

Odyssey Charter School

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

SPRING 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.

CALENDAR

MARCH

- 3/23-4/1 Spring Book Fair
- 3/24 3rd Quarter Report Cards go home
- 3/25 Early Release Day - Dress Out of Uniform
- 3/30 Odyssey Board Meeting - 4:30

APRIL

Mission and Vision Month- How can we give back?

- 4/01 Early Release Day
- 4/08 Early Release Day
- 4/14 3rd and 4th Field Day - Fred Lee Park
- 4/15 Teacher and Student Holiday
- 4/21 Parents as Partners; Reading/Math night
- 4/22 Early Release Day - 4th Qtr Interim ends
- 4/22 Earth Day
- 4/22 Kindergarten Field Day
- 4/28 VPK to Kdg Transition Night
- 4/29 Early Release Day - Dress Out of Uniform
- 4th Qtr Interims go home

MAY

- 5/2-6 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5/6 Early Release Day
- 5/12 Parents as Partners At-Home/Summer Reading / Data Review / Family input / Survey
- 5/13 Early Release Day
- 5/16 Odyssey Board Meeting - 4:30
- 5/18 Kindergarten Celebration (2 classes)
- 5/19 Kindergarten Celebration (2 classes)
- 5/20 Early Release Day - Dress Out of Uniform
- 5/23 3rd and 4th grade Awards
- 5/24 5th Stepping Up Ceremony
- 5/24-26 Exam Early Release Days
- 5/25 1st and 2nd grade awards
- 5/26-27 VPK Graduation
- 5/26 Last Day of School
- 4th Qtr Report Cards Issued
- 5/27 Last Day for Teachers
- 5/30 Memorial Day- Holiday for All

JUNE

- 6/7-30 Summer School (select students)

From the Desk of Principal Nolder

Odyssey Elementary is excited to be back from Spring Break and are in full swing this spring. We are excited about how committed our teachers and staff have been to educate and prepare our students for success as we finish out the school year. Our state assessment cycle begins in early April; please check the FSA article by Ms. Berg, our AP and Testing Coordinator. We ask that families ensure children are prepared by making sure they get good sleep, nutritious food, fresh air and sunshine, and that our students are coming to school relaxed and with a positive outlook. Look for some exciting, hands-on projects and activities to round out the school year!

Did you know that as a charter school, we are required to adhere to many of the same expectations as many traditional public schools?

- Charter schools must be fiscally responsible (we have had flawless audits).
- Charter school students must participate in the state assessment system (we participate in the Florida Standards Assessment in our intermediate grades and State Science Assessment in 5th grade).
- Charter school teachers and staff must pass a fingerprint and background clearance and are cleared to work at Odyssey through Brevard Public Schools.
- Charter school teachers must be state certified, or eligible for state certification, through the Florida Department of Education and work closely with Brevard Public Schools to ensure our teachers meet the criteria.
- Charter schools were authorized to be innovative! Odyssey’s innovation is our whole-child mission for every child, our Montessori-based philosophy, and our healthy and holistic focus on children’s well-being.

We are happy that the COVID variants have passed through and that we have been able to achieve some normalcy within our schools in the past month or so. The pandemic has helped all of us realize the importance of the school setting – not just for academics but also for the social/emotional development of our children. They need time together to learn to socialize, interact with peers and adults, and to problem-solve. We are so happy that our students (and teachers/staff) have been able to enjoy field trips, dances, & collaborative group work, and that families have been able to come into the building to volunteer and join their children for our Harvest Meals and book fair(s), and that we have begun holding our annual field days. All of these additional experiences are mission-oriented and important to the development of the whole child. Look for information for our (almost) annual 5K coming April 30. We hope to see many of our students, families, teachers/staff, and community members there!

SCHOOL-BASED LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Ms. Constance Ortiz, Founder
- Ms. Wendi Nolder, Principal
- Ms. Deb Berg, Assistant Principal
- Mr. James Monds, Assistant Principal/Dean
- Ms. Francesca Privette, Social Worker
- Mr. Mike Senick, Instructional Coach K-2nd
- Ms. Christina Hutchinson, Interim Instructional Coach 3rd-5th
- Ms. Kristina Snelling, Registrar/Office Manager
- Ms. Alia Hartwick, Director, Preschool/VPK and Before & After School Care
- Ms. Nina Lucchini-Memoli, Assistant Director, Preschool/VPK and Before & After School Care



Ms. Berg's Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) update:

Our teachers and staff have worked very hard this year to ensure our students are prepared and will feel confident for the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA). We understand any test may make students a bit nervous, so please know that we are working to ensure your children understand the strategies to use so they can feel certain that they are prepared and can relax and do their best. Beginning in April students in 3rd-5th grades will be taking the FSA. Our assessment calendar is below. Families, you can help support your child leading up to our assessment days:

- Ensure they are completing all class and home work.
- Prior to the assessment:
- Make sure your child gets a good night sleep
- Make sure they eat a healthy, protein-rich breakfast
- Make sure they arrive to school on time, between 7:30 and 7:45, to allow time to settle in
- Remind them to do their best, and to go back and reread/review their work
- Remind them to relax – they have worked all year and are well-prepared!
- FSA Parent Portal is a good resource for you and provides some practice tests and information that may help you and your child feel more at ease.
<https://fsassessments.org/users/students-and-families.stml>

Testing Windows	Assessment	Subject	Grade
4/5-4/6 (makeups to 4/14)	FSA-R	Reading	3
4/7 (makeups to 4/14)	FSA-W	Writing	4 & 5
5/3-5/4 (makeups to 5/13)	FSA-R	Reading	4 & 5
5/5-5/6 (makeups to 5/13)	FSA-M	Math	3, 4 & 5
5/16-5/17 (makeups to 5/20)	NGSSS	Science	5

Positive Discipline / Positive Parenting - Mr. Monds

Odyssey implements the Positive Discipline in the Classroom program which has a parallel Parenting Program. The goal is to teach children to develop into respectful and responsible citizens and was created by Dr. Jane Nelson. Positive Discipline teaches social skills, problem-solving, and life skills and is focused on being respectful and encouraging. Positive Parenting means being both kind AND firm which helps children feel a sense of belonging and significance. If you'd like to see some additional resources, please plan a visit to our school library where we have a number of Positive Discipline Parenting resources available for checkout, or you can reach out to Ms. Nolder at NolderW@odysseycharterschool.com or Mr. Monds at MondsJ@odysseycharterschool.com. You can find more information online at the Positive Discipline website at <https://www.positivediscipline.com/parents>.

As the school year is concluding, our OCS Guidance and Discipline Team would like to commend our students and parents for their efforts and support – it has been a challenging year. We are three-quarters of the way through the year and students are well aware of school rules and classroom expectations. Please take a moment to encourage your child(ren) to do their best each day both academically and when making behavioral decisions. Here are a few reminders:

- Students are to be in dress code uniforms every day, except for dress out of uniform days. You can find details about our uniform policy at <https://odysseycharterschool.com/7004-OCS-Uniform-Policy.pdf>
- Students are expected to be in their classrooms, in their seats, learning and doing their best. Students must follow classroom and school-wide expectations and will be held to them. Students choosing not to follow classroom or school rules will receive a consequence, followed by counseling on how to improve.

We appreciate our parents partnering with us and understand that we are working together to help each child succeed, both academically and behaviorally. As always, we thank you for your support.

WE ARE GROWING AND HIRING!

We are looking for committed, talented and community-minded men and women who care for and value children to join our Odyssey family.

TEACHERS:

Elementary and Secondary Certified Teachers

Those interested, please email Dr. Monica Knight at mknight@greenappleschools.com and/or employment@odysseycharterschool.com

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

Elementary

Those interested, please email Ms. Deb Berg at bergd@odysseycharterschool.com and/or employment@odysseycharterschool.com

GUIDANCE:

OCS ELEM (Full Time)

Those interested, please email Dr. Monica Knight at mknight@greenappleschools.com and/or employment@odysseycharterschool.com

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS:

Elementary and Secondary Substitute Teachers

Those interested, please email Ms. Wendi Nolder (OCS ELEM) at nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com and Ms. Gayle Iacono (JrSr) at iaconog@odysseycharterschool.com

CAFÉ:

Cashiers, Serving Line, Food Prep, and Line Cooks (Part-time)

Those interested, please email ChapmanC@odysseycharterschool.com or employment@odysseycharterschool.com

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CARE:

Group leaders (Part-time)

Those interested, please email HartwickA@odysseycharterschool.com or LucchiniN@odysseycharterschool.com or employment@odysseycharterschool.com

TRANSPORTATION:

Bus Drivers (Full-time 37.5 hours a week)

Those interested, please email Ms. Rosie Greer at GreerR@odysseycharterschool.com and employment@odysseycharterschool.com

VOLUNTEERS:

We would love to have some committed volunteers to support our café during lunch (10am-1pm) to help provide supervision and support to students so our teachers can enjoy a duty-free lunch every day. If interested, please reach out to Ms. Berg at BergD@odysseycharterschool.com

RECENT EVENTS



15 students represented Odyssey on March 10 at the Science & Engineering Fair.



We are excited to have added some additional climbers to our early grades playground. Our new intermediate grades playground is almost complete! We are waiting for some additional mulch and an inspection and cannot wait to have students enjoying their new play space.



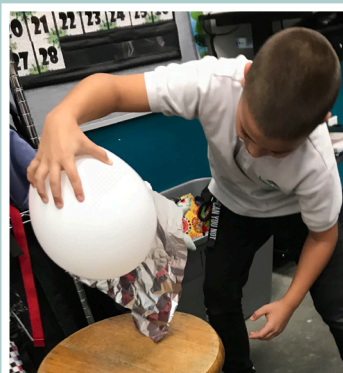
We were thrilled to celebrate over 200 3rd-5th grade students at our annual Honors Breakfast in February.



Our 1st and 2nd graders participated in Field Day at Fred Lee Park on 3/10/22.



Families of 1st and 5th grade students joined together with the Brevard Astronomical Society for a Star Party as they learned about the planets, stars & constellations in our solar system.



5th grade students had hands-on opportunities to learn about Static Electricity during their weekly Einstein Friday Science block.



Survey Results

We would like to thank all who completed our recent surveys (parents, students, teachers/staff). Below are some of our results and some proposed actions.

STUDENT SURVEY: Our students shared that they feel their teachers and administrators care for them and want them to be successful. Students expressed that they would like their teachers and administrators to ask them about their school and what would make it better. They would like the addition of some foods to the café (strawberries, watermelon, avocado) which we plan to try to acquire and add to the menu. Students also expressed concern about some students being unkind to one another and to teachers/staff. We will be encouraging more classroom meetings to help all children develop the important social/emotional skills needed to be successful.

PARENT SURVEY: Our parent surveys indicate that they want to be informed and involved and have clear communication from the school and teachers. We are working to set a clear standard for communication to ensure that families know what is happening and how their children are doing in class as they move from grade level to grade level. The school will continue to use Blackboard as our primary communication tool (email, text, phone) and will encourage all families to provide accurate information. Now that COVID concerns have eased up, we will be having more opportunities for families to be involved (lunch, field trips, FSA hallway monitors, volunteering).

Required Final Registration

OCS Families - it is that time of the year again! With our school year winding down, registration packets for returning students will be sent home Monday, March 21st. Please make sure to complete the entire packet (front and back) and return it to the school no later than Friday, March 25th. This paperwork is mandatory each year and will allow the school to update student accounts and start preparing for next school year.

Mark your calendars for our mandatory Summer Registration on July 14th for both new and returning students. Several important forms will be completed, student fees collected and classroom placements will be posted. We do realize that some families will be out of town on the 14th. We will be allowing families to come into the office July 5th- July 13th during summer hours (8AM-2PM) to complete this paperwork ahead of time.



If you have any questions about registration, please email our Registrar, Mrs. Snelling at SnellingK@odysseycharterschool.com

Scholastic Book Fair



Our Spring Scholastic Book Fair is coming soon! Our theme for this book fair will be Reading is my Superpower and will be starting on March 23rd-April 4th. Our family event will be held on March 24th from 5-8 pm and our family luncheons will be held on March 29th for 2nd and 4th, March 31st for Kindergarten and

5th, and April 1st for 1st and 3rd. Any donations to our All for Books support students in our school. Parents can create an eWallet, a cash-free way to shop the book fair- for their students by using the website below. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please visit our website, www.scholastic.com/bf/odysseycharterlowerschool

Summer Camp is Coming!

Join us for Odyssey's STEAM Summer Camp – A Journey of Exploration! Camp kicks off on our OCS Elementary Eldron campus June 6th with fun and exploration. Each week, campers ages 3-12, will experience a different STEAM-based theme and will enjoy fun, hands-on learning in their grade level groups, arts & crafts, and sports. Camp activities are 8:00am – 3:30pm, however, the camp day includes Before & After Care option with our Monday-Friday hours being 6:30am-6:00pm for our families' convenience. Summer meals of breakfast and lunch will continue to be included, and are made from scratch in our Healthy Café with a focus on healthy, organically-sourced components that meet or exceed USDA nutritional standards. For more information, email Ms. Hartwick at HartwickA@odysseycharterschool.com or Ms. Nina Lucchini-Memoli at LucchiniN@odysseycharterschool.com or call 321-733-0442 ext. 214. Summer fun awaits!



Amazon Smile

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.

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.