



# Odyssey Charter School

1350 Wyoming Drive S.E. • Palm Bay, Florida 32909 • 321-345-4117

## SPRING 2018 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

Ms. Constance Ortiz  
**Founder**

Monica Knight, PhD  
**Principal/Site Administrator**

Dr. Rose Harrison  
**Curriculum and Instruction Manager**

Austin Reynolds  
**Dean of Students**

Sean Dillon  
**6th Grade Dean of Curriculum**

Marisa Moore  
**6th Grade Dean of Students**

Paul Galloway  
**Athletic Director**

### Note from Dr. Knight:

Dear Titan Families and Community,

With spring break and summer quickly approaching, the focus on academic and school sometimes wanes for teenagers and we need to provide the support and encouragement that our teens need to keep their attitudes positive and their minds focused. As a holistic school, we must continue to nurture the social, emotional, physical, and spiritual selves, as we grow the academic knowledge of our teenagers.

Odyssey believes that parents and families are our students' first and most important teachers. When parents and families are involved in their children's education, the children perform at higher levels and have more positive feelings about school. Many studies show that what families do is more important to children's success than family income and parent education level!

How can you support your children's learning at home throughout the school year? Here are a few ways:

- Understand the state assessments your teen is preparing for and openly discuss those with him/her to help reduce test anxiety and help with test preparations. Visit the FSA test site for parent help materials at <https://fsassessments.org/users/students-and-families.stml>.
- Partner with your teens' teachers and school staff to make sure that your teen is attending needed tutorial and/or Success Saturday sessions. Remember tutorial happens DAILY from 7:30AM-9:00AM and Success Saturday takes place weekly from 9:00-11:00AM.
- Support your child academically by checking on homework completion nightly and help your teen study/prepare for tests or complete projects.
- Have a positive attitude about education and model it daily.
- Encourage your teen to read and reduce the SCREEN TIME.
- Get involved with our school. Join our Parents as Partners (PasP) Parent Organization, attend parent/student events, and volunteer at school by contacting the front desk.
- Encourage your teen to talk about what he/she is learning. Encourage active learning – asking and answering questions, solving problems and exploring interests.
- Get outside with your teen – take a walk or throw around a football. Everyone needs fresh air and exercise to grow their bodies and brains.
- Know the testing schedule and review it with your teen. Make sure your teen eats well and gets a good night's rest before important assessments.
- Ask the school for a conference if you wish to talk about your teen's academic, social, or emotional needs.

It is crucial to the future success of your teen that his/her family is engaged and focused on school success. Together, we can help our teens reach their full potential in life.

Monica Knight, Ph.D.  
Principal/Site Administrator

## 2017-2018 Testing information Updates

**FSA Writing is complete. Great job Titans!** Students and Parents, great job preparing for and performing on the FSA Writing Assessments!

For the first time in Odyssey Charter Jr. / Sr. High School's history, we were approved by the College Board to host the SAT for our 11th grade students! All students successfully completed their SAT and colleges of their choice will be provided their scores!

Please continue preparation (including I-Ready, Morning Tutoring, Wednesday Tutoring, & Success Saturday) for the 2017-2018 remaining Florida Standard Assessments (FSA) and End of Course (EOC) Assessments!

- Upcoming FSA Dates for Reading:
  - 6th Grade FSA Reading 4/16 and 4/17
  - 7th Grade FSA Reading 4/19 and 4/20
  - 8th Grade FSA Reading 4/23 and 4/24
  - 9th and 10th FSA Reading 4/26 and 4/27
- Upcoming FSA Dates for Math
  - 6th Grade FSA Math 5/3 and 5/4
  - 7th Grade FSA Math 4/30 and 5/1
  - 8th Grade FSA Math 5/10 and 5/11
- Upcoming End Of Course Exam Dates
  - Biology and U.S. History 5/8
  - Civics 5/9
  - Algebra and Geometry 5/14 and 5/15
- Grade 8: NGSSS Science Paper Based Test , 5/1
- Advanced Placement Test Dates:
  - AP Psychology 5/7 @ 12:00PM
  - AP English Literature and Composition 5/9 @ 8AM
  - AP English Language and Composition 5/16 @ 8AM
  - AP Statistics 5/17 @ 8AM
  - AP Human Geography 5/18 @ 8AM
  - AP Microeconomics 5/18 @ 8AM

## Odyssey of the Mind Team



Our team competed in The Space Coast Odyssey of the Mind Regional Tournament on March 3rd at Viera High School. It was "A Stellar" performance. Odyssey of the Mind Team WON their division, beating Melbourne High School! CONGRATULATIONS!

## Odyssey SENIORS!

Odyssey Charter's Jr. / Sr. High school's first senior class experienced an opportunity of a lifetime on Feb. 13th when the admissions and financial team of Eastern Florida came to campus. The GO HIGHER GET ACCEPTED recruitment program staff worked with our 21 students to apply to the college. Some parents joined the students and learned about FAFSA, scholarships and the Direct Connect program with University of Central Florida.

**The result:** All of our seniors have applied to Eastern Florida. Two have been accepted since the 13th. Another portion of our students are already enrolled in dual enrollment. At this rate, we expect 100% acceptance to EFSC by May.

We owe a special thanks to Myron Campbell and a myriad of dedicated EFSC staff members.

## Athletic Updates

Odyssey Charter School Jr. / Sr. High Athletics are still in full swing. We just finished middle school and high school basketball with middle school taking 2nd place in our league. The high school team battled hard and played through many challenges and injuries to finish their first season of FHSAA district play. The high school men's soccer team also had a great year with only one loss. Our flag football team is currently tearing things up with a 3 and 3 record. They have their last game March 17th and then they are off to playoffs. Track has just started and Coach Wulf is optimistic - We may have a few district, and possibly even, state qualifiers!

*Keep up the hard work and Go Titans!*

## Grade 6 Science / STEAM



• Mr. Kennedy, past Director of Kennedy Space Center, made a personal visit to our classes and was very impressed with our knowledge of Space; we discussed the latest SpaceX Falcon 9 heavy launch and all of the engineers plus scientists it takes to make projects like

that possible. We also showed Mr. Kennedy our CubeSat projects and talked about different missions in Space to Mars and beyond--the next generation!

• Students are enjoying our new laptops with 24 inch monitors that allow them to create innovative presentations on one screen while researching content on another. This is a great tool for group projects. We will have a total of nine laptops like this in our classroom soon, due to a donation from a local aerospace company and a Donorschoose.org campaign Ms. Hoier just successfully completed!

• Our classroom has a new addition: Hamsters! Ms. Hoier felt that her students needed something organic for the students to concentrate on and learn about instead of everything tech, so she got hamsters. Lo and behold soon after arriving in the classroom one of them had little ones. What a learning opportunity this has been for the students! The babies are now up for adoption.

• Students were able to view the historic Falcon 9 Heavy launch from multiple perspectives with laptops and HD projector. Ms. Hoier helped students set up a ground control center with 3 laptops and students reported back to the class the data feeds coming back about systems and readiness to fly. The launch was awesome! We have been learning about global weather systems and this was a wonderful hands-on application of why weather is so important to know about. Launches don't happen if the weather is bad.

*Keep up the hard work and Go Titans!*



## Math Department

The Odyssey Junior/Senior High School Math department is off to another great start for Semester III! Jr/Sr High teachers and students are working diligently to prepare for the FSA and EOC tests in May. Parents should expect their students to come home with homework practice between 3 and 4 nights a week on average. This nightly homework usually consists of ten to fifteen problems. In addition to their nightly homework, all middle school students should spend 45 minutes on I-Ready. I-Ready is a major tool for students to practice and demonstrate mastery of the Florida state standards in preparation for the Florida State Assessments (FSA's) for 7th and 8th grade. High school students are being assigned weekly Study Island assignments as a major tool to practice and demonstrate mastery of the Florida state standards in preparation of the End of Course Exams (EOC's) for Algebra and Geometry.

Parents can help their students master the state standards by taking an active role in monitoring their progress on I-Ready or Study Island on a weekly basis. Algebra and Algebra 2 students should be watching "Algebra Nation" videos each night of the week while filling in their workbooks. Please remind your students to practice using either the I-Ready or Study Island program weekly, ask your student questions about their progress, and have them physically show you the program to demonstrate their mastery levels of each practiced objective. With Study Island, objective mastery is continuously averaged as the student continues to practice, and is indicated as a percentage. Pay special attention to the percentages your child achieves for each practiced objective. A student must achieve a 70% for each objective to demonstrate mastery.

If your child is struggling in Math, morning tutoring is available every day from 8:00 to 8:55. Success Saturday is another option for Math support or enrichment, as there is always a Math teacher willing and ready to help our OCS Jr/Sr High students from 9:00 – 11:30 every week. If you have any questions or concerns, always feel free to contact your student's math teacher by e-mail. E-mail addresses can be found on the school website at [odysseycharterschool.com](http://odysseycharterschool.com).

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## Music Department

### Musical Theater and Chorus:

Our musical theater and chorus class are preparing to perform "The Music Man" in F.I.T.'s auditorium on May 14th at 6:30 P.M. Please come and support our thespians.

### Chorus:

Our Chorus recently performed in front of five judges for the annual M.P.A. at Heritage H.S. on March 6th. Our Chorus is also working on songs which will be performed at the opening of The Music Man in F.I.T.'s auditorium on May 14th at 6:30 P.M.

### Orchestra 1, 2 and 3:

Our Orchestra 2 and 3 classes performed in front of 3 judges on March 2nd at Satellite H.S. Orchestra 1, 2 and 3 are preparing pieces for their spring concert performance on May 11th at F.I.T.'s auditorium on May 11th at 6:30 P.M. The band and color guard will also be performing.



## Science Department Updates



Congratulations to Sean Stanton for being awarded the top scholarship of \$60,000 to the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT), as well as 2nd Place in his division, at the Brevard Regional Science and Engineering Fair. This is an extremely impressive award for a freshman! It should be noted that this is the 2nd year in a row that an Odyssey

student has won this top scholarship! Last year's FIT scholarship winner was Alejandro Avilez, one of our 22 seniors this year. **Special thanks to Ms. H. Hoier for her unwavering commitment to student-led, Science Research!**

### 7th and 8th Grade Science

Over geologic time, internal and external sources of energy have continuously altered the features of Earth by means of both constructive and destructive forces. Students are identifying methods used for measuring the age of Earth and all its parts. These methods explain how fossils formed, help to identify each unique type of fossil, and can also paint a picture of the organism's environment at the time of death. The geological timescale is used when comparing index fossil samples as they help to determine the relative age of rock. It is from there paleontologists will test the radioactive decay of the rock. Students will be studying charts and graphs to understand this process. Homework includes vocabulary exercises from Quizlet and Kahoot challenges.

### Marine Science

In Marine Science, since semester II began, we have studied the relationship of organisms in the ocean. Each type from phytoplankton plants forming the basis of the food chain to multicellular animals depending on them. All life activity is dependent, directly or indirectly, in the energy gained and transferred by each trophic level. The success of the marine organisms depends on their relation with the physical and biological factors influencing them. We further have studied the anatomy of the common perch and performed several days in the laboratory with dissection and identification of the structures and organs along with their function. The Dogfish Shark was also dissected and structure with function examined. Most recently we have tackled what is polluting the oceans and possible proposed solutions.

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## Latin Department

On Saturday, January 19, Odyssey Latin students competed against approximately 450 Brevard County students at Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy in Melbourne. At this day-long event, students compete in written tests, performances, art, and athletics.

Congratulations to the following students for their awards:

Kaylee Abramovs - 3rd place in Hellenic History I Frank Donnelly - 2nd place in Vocabulary I Frank Donnelly and Nathan Monroe - 2nd in the footrace Frank Donnelly and Gabe Kuntz - 5th in Maze Run Jevon Francis - 5th place in Games, Grades 5-9 Noralis Marquez-Rodriguez - 4th place in Mottoes and Abbreviations I Karla Reyes - 1st place in Vocabulary I Becca St. John - 4th place in Games.

Students will compete at the State Latin Forum in Orlando in April. Many thanks to the parents, staff, and administration who helped our students succeed in these new and exciting areas.

## Art Happenings



### Brevard County Art Fair

Congratulations to Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High 6th grader, Callista (Callie) Macpherson, for winning 3rd place in the Brevard County art fair! Callie is one of several middle school students that has a chance to take high school art coursework because of the acceleration model of Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High. Way to show your Titan Pride, Callie!



### Digital Design

Digital Design students recently created graphics for a video game concept of their choice. Senior, Vianelli DeLeon, did an amazing job using a new photoshop tool to create these character illustrations. This week we are taking them a step further and bringing them to life with animations.

## Walk Against School Violence

On Wednesday, March 14, the Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr. High Student Government Association (SGA) facilitated a Walk against School Violence and Time to Remember during the lunch hour.

The Walk allowed students to remember the lives lost at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14, 2018, as well as to remember past tragedies resulting from school violence.

The Walk allowed for meaningful student engagement without any lost instructional time. Participation was optional and entirely based upon the desire of each student.



Participating students had a chance to fill out Remembrance Cards to tie around the Odyssey Peace Pole while other students sang, spoke, and played beautiful music to celebrate and remember those lives lost to school violence.

Special thanks to the Odyssey Band of Gold and Odyssey Chorus, as well as Ms. Varnadoe, Director of Bands, and Mr. Hoffman, Choral Director, for their beautiful contributions to the event; Sean Stanton and other SGA leaders for organizing the event; Mr. Ayala, SGA sponsor, for supporting the program; the Wyoming front office staff for helping the students prepare; and the Odyssey students, staff, and parents that took time today to show their respect and condolences.

## Odyssey Annual 5K

April 21 2018 at 8:00 AM at Field of Dreams Park  
\*Odyssey families will have a \$10 off code

Race Director: Michele Delaune (delaunem@odysseycharterschool.com)

<http://www.runningzone.com/events/odyssey-charter-school-presents-14th-annual-odyssey-5k-community-run/>

## Spelling Bee

Congratulations to SARAH BRENT, a 6th grade Titan at Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High, ranking 7th (out of 72 schools) in the district spelling bee. We are so proud of her success! Way to show your Titan Pride, Sarah!

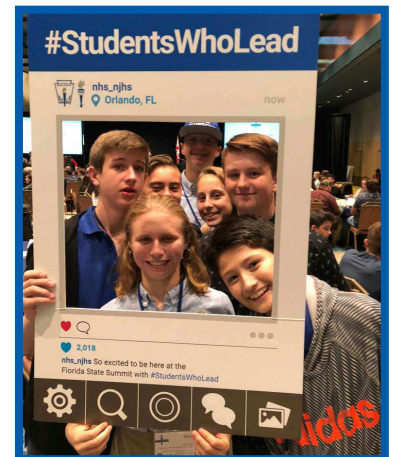
## National Honor Society

Last month, 12 of our NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY TITANS went to the Florida State Summit to participate in hands-on experiential leadership development.

The State Summit was a unique one-day program open only to NHS and NJHS members designed to cultivate empowerment and leadership for student attendees, while sparking conversations aimed at real results.

Presented in a think tank format, our students sat at tables with other student leaders from across the state, fully engaged in discussion, hearing from state leaders about current issues, then they were asked to employ design-thinking strategies to identify challenges at our school or in our community and implement solutions.

At the close of the day, we had SEVEN of our young students on stage helping to present their groups' work from the workshops they participated in. We are very proud of them! Special thanks to Ms. Gawlowski, NHS and NJHS sponsor and Ms. Patterson, parent volunteer, for helping make the day a success!



## GATEway Students



Check out these Parent Resources for GATEway Students (Gifted and Talented Teens)

DUKE TIP – Duke TiP has two primary goals: to help exceptional students achieve success, and to provide schools and parents with the resources they need to meet the unique academic, social, and emotional needs of gifted children. The first can't happen

without the second, which is why we provide families and educators with tools to help them support their academically talented students.

<https://blogs.tip.duke.edu/giftedtoday/> - GIFTED TODAY  
<https://www.nsgt.org/scholarships-available/national-scholarships/> - National Society for Gifted and Talented

## Positive Parenting Tips for Developing Healthy Teenagers

Following are some things you, as a parent, can do to help your teen during this time:

- Talk with your teen about her concerns and pay attention to any changes in her behavior. Ask her if she has had suicidal thoughts, particularly if she seems sad or depressed. Asking about suicidal thoughts will not cause her to have these thoughts, but it will let her know that you care about how she feels. Seek professional help if necessary.
- Show interest in your teen's school and extracurricular interests and activities and encourage him to become involved in activities such as sports, music, theater, and art.
- Encourage your teen to volunteer and become involved in civic activities in her community.
- Compliment your teen and celebrate his efforts and accomplishments.
- Show affection for your teen. Spend time together doing things you enjoy.
- Respect your teen's opinion. Listen to her without playing down her concerns.
- Encourage your teen to develop solutions to problems or conflicts. Help your teenager learn to make good decisions. Create opportunities for him to use his own judgment, and be available for advice and support.
- If your teen engages in interactive internet media such as games, chat rooms, and instant messaging, encourage her to make good decisions about what she posts and the amount of time she spends on these activities.
- If your teen works, use the opportunity to talk about expectations, responsibilities, and other ways of behaving respectfully in a public setting.
- Talk with your teen and help him plan ahead for difficult or uncomfortable situations. Discuss what he can do if he is in a group and someone is using drugs or under pressure to have sex, or is offered a ride by someone who has been drinking.
- Respect your teen's need for privacy.
- Encourage your teen to get enough sleep and exercise, and to eat healthy, balanced meals.

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/positiveparenting/adolescence2.html>

## Should I Take the ACT or SAT?

<https://www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-act>

Many students and parents begin the college prep process by comparing the ACT and SAT tests. The SAT and ACT generally cover the same topics. Both ACT and SAT scores are used for college admissions decisions and awarding merit-based scholarships. Most colleges do not prefer one test over the other.

### Compare the ACT and SAT tests

- ACT includes a Science section
- SAT includes one SAT Math Section on which you may not use a calculator

Students are increasingly taking both the SAT and ACT. Changes made to the SAT in 2016 have made it easier than ever to prep for both tests concurrently—and earn competitive scores on both!

The best way to decide if taking the SAT, ACT, or both tests is right for you is to take a timed full-length practice test of each type. Since the content and style of the SAT and ACT are very similar, factors like how you handle time pressure and what types of questions you find most challenging can help you determine which test is a better fit.

### 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](mailto:cgilmore@greenappleschools.com) or 321-676-8737.

## SPRING 2018 CALENDAR

### MARCH:

- 3/28 Early Release Day
- 3/29 STEAM EXPO - Healthy Café 1:30-4:00PM
- 3/30 Dress Out of Uniform Day

### APRIL:

- 4/2-4/6 Spring Break NO SCHOOL
- 4/9 Students Return
- 4/11 Early Release Day
- 4/13 Founder's Day
- 4/14 Junior / Senior Prom (see info below)\*
- 4/18 Early Release Day
- 4/20 End of 4th Interim
- 4/20 Class of 2018 GRAD BASH
- 4/21 Founder's 5K
- 4/25 Early Release Day
- 4/27 Dress Out of Uniform Day
- 4/27 Band Trip to Valdosta Georgia

### MAY:

- 5/2 Early Release Day
- 5/4 8th Grade Gradventure
- 5/4 Band Trip to Tampa
- 5/7-5/11 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5/9 Early Release Day
- 5/11 Spring Concert
- 5/14 Odyssey's Fine Arts Department Presents  
– The Music Man (FIT Auditorium)
- 5/16 Early Release Day
- 5/18 Dress Out of Uniform Day
- 5/18 Class of 2018 Graduation,  
Gleason Center, FIT 7:00PM
- 5/21-5/23 Early Release Day/Exam Day

Odyssey Presents the  
Class of 2018  
Junior/Senior

# Roaring 20's Prom

Saturday, April 14th  
7:00pm - 10:00pm

*The Captain's House  
1300 Bianca Drive  
Palm Bay, Florida*

\$25/person or \$45/couple  
Tickets on sale now  
11th & 12th grade only