send ID replacement money with your child's name and the name of their homeroom teacher. Please cash or a check or money order made out to Odyssey Charter School. Families, we ask that you help your child develop a system where they remember to wear their ID badge every day. We appreciate your support!

To request bus transportation, visit www.EZrouting.com/Odysseyfl. Please feel free to contact our transportation department with any questions at: Transportation office 321-345-4117 Opt. 3 or Email greerr@odysseycharterschool.com.



ClassLink

Odyssey Launchpad. Online Instructional Support

Family support of each child's education is critical to student success. Research shows that when parents are more involved, students do better! We are happy to share that elementary students (and parents) will have digital access to Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA), Savvas EasyBridge (enVision®), i-Ready, Studies Weekly, Study Island, Discovery Science, and Renzulli online programs to support instruction in the Florida Benchmarks through their single sign on through the Odyssey ClassLink Launchpad at <https://launchpad.classlink.com/odysseyfl>. Their username is their 7-digit student ID number (i.e. 1234567) and their password includes their birth date (i.e. OdyMMD-DYY).

- CKLA is our core Language Arts program that is rich in literature, history, geography and science. Your child has access to the CKLA content via the Launchpad and can read (or re-read) stories at home that they have learned at school.
- Our newly adopted math curriculum is enVision® Florida B.E.S.T. Mathematics. The curriculum is designed to help children gain a deeper understanding of mathematics through problem-based teaching and learning. Lessons are designed for students to explore each topic with hands-on materials, then two-dimensional pictures, and finish by connecting their thinking to symbols, numbers, and procedures.
- i-Ready provides individualized online instruction that targets each student's specific needs in both reading and math. Students take a diagnostic at the beginning of the school year to set their learning path and they work their path all year to fill in any gaps in learning or to advance themselves beyond their current level. Students are encouraged to utilize i-Ready for 45 minutes per week in each subject to progress toward their expected annual growth.
- Studies Weekly is a newspaper-based and online program supporting Social Studies instruction.
- Discovery Education Science provides science videos, articles and activities for students in science concepts and supports science instruction taking place in the classroom.
- Renzulli is an online program that all students have access to. Students take an interest inventory upon first using Renzulli, then engage in self-directed learning specifically matched to their individual profile. Renzulli places a strong emphasis on problem-solving, creativity and critical thinking skills to help ensure learners are developing thinking and reasoning skills that will prepare them for college and careers.

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.

Mr. Senick senickm@odysseycharterschool.com,
Ms. Hutchinson hutchinsonc@odysseycharterschool.com
Ms. Kolesnik kolesnikb@odysseycharterschool.com
Ms. Bernardo bernardod@odysseycharterschool.com

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.