



# Odyssey Charter School

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

## SPRING 2021 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.

### SPRING CALENDAR

Visit <https://www.brevardschools.org/cms/lib/FL02201431/Centricity/Domain/4/2020-202120District20Calendar.pdf> for the calendar for the 2020-2021 school year.

- April 2 Teacher/Student Holiday
- April 16 STEAM Expo (*Parents can attend from 11:45-1:15PM*)
- April 16 Rising 6th Grade Visit from Odyssey Elementary 9:30AM
- April 16 Rising 6th and 7th Grade Visits from Odyssey Prep Academy 12:30PM
- April 17 Junior and Senior Prom
- April 26 Teacher/Student Holiday
- April 28 Color Guard Showcase
- April 29 Titan Band Spring Concert
- April 30 Interims
  
- May 13 Class of 2021 Grad Bash
- May 19 Last day for seniors  
OCS, Inc. Board Meeting 4:30PM  
[click HERE for calendar of meetings](#)
- May 21 NHS Induction Ceremony
- May 22 10:00AM – Graduation
- May 24 8th Grade Stepping Up Ceremony @ 9:30
- May 31 Memorial Day/Holiday for ALL
  
- June 1 - 3 Exam Days/Early Release Days
- June 3 Last Day for K-12 Students

### Message from Dr. Knight, Principal

Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High is in full bloom this spring. As we enter spring semester, we wanted to share all of the exciting opportunities and rigorous instruction taking place on our Wyoming campus and online. From engaging Socratic seminars in our History classes to recitations of famous Shakespearean plays in English to anatomic dissections in Science courses to calculating parabolas in Algebra, our students are diligently working on finishing this academic year strong. State testing for Writing will begin the first week of April and throughout the month of May. Please help us by having your students here on time, well rested, and well fed on each testing day.

We are delighted that close to 80% of our students have return to face-to-face instruction and we are proud to say that those students remaining on eLearners are working conscientiously with their teachers to remain connected with the school through engaging hybrid lessons. We have been pleased to be able to safely provide both face-to-face and eLearning students with on-site special events like Homecoming and Movie Nights, athletics, as well as offering clubs and other extra-curricular opportunities like National Honor Society and Interact. We also have many students in hybrid models of face-to-face dual enrollment at Eastern Florida and Florida Tech and virtual dual enrollment in our onsite College Learning Lab (CLC).

Our students have enjoyed all of the new opportunities our new state-of-the-art Constance Ortiz Wellness and Performing Arts Centre provides, enhancing our well-established and popular performing and fine arts courses like Band, Color Guard, Chorus, Musical Theatre, Keyboarding, 2D/3D Art, and Painting. Our athletic teams and physical education classes have also enjoyed holding games/competitions in our beautiful gymnasium, as well as on our magnificent track and field. Even The Farm at Odyssey has blossomed this year, with several Science Research and Nutrition classes starting crops and experiments on our soil-based, organic farm and in our aquaponics lab.

Clubs are well underway throughout our campus, including a new Chess team, a growing eSports program, a returning and very popular ukulele club, and a new Stippling (drawing with dots) club. Our Black History Club did an amazing job throughout February and March with daily briefs regarding important historical figures from underrepresented populations. Other extra curriculars groups like National Honor Society (NHS), Interact, Student Government (SGA) have also found ways to help support the school and community through service projects like plastic bottle cap collections to support the art project at OPA (NHS), volunteering to serve at Homecoming (Interact), beach cleanup (7th grade and NHS), and starting a student supply area (SGA) and held several movie nights for different grade levels.

As the spring allows us to fully bloom, we want to celebrate all the hard work and commitment of the students, teachers, and families to push through the struggles of last year and move positively into the future. We have much to look forward to, including our 8th Grade Stepping Up Ceremonies, Gradventure, Prom, GradBash, the spring musical of School of Rock, numerous spring performances from our performing arts programs, honors and award celebrations, the Class of 2021 Graduation, and much more.

Remember that we have morning tutoring (daily based on teacher schedule), Finish Friday (to complete assignments for any classes), Success Saturday (for extra assistance with content), intervention classes and bootcamps (to prepare for state assessments). If you feel that your student needs any of these supports or any other supports, please do not hesitate to reach out to your student's teachers, counselors, or administrators to assist. Together, we can help every TITAN blossom into caring, competent young adults.

# FSA Testing Calendar and Tips

Our teachers have worked hard this year providing high-quality, rigorous instruction and our students have worked diligently face-to-face and at-home. Now, it is time for our students to SHOW what they KNOW. Below you will find the testing schedule for the spring and some testing tips. If you would like to learn more about the assessments, please visit <https://fsassessments.org/users/students-and-families.stml>. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Moore, our Assistant Principal overseeing testing.

Please help your student with the following:

- Get a good night's sleep the night before
- Eat a healthy breakfast
- Practice with the format/practice questions

<https://fsassessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests/paper-based-materials/paper-based-practice-test-materials.stml>

All 6th Grade  
8th Grade Science

<https://fsassessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests/computer-based-materials/index.stml> (follow these steps):

- Click take Computer-based practice tests
- Click sign
- Select Grade
- Choose from the following:

7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing
Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
Math (*unless in EOC course)	Math (*unless in EOC course)	Click on the *EOCs for the Courses you are in	
Civics	*Algebra	*Biology	*US History
*Algebra	*Geometry	*Algebra	*Geometry

Below is the overall May calendar:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3-May	5/4/2021	5/5/2021	5/6/2021	5/7/2021
	6th ELA	6th ELA	8th ELA	AP Chemistry
	7th ELA	7th ELA	AP US History	8th ELA
5/10/2021	5/11/2021	5/12/2021	5/13/2021	5/14/2021
9th ELA	9th ELA	6th Math	6th Math	Biology
10th ELA	10th ELA	7th Math	7th Math	US History
		8th Science		
		AP Lang		
5/17/2021	5/18/2021	5/19/2021	5/20/2021	5/21/2021
8th Math	8th Math	Algebra	Algebra	Civics
AP Stats		Geometry	Geometry	
24-May	25-May	26-May	27-May	28-May
			CTE	



6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Date	Assessment	Session Time	Session Questions
4/6	Writing	**120 Minutes	N/A
5/4	Reading	85 Minutes	1-30
5/5	Reading	85 Minutes	31-62
5/12	Math	60 Minutes	1-22
5/13	Math	**120 Minutes	23-44 & 45-66

\*\*Means: Broken up with snack break

7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Date	Assessment	Session Time	Session Questions
4/6	Writing	**120 Minutes	N/A
5/4	Reading	85 Minutes	1-30
5/5	Reading	85 Minutes	31-62
5/12	Math* (Unless in EOC)	60 Minutes	1-22
5/13	Math* (Unless in EOC)	**120 Minutes	23-44 & 45-66
5/19	*Algebra	**200 Minutes	1-34
5/20	*Algebra	**200 Minutes	35-68
5/21	Civics	**160 Minutes+	1-56

\*\*Means: Broken up with snack break

+ Means: Up to the entire school day (if needed)

8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Date	Assessment	Session Time	Session Questions
4/7	Writing	**120 Minutes	N/A
5/6	Reading	85 Minutes	1-30
5/7	Reading	85 Minutes	31-62
5/12	Math* (Unless in EOC)	60 Minutes	1-22
5/13	Math* (Unless in EOC)	**120 Minutes	23-44 & 45-66
5/13	Science	**160 Minutes+	1-33 & 34-66
5/19	*Algebra OR Geometry	**200 Minutes	1-34
5/20	*Algebra OR Geometry	**200 Minutes	35-68

\*\* Means: Broken up with snack break

+ Means: Up to the entire school day (if needed)

9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Date	Assessment	Session Time	Session Questions
4/8	Writing	**120 Minutes	N/A
5/10	Reading	85 Minutes	1-31
5/11	Reading	85 Minutes	32-64

\*\* Means: Broken up with snack break

+ Means: Up to the entire school day (if needed)

All High School (Based on whichever EOC Course you are in):

Date	Assessment	Session Time	Session Questions
5/14	Biology	**160 Minutes+	1-66
5/14	US History	**160 Minutes+	1-60
5/19	Algebra	**200 Minutes	1-34
5/20	Algebra	**200 Minutes	35-68
5/19	Geometry	**200 Minutes	1-34
5/20	Geometry	**200 Minutes	35-68

\*\* Means: Broken up with snack break

+ Means: Up to the entire school day (if needed)

## Growing Dual Enrollment

*Did you know that we have tripled the number of students in dual enrollment this year and that we have students attending dual enrollment at Eastern Florida State College (EFSC) and Florida Institute of Technology (FIT)?*



EFSC early admissions packets are available in the Guidance office for current juniors interested in this opportunity. Students must have completed all required subject-area courses for graduation by the designated summer deadline, except for one high school credit each in English, science, social studies and math. To be considered for the Early Admission Program, students must have already completed the EFSC online application for admission and received their college acceptance letter before submitting an Early Admission Application following the process explained in the accordion below. Additional eligibility criteria include:

- College-ready placement test scores in reading, writing, and mathematics
- An unweighted cumulative high school GPA of at least 3.0
- Meeting the Early Admission application deadline of Thursday, May 13, 2021

EFSC summer registration begins on March 29, 2021. The 12-week summer session runs from May 17 to August 6, 2021. The 8-week summer session runs from June 14 to August 6, 2021. There are two other summer sessions that are each 6 weeks; these are not the best for most dual enrollment students to be successful. I will begin meeting with students to complete registration paperwork as soon as we return from spring break.

EFSC fall registration dates have not been posted, but last year it began on April 20, 2020.



*Florida Institute of Technology*

FIT registration for Summer 2021 for currently enrolled students began on Monday, February 1, 2021. The calendar for 2021-2022 has not been posted yet, but registration for Fall 2020 for currently enrolled students began Sunday, April 19, 2020, and continued through Wednesday, August 26, 2020. FIT students meet with the FIT advisor to complete all of the scheduling and just bring back the bill and schedule.

**Early Admission to EFSC (from <https://www.easternflorida.edu/admissions/dual-enrollment/early-admissions-details.cfm>)**

Early Admission is a form of dual enrollment that enables qualified students to spend their senior year at Eastern Florida as full-time students. Students earn credits that count toward both a college degree and a high school diploma. Upon completion of their senior year, early admission students are no longer eligible for dual enrollment. The College does not charge participants tuition and certain fees. Early admission students, can complete a full year of college at minimal cost by enrolling in five EFSC courses in both the fall and spring terms. To remain in the program, students must enroll in four courses totaling 12 credit hours each term.

Public school students receive required college textbooks and access codes from their high school. Private school students are responsible for purchasing these items. In accordance with Florida Statutes, EFSC loans required instructional materials to home school students.

While early admission students must take all their courses at the College, they remain eligible to participate in high school clubs and athletics and to attend all high school graduation activities. Many are also involved in College clubs and organizations, such as the Student Government Association or Phi Theta Kappa.

At the time of application, home school, private school and Brevard public school applicants for Early Admission must be in the equivalent of 11th grade. Brevard public school students must have completed all required subject-area courses for graduation by the designated summer deadline, except for one high school credit each in English, science, social studies and math. Public school students must complete these requirements while in early admission by dual enrolling in equivalent college courses at Eastern Florida.

To be considered for the Early Admission Program, students must have already completed the EFSC online application for admission and received their college acceptance letter before submitting an Early Admission Application following the process explained in the accordion below. Additional eligibility criteria include:

- College-ready placement test scores in reading, writing, and mathematics
- An unweighted cumulative high school GPA of at least 3.0
- Meeting the Early Admission application deadline of Thursday, May 13, 2021

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## ACT For Juniors

*Juniors – Interested in taking the ACT? See your counselor for a waiver.*

The ACT® test are designed to reflect what students have learned throughout high school and provide colleges and universities with excellent information for recruiting, advising, placement, and retention. Many times, students who are not considering higher education rethink their plans when they see their ACT test results. This is especially true for underrepresented students. To support college and career planning, the ACT also offers a career exploration component to help students identify career options. For more information on the ACT, please see <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act-educator/the-act-test.html#order-reg-materials>.

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## Our Titan Yearbooks are on Sale Now!

Our Commercial Art classes have made a wonderful book again this year. Our store is open for orders [HERE](#) or use the QR code to the right. Price is \$55.



***Don't miss out on the memories!***

## Loads of Luscious Lettuce from The Farm at Odyssey!

Farm Manager: Molly Sharpe Health: Coach Williams, Dr. Caleb STEAM: Mr. Zelonski, Dr. Caleb & Miss Molly Sharpe

The Farm at Odyssey is up and running once again! Before winter break, 6th-8th grade students from the Health Class- Choice, Control & Change prepared and planted carrots and lettuce for use at Odyssey's Healthy Café. On the first cut harvest of our lettuce we harvested over 13 pounds of leafy deliciousness! STEAM students have also been busy getting their hands dirty at our farm learning how to think like scientists through a variety of projects. The A in STEAM is for ART and AGRICULTURE here at Odyssey! This week the STEAM class is measuring, leveling, digging, and installing stepping stones. We are still growing here at the farm, and we have so many exciting things to come! Central Florida, Barry University, Univ of South Florida, just to name a few.



## Homecoming

Congratulations to our Homecoming King, Mason Imperato, and Homecoming Queen Haley Oo, who were celebrated last month in Odyssey's 2020/21 Homecoming Ball. Special thanks to Dr. Knight and Ms. Amanda, as well as the other teachers and administrators, that helped to set up the event and the Interact students that served the three-course meal and the Student Government students that helped with decorations and music. It was a beautiful event full of fun, food, and friendship. Our Juniors and Seniors are looking forward to our upcoming Prom on April 17th. Tickets are now on sale with Ms. Amanda.



## Health and Nutrition Update

The Health and nutrition class has been finishing a unit on the digestive system and has started the unit about diabetes, the types and cause, along with dietary strategies to maintain healthy blood sugar. In addition to the classroom work. The health and nutrition class has had its second harvest, providing lettuce to the healthy café. In addition to lettuce the class will soon be harvesting carrots and cilantro.



## Reusable Food? We should compost!

Written by Honors Senior, Daniel Welsh

Did you know that Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High has a compost project in the making? Before the project could start the Odyssey Charter Jr/ Sr High compost committee needed data to show how viable composting is at this school. In order to determine this, the compost committee called upon the help of Ms. Irving's AP Statistics class. Her class is composed of 5 highly Gifted students: Brandon Desmarais, Hayden Berry, Gabriel Kuntz, Zachary Mahurin, and Carter Dodson. They were tasked with determining how much compostable waste is produced during school lunch, excluding meat and dairy products since they attract animals and promote the growth of E. coli.

First, the AP Statistics class had to meet with SGA's compost committee head, Kenneth Espada, as well as, farm manager Molly Sharpe, and Sara Buckley from Green Apple Management. After the meeting it was determined that in order to obtain the data required for said project the AP students would have to conduct a specific survey for OPA and OCS Jr/Sr High. Thus, a survey was created and will be distributed amongst the students for both OPA and OCS Jr/Sr High. The survey consists of a series of questions concerning dietary habits of students attending the schools. This includes all Face to Face and E-Learners because of the research must reflect how much compostable waste is produced when the school is at maximum capacity. The survey will be paired with the upcoming student government elections on March 11th. OPA will receive the survey at a later date. Stay tuned for the complete report and all the exciting outcomes.

## Step INTO Your Future!

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program has helped more than 725,000 Florida students attend a postsecondary institution. Bright Futures awards include: Florida Academic Scholars award (FAS), Florida Medallion Scholars award (FMS), Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award (GSC) and the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award (GSV).

**Step 1:** Go to [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN) to find out how to qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship.

**Step 2:** Go to [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org) and submit a completed, error-free Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) during your last year of high school by graduation.

**Step 3:** Make the grade, earn the score... and graduate! The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is created to establish a lottery-funded scholarship program to reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition of high academic achievement. The graduate must enroll in a degree program, certificate program or applied technology program at an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary education institution.

**Step 4:** Know your responsibilities... apply, meet the requirements before graduation and throughout your college career. (Requirements are subject to change with each Florida Legislative session.)

Financial Assistance website: [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org)  
Customer Service: 888-827-2004 Email: [OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org)



## Mental Health Services Update

Teachers and parents, the Jr/Sr guidance department will continue to enter classes during the spring semester to discuss safety and mental health. Mental Health has been a topic that has been largely overlooked. Why? We understand what sadness is, what it is to be fearful, but it so much more than that.

Mental health looks to identify a pattern of emotional behavior, ex. Depression-sullen, not getting out of bed, low energy levels, suicidal thoughts. As you can see depression and that pattern of emotional behavior, can be quite intensive, very different than just being sad maybe because you got a C on a test.

We, JrSr, want to bring mental health to the forefront. We will be discussing: Prevention of abuse, alcohol, nicotine and drug abuse, the early signs of mental health difficulties, understanding mental health, developing coping strategies to better deal with mental health & daily stressors, suicide prevention, etc. These topics, which can be very difficult are meant to provide skills to better deal with issues and ultimately keep students and families safe.

These lessons will be presented in class throughout the Spring term. Again, not meant to be invasive or difficult, but to bring awareness, understanding and develop coping strategies. This process is meant to better identify emotional issues, bring issues to the light, intervene and have a healthy emotional resolution.

If you or your students are having difficulties or are concerned about depression, anxiety or mental health, please feel free to contact your guidance counselor at Jr/Sr.

## National Honors Society

Odyssey's National Honors Society is a group of gifted individuals within the Odyssey Charter School Jr/Sr High School student body. Members are required to maintain an exceptional GPA, study a rigorous curriculum, and remain involved in the community to maintain membership. Within the group are top performing students that maintain the organization's pillars of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

The 2020-2021 school year constraints have brought most high school clubs to a standstill, but National Honors Society at OCS has been dedicated to upholding their values and standards. Meetings still occur by physical and virtual means for this society every Friday morning. Additionally, monthly service projects have been in the works such as beach cleanups, movie nights, and workshops for the elderly. These events not only display the dedication of these students towards assisting their community, but also express their concern for everyone's safety by practicing strict COVID safety precautions while in public. Member of the society look forward to continuing to demonstrate their leadership on campus and in the community for the remainder of their academic career and beyond.

## Water is the Source of Life

Mrs. Reilly's talented Titan Artists painted beautiful shovels that will be hung in the new South Regional Water Treatment Facility in Palm Bay. Special thanks to Mrs. Reilly and our amazing art students for their contributions!



## History Department News

**Reminder: The 5 W's are Who – What – Where - When – Why (How)?**

US History classes are continuing with the realization that the study of history goes far beyond the memorization of names, dates, or locations. History is the interpretation of events. There can be conflicting, competing, or even contradictory interpretations. Each of these interpretations must be supported by facts but facts are merely points of reasoning rather than the purpose of history. The final step of history is publication. That is, after we have developed our interpretation, we must share that interpretation with others to provide our insights to the field of history as well as to give others the opportunity to discuss our findings.

This is the purpose of the Socratic seminars the US History teachers have incorporated into their curricula. After a period of instruction, time is set aside for students to share and compare their understandings of time periods and events. Students may ask questions, respond to questions, add to other students' responses, or share their own insights. Students may agree or disagree with others but must provide facts to support their beliefs.

This method of instruction has consistently demonstrated its power to not only increase historical understandings but also to cause students to critically consider evidence and its value and validity in a deliberative situation. The Socratic seminar is not a debate but, rather, an effort to improve and increase understandings of life.

## Science Department News

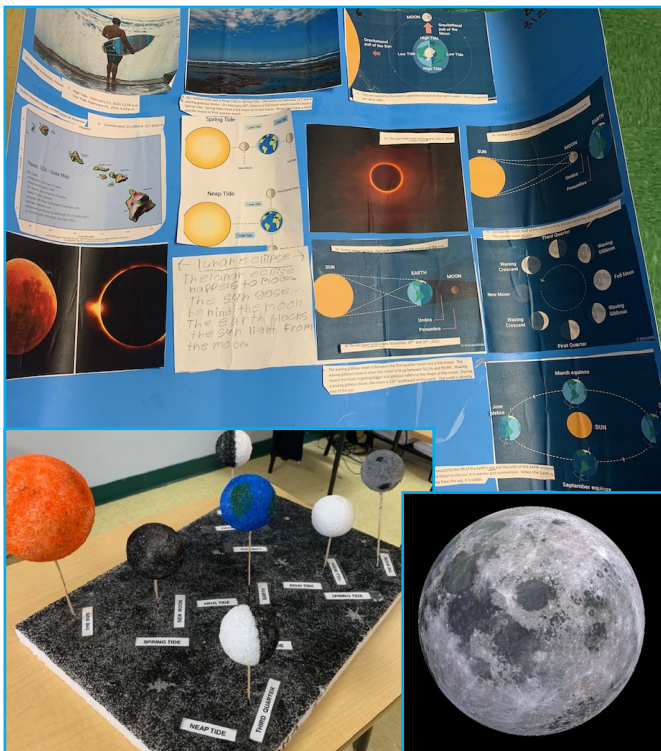
Dr. Caleb and the STEAM Farm class did a historic experiential lesson of Mendelian Genetics on our organic farm. Mendel believed traits were inherited.



Mr. Nicholson's 7th and 8th grade classes participated in an eyeball dissection showing how the image is superimposed in the lens of an eye. They also participated in the construction of DNA through a Tree of Genes activity. Students discovered dominant and recessive traits within their own genome. Leaves were then placed on the tree to show probabilities.



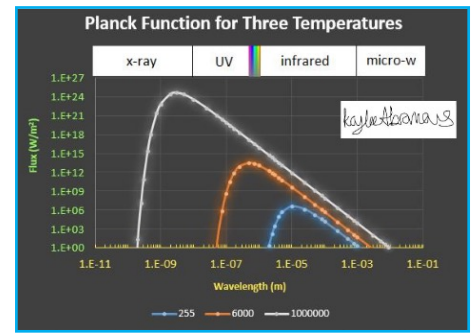
Ms. Guslawski's 8th grade classes collected data from unique areas of the world to explain the correlation between the moon phases and the tides of each individual coastal location. Coordinates of the location, tide charts, neap and spring tide diagrams, eclipse diagrams and seasons were analyzed. Students worked through many of the misconceptions currently found in this set of standards.



Top: Braiden Friend's Moon Phases Project

Bottom: Anayah Adderly's Moon Phases Project

In Dr. Grimaldi's Physics classes, students are studying Radiation, Absorption and Scattering, Greenhouse effect, Solar Geometry, Climate change, Excel Projects, Nuclear Chemistry.



## English/Language Arts News

### Focus on Literature

In Ms. Liddell's seventh grade English Language Arts classes, students are participating in a novel study of Edward Bloor's *Tangerine*. The students are analyzing the novel's characters, setting, actions, and dialogue to conduct a literary analysis with text evidence and elaboration. In addition to examining the elements of fiction in the novel, students are making real-world connections by participating in collaborative discussions about the themes of family, leadership, perseverance, honesty, choices, and consequences.

Ms. Russo's 8th grade ELA classes will be studying the Holocaust through a novel study of *The Wave* and/or *The Boy in Striped Pajamas*. In Ms. Tiffany Williams' 9th grade ELA classes, students will be working on informative texts, working from the Springboard textbook.

In Miss Boehr's 9th grade ELA class, students have started a Greek Theater unit in which we will learn the origins of drama. This precedes the reading of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, in which we will delve into literary devices, such as: foreshadowing, personification, verbal / dramatic irony, and symbolism.

Students in Ms. Stephanie Williams' 10th grade ELA class will begin reading *Tuesdays with Morrie* with a focus on characterization, plot development, conflict, and theme. Students will also engage in analysis and interpretation of the novel as they participate in a series of Socratic Seminars.

In Ms. Tiffany Williams' 11th grade classes, students will be finishing up their novel study of *Huckleberry Finn*.

In celebration of Black History Month, Ms. Connelly's 11th grade English classes are finishing up their study of *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. Students have been focusing on the themes of racism and sexism throughout the novel in our discussions, and students will be composing reflective essays on such themes beginning next week. In Quarter 4, students will be able to select a novel study of their choice from 3-4 selection options.

In Ms. Connelly's 12th grade ELA classes, students are finishing up a study of Shakespeare's *Othello*. With similar themes of racism and sexism, *Othello* serves as a classic reminder of our evolution as a society. Students will complete final projects on *Othello* as we close out the unit before spring break.

In seventh grade English Language Arts, students are participating in a novel study of Edward Bloor's *Tangerine*. The students are analyzing the novel's characters, setting, actions, and dialogue to conduct a literary analysis with text evidence and elaboration. In addition to examining the elements of fiction in the novel, students are making real-world connections by participating in collaborative discussions about the themes of family, leadership, perseverance, honesty, choices, and consequences. The goal of the current unit is to encourage students to critically engage with a grade level text and relate their analyses to their daily lives.

## Interact Club

The Interact Club at Odyssey Charter Junior/Senior High is a club composed of a stellar group of scholars that participate in a number of different school events and fundraisers. The Interact Club has focused their efforts this year on raising funds for the Sierra Leon Project. Interact Club is growing in numbers and has initiated many new members this year, such as Rian Paul, Audrey Herbert, and Aura Lopez-Sierra. Interact is always looking to expand so, if any student is interested in joining they should reach out to The President, Ava Hines.

Just recently Interact Club volunteered at Odyssey's Homecoming Dance. The Interact Scholars combined their efforts with those of Student Government to host an incredible homecoming dance. The Interact Scholars have also planned an upcoming movie night, following the completion of the End of Course Exams. The Interact Club plans to boost their Sierra Leon funds with this event, as well as provide students with a reward following the completion of their courses.

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## Guidance News

Middle School Guidance - Remember Three

Moving from elementary to middle school can be difficult. Students are leaving the comfort of one teacher's classroom to having seven different teachers and classrooms. Organization is often something parents and teachers only dream of students having. However, when the school and the family work together, the middle-school years can be rewarding academically and emotionally for the student. There is an easy way for students and families to remember the requirements to be promoted to high school; remember three.

Students will need to successfully complete three middle grades or higher in ELA, mathematics, social studies, and science. Students are required to successfully complete three middle grades or higher semesters of physical education. Within these courses, one of the social studies courses MUST be a civics education course. Students must take, and pass, the standardized EOC assessment in civics education and the EOC constitutes 30% of the student's final grade in the course.

There are many other academic and elective choices for students in middle school. Students that are taking high school level courses in middle school can earn the high school credit for those courses if they pass the class and any EOC associated with the course. It is important that your student visit with their guidance counselor to ensure they are on the right path to be promoted to high school as well as having their voices heard. When we work together, we can make dreams come true.

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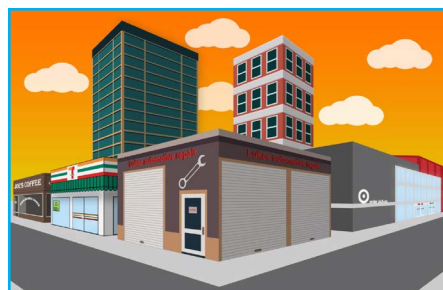
## Performing Arts

The spring semester is packed with performance opportunities from elementary visits, taping the musical, Music Performance Assessments, and Solo & Ensemble. Students are showing mastery of the course standards through large performances and daily classroom participation.

Several students are participating in District Solo & Ensemble, an event in which students prepare solos or small ensemble pieces independently and perform for adjudicators virtually. The large ensembles at Odyssey are also preparing for the upcoming District Music Performance Assessment. Intermediate and Advanced performance students will record their assessment pieces in early April for virtual adjudication.

## Career and Technology Education (CTE) Updates

Commercial Art classes and Gaming and Simulation classes are preparing for the first attempt at the formal certification exam after Spring Break. Shown right is one of the gaming students Ethan Mirabal finishing a practice test with a great passing score.



Pictured left is a perspective vector drawing made by our talented Titan digital artist, Hunter Sutton, using Adobe Illustrator.

In Technology Communication and Introduction to Technology courses, we are learning how to make a Rollerball video game in UNreal Engine, and model objects in Blender. Students have also learned how to compose and produce digital music plus sound effects tracks for their games. We have partnered with SpaceGamesFederation to compete in a game design challenge that includes zero gravity.

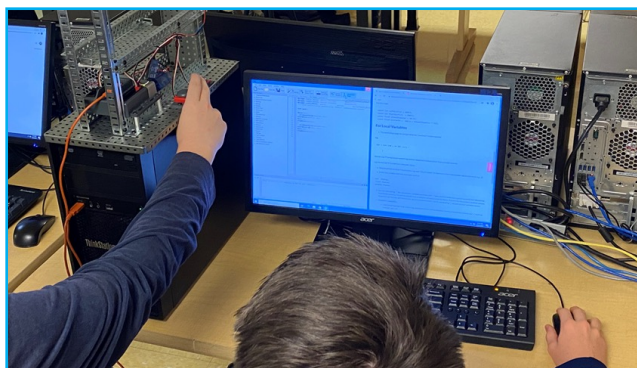
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## Robotics

NASA uses robotic arms to accomplish tasks that are potentially too dangerous, too difficult or simply impossible for astronauts to do. The Mars rovers Spirit, Opportunity and Curiosity were each designed with robotic arms that would help scientists on Earth conduct scientific experiments on Mars. Robotics students at Odyssey are working hard to design a robotic arm that can be programmed to:

1. Use the onboard ultrasonic sensor to detect a cube.
2. Successfully pick it up the cube upon detection.
3. Deliver the object to a certain location.

While all of the arms in our class were engineered in a slightly different way, they are similar in that each robotic arm was designed to help it accomplish a given task. Just like the Mars rovers. Effectiveness of the teams design can be assessed by the number of cubes sensed, picked up and transported in 1 minute.





## Art

Odyssey Charter Junior/Senior High School was chosen as one of ten schools across the country for an art project, titled "COVID-19 & Me: Changes in My World," that encourages students to create artworks that feature their experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic. This

initiative is a partnership with the World Awareness Children's Museum of Glens Falls, New York. The goal of this project is for students to create and display artworks that allow them to reflect on and process their experiences with the changes the COVID-19 pandemic has made in their lives. The project will culminate in virtual and physical art exhibits. Participating schools and selected artists will be featured in a special magazine edition produced by the museum and available in print and online.

## Finish Friday

### Encourage your student to finish strong for the week!

Finish Friday is an excellent opportunity for students to complete missing assignments, make up tests, and also have access to technology. Students may attend voluntarily; however, in some cases a student will be invited by their teacher to attend. Parents and students will be notified by their teacher via email or phone call if they are required to attend Finish Friday.

Finish Friday occurs every Friday after school from 2:45-4:00pm in the TLC. Masks and social distancing are required. Students are expected to be on time and are required to stay until dismissed at 4:00pm. Bus transportation will not be provided, so please make arrangements for students to be picked up at the car loop at 4:00pm.

This year we will be including an e-learning component that can be accessed via a Zoom link. If you are an e-learning student, please reach out to your teacher for the Zoom link. Any additional questions may be directed to Nina Brent via email at [brentn@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:brentn@odysseycharterschool.com).

## Another Titan Science Fair Winner

Congratulations to Lotus McGahee on winning 2nd place in the Harvard Science Fair in the category of Earth and Environmental Science. The topic of her project was "What is the Effect of the Reed plant on Lowering Nitrite in the Indian River Lagoon."



## Successful eLearning

### Top 3 keys to make eLearning successful:

- 1) You must have a proper learning space (free of clutter and distractions)
- 2) You must have a computer with audio and video so you can actively participate in your classes
- 3) Learn how to access assignments and turn in assignments through Focus and/or Canvas

### eLearning Guide

We miss you all and want to help you be successful from home so here is a guide to help you.

- You must have a proper learning space (free of clutter and distractions)
- You must have a computer with audio and video
  - If a student is in a zoom without video, they will be removed and counted absent if their identity cannot be verified
- Participate in each class by following your teacher's directions by either:
  - Typing in the chat
  - Using silent reactions
  - Unmuting and actually talking
- Login to ClassLink daily ([launchpad.classlink.com/odysseyfl](http://launchpad.classlink.com/odysseyfl))
  - Username is your student number
  - Password is your unique password sent to you
- Login to FOCUS daily
  - Username is first initial last initial followed by the last 6 of your student number
  - Password is mmddyyyy (date of birth)
- Attend every zoom based on your schedule in FOCUS and remain in the zoom for the entire period
- Type your name in the chat as soon as you enter the room and at the end of the period for attendance verification
- Check your email (on ClassLink)
  - Click On 365
  - Click on Outlook
- Videos to help with:
  - Downloading assignments from FOCUS: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpU0Lnu7eCo&feature=youtu.be>
  - Uploading assignments to FOCUS: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTzrXC256Vo&feature=youtu.be>
- Please make sure that you are doing your best to:
  - Keep up with your assignments and grades
  - Ask for help when needed
  - Attend Finish Friday and/or Success Saturday when needed

We want nothing more than for you to receive the best possible education, so if you are finding that eLearning is not allowing you to reach your full potential, we will welcome you back as soon as you and your parents are ready! If that is the case, please email Ms. Moore at [moorem@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:moorem@odysseycharterschool.com) to begin the process for coming back.

### 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.