



Odyssey Charter School

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

WINTER 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.



Mark Your Calendar!

January

- 24-28 Celebrate Literacy Week
- 27 Parents as Partners ZOOM Meeting / FSA Information Night 5:30-6:30pm
- 27 Annual OCS Inc. Board of Directors Meeting

February

- 1 2nd Semester Tutoring begins (by invitation)
- 2 5th grade field trip – Brevard Symphony Orchestra – King Center
- 4 3rd quarter interim ends
- 7 Student/Teacher Holiday
- 10 1st grade field trip – Brevard Zoo
- 14 3rd quarter interims go home
- 21 Student Holiday – Teacher Professional Development Day
- 22-25 Cognia Accreditation
- 24 Parents as Partners Meeting / ELA and Math Parent Info Night 5:30-6:30pm

From the Desk of the Principal:

We are so happy to have our students back in school and have been digging into students' mid-year i-Ready assessment data. Our administrators, instructional coaches, and teachers are working hard to meet the needs of all children, including the gifted and talented, to plan and deliver successful interventions and acceleration. Our students are enjoying working with the Core Knowledge Language Arts and Core Knowledge History & Geography curricula, hands-on Project Lead the Way (PLTW) activities and solving real-world problems in mathematics. We are committed to providing the most innovative instruction to your child, not only ensure they are prepared and ready to move on to the next grade level, but to nurture their curiosity and grow their love of learning.

This goal can be achieved with the support of each and every Titan family. Please continue to reach out to your child's teacher, as well as the administrative team, with any questions and concerns. Research shows that students are more successful when they are supported by a school/family partnership. We truly appreciate all that you do to support your child's education and cannot thank you enough for all you do to help your child grow and achieve his/her goals. Please like and follow us on Facebook!

We realize that the fall semester and the past several weeks have been challenging with the Delta and Omicron variants and that we have all been through with nearly 2 years of COVID. We believe that the numbers are coming down and we will be heading toward more normalcy with all children back in school. Together we can achieve anything when we are working toward the same goal – the success of your child! Thank you again for your support and here's to a successful spring semester.

As always, I am available at any time via telephone at 321-733-0442 or 321-412-3141 (cell) or email at NolderW@odysseycharterschool.com. I am here to serve you and your children and I thank you for that privilege and opportunity.

Ms. Wendi Nolder, M.Ed.
Principal

Recent Events

We held our annual School Spelling Bee on January 19 with winners from each 4th and 5th homeroom competing to represent our school. We had 8 Spelling Bee participants who went 26 rounds. Congratulations to Andrew P. who is our Spelling Bee winner!



First grade students had the opportunity to view the rocket launch on January 13, 2022, and were able to hear and feel the sonic boom!



Our GATEway students work on Engineering Design concepts as they team up to design a robot to complete a task (simulating removal of toxic waste).



Our 2nd grade students enjoyed field trips to the Barrier Island Sanctuary in Melbourne Beach to learn about the three types of sea turtles we see nesting on our Florida beaches (loggerhead, green, and leatherback), what they eat, how to identify their nesting sites, and how to make the beach friendlier for sea turtles to nest.



Our 4th grade students have undertaken the care of our Memorial Peace Garden and are learning how to lovingly tend it.



Our Conservation/Environmental Club is working on creating a Food Forrest Gardening space for our 5th grades, are learning about recycling (recycled tree!), and are participating in some stewardship opportunities (cleaning up a local community area).



From our Instructional Coaches

Elementary students have access to iReady, Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA), and Discovery Science online programs to support instruction in the Florida State Standards. iReady provides individualized online instruction that targets each student's individual needs in reading and math. Discovery Science offers articles and videos that help deepen students' understanding of grade level content.

- Students are encouraged to utilize iReady for 45 minutes per week in both reading and math to progress toward their expected annual growth.
- Students are encouraged to use Discovery Science to explore their digital textbook and explore further, topics discussed in class.

After-School tutoring begins Tuesday February 2, 2022. Tutoring is by invitation only and limited slots are available. A separate acceptance letter is sent home to confirm a child's participation in the tutoring program.

Finally, the link below will bring you to the Parent Guides for the Florida B.E.S.T. English Language Arts standards.

<https://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/parent-guides-for-english-language-arts.stml>

Tardy Policy

Elementary students are expected to be in their seats and ready to learn by 8:00am. If you are not entering the school driveway by 7:55am, you will likely not be at cone drop off by 8:00am. If a student arrives at 8:00am or later, parents must park and walk their child to the front office, sign them in, and receive a tardy pass 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 student to class on time each and every day.

Breakfast and Student Arrival

Students arriving prior to 7:20am are to report to our Before Care Program. Students can be dropped off for breakfast beginning at 7:20am. Please ensure your child is dropped off in plenty of time to eat a healthy breakfast.



Silent Dismissal

In the near future we will be implementing a new dismissal program called Silent Dismissal to dismiss students for car loop and day care vans. This digital program will allow students to stay in their classrooms rather than travel to hallway locations to wait for their vehicles, making more productive use of that time. Students may begin homework, work on i-Ready, work with their teacher in a small group, or read. Families will be provided with a new dismissal car tag with a number and/or QR code that must be displayed upon entering the driveway. All other aspects of dismissal will remain the same (i.e. 3rd-5th grade families will line up in the right lane and dismiss at cones near the Multi-Purpose room; K-2nd grade families and those with older siblings will line up in the left lane and dismiss at cones along the front of the school). Look for more information to come home in the next several weeks!

Volunteering at Odyssey Elementary

We are beginning to plan and share information about field trips this year. Please ensure you follow the steps below for volunteering and chaperoning.

Please go to the Brevard County Schools web page: www.brevard-schools.org.

- 1) Click the Parents & Students heading.
- 2) Scroll down to Volunteer Information and click on the link
- 3) On the left of the screen, click on the Fingerprint link (The volunteer application is at the bottom of the page)
- 4) Complete the Application (\$35 for the first year, \$8 for renewals)
- 5) After completing the Application and payment, please visit: District and School Security - 2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Viera, FL 32940 Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (No appointment necessary)

If you are planning to chaperone any field trip please complete this process as soon as possible so it is completed before any field trips you might be interested in chaperoning.

Volunteer Hours & Read Aloud Program



Please visit the following link to register for volunteer hours: <http://odysseycharterschool.com/Volunteer.html>.

We appreciate all the help our volunteers provide our teachers and students. You can also earn volunteer hours by participating in our Read Aloud Program.

The Read Aloud Program is a wonderful way for parents to fulfill their volunteer hours while supporting 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. For more information about the importance of reading aloud to your child, please visit Jim Trelease's web site at: <http://www.release-on-reading.com/> or you can visit our website at <http://odysseycharterschool.com/read-aloud.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.

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.

Early Check-out for Students

Parents, we are asking that if you need to checkout your elementary student early, that you do so by 2:00 p.m. on a regular dismissal day and by 12:45 on an early release day. It can become a safety concern when students are checked out too close to the dismissal time. Please remember that we do not take dismissal changes over the phone. All changes made to your child's normal means of transportation home are required in writing. We would also like to encourage you to make appointments for your child outside of our school hours in order to maximize your child's learning time and minimize classroom disruptions for all students. We thank you for your partnership!

Substitutes

We are always looking for parents or community members to join our Titan family. We are in seeking motivated, positive, and nurturing individuals looking to make an impact in our students' daily scholastic goals. If you are interested in joining our team as a substitute, please contact Ms. Barbara Marcus at MarcusB@odysseycharterschool.com. Training is provided.

Parents as Partners

Parents as Partners (PasP) is a collaborative effort between parents, teachers, and administrators. The team develops ideas and plans programs to support student success and is a very important partnership. Please see our meeting schedule below:

- FSA Information Night - Thursday, January 27, 2022, at 5:30pm via ZOOM (join us to learn more about the Florida Standards Assessment and how you can encourage and support your child at home)
- ELA / Math Family Night – Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 6:30pm in the Healthy Café (join us to learn some strategies and receive some hands-on materials to support your child's learning at home!)
- Data Review / Parent Feedback – Thursday, April 21, 2022 time TBD

If you have any questions please contact Ms. Nolder at nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com. Future events we are planning:

- Annual 5K
- Teacher Appreciation

School-Based Leadership Team

Founder - Ms. Constance Ortiz

Principal/Site Administrator - Ms. Wendi Nolder

Assistant Principal - Ms. Deb Berg

Assistant/Principal/Dean of Students - Mr. James Monds

Director, Preschool/VPK and Before & After School Care - Ms. Alia Hartwick

Assistant Director, Preschool/VPK and Before & After School Care - Ms. Nina Lucchini-Memoli

Social Worker - Ms. Francesca Privette

Instructional Coaches - Ms. Christina Hutchinson, Mr. Michael Senick, Ms. Amanda Gayle

Office Manager/Registrar, Elementary - Ms. Kristina Snelling

Title I Corner-

Odyssey Charter School is a Title I school holding the highest academic expectations for your student. Title I documents are available now online for review and are accessible at odysseyprepacademy.com under the "about us" section under school reports:

- School Report Card
- PFEP (Parent and Family Engagement Plan)
- SIP (School Improvement Plan)

If you have any feedback or suggestions on the documents for the upcoming year, please contact Ms. Deb Berg at BergD@odysseycharterschool.com.

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:

- School Report Card
- PFEP (Parent and Family Engagement Plan)
- SIP (School Improvement Plan)

Si tiene algún comentario o sugerencia sobre los documentos para el próximo año, comuníquese con Ms. Deb Berg en BergD@odysseycharterschool.com.

Clubs/Extra-Curricular**

Do you have a skill or interested you would like to share with students? Our Before and After School Enrichment Program offers a variety of afterschool club opportunities to our students. Look for information to come out in October and January on our available clubs for 2021-2022. If you have any questions or are interested in leading a club, please contact Ms. Alia Hartwick at HartwickA@odysseycharterschool.com or Ms. Nina Lucchini-Memoli at LucchiniN@odysseycharterschool.com.
****Prospective / Tentative (based on interest)**

Spring- 2022**

- Tae Kwon Do
- Soccer
- Chess Club
- Art Club
- GLEE Club
- Conservation Club
- Healthy Cooking Club
- Amazing Animals
- Crocheting/Knitting
- Math Counts Club



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

** 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, will be determined by the OCS Board of Directors at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.