

# Odyssey Charter School

## NEWSLETTER

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

**OCS Jr. / Sr. High Campus:** 1350 Wyoming Drive  
S.E. Palm Bay, Florida 32909 • 321-345-4117

FALL 2016

*"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.

## Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is underway

Project Lead the Way is up and running. Our 6th grade Honors students have completed the rigorous Robotics and Automation module, exploring the ways robots are used in today's world and designing a mobile robot that can remove hazardous materials from a disaster site. They collaborated, analyzed, and tested their robots with guidance from Ms. Jafrate. Our 4th and 5th grade Gifted and Talented students are beginning their modules this month. General education students will begin modules in the next few weeks, beginning with our primary grades.

## Enrichment and Intervention have begun

Our classroom teachers have completed their beginning of the year assessments and have begun to provide enrichment, reteach and intervention opportunities for their students several days per week. Our highest achieving students have opportunities to conduct web quests, work on Raspberry Pi (learning about computer science and programming), work online on Khan Academy or MyOn, or do independent research, after mastery of in-class standards. Students performing below grade level receive small group instruction in academic areas needing support.

## Harvest Luncheons are coming

Families are invited to join their students during their lunch hour for our Annual Harvest Luncheon. Come learn about our Farm to School Program, present and future plans for "The Farm at Odyssey," with plans for Odyssey's students to produce healthy food for our kitchen, as well as local restaurants, AND enjoy some quality time with your child(ren). Our Harvest Luncheons are schedule:

- Monday, 10/24 K-1st Harvest Luncheon
- Monday, 11/7 2nd-3rd Harvest Luncheon
- Monday, 11/14 4th-6th Harvest Luncheon

## School Calendar

### OCTOBER:

10/20 Title I Literacy Night 6:30-7:45pm  
10/20 Elementary Report Cards issued  
10/23-10/31 Red Ribbon Week  
10/24 Kindergarten-1st grade Harvest Luncheon  
10/24 Secondary Report Cards issued  
10/26 Early Release Day  
10/28 Dress Out of Uniform day  
10/28 5th grade Field Trip to Planetarium

### NOVEMBER:

11/2 Coffee/Tea with Administration 8:30am  
11/2 Early Release Day  
11/5 OCS High School Homecoming  
11/7 2nd-3rd grade Harvest Luncheon  
11/9 Early Release Day  
11/11 Veteran's Day – HOLIDAY FOR ALL  
11/14 4th-6th grade Harvest Luncheon  
11/15 End of second interim  
11/16 Early Release Day  
11/18 Dress Out of Uniform Day  
11/21 Secondary Interim Reports issued  
11/22 Kindergarten Field Trip to Brevard Zoo  
11/22 Elementary Interim Reports issued  
11/23 Possible make-up day  
11/24-25 Thanksgiving/HOLIDAY FOR ALL  
11/30 Early Release Day

### DECEMBER:

12/7 Early Release Day  
12/14 Early Release Day  
12/16 Dress Out of Uniform Day  
12/19-12/21 Exams/Early Dismissal  
12/21 End of First Semester



## AdvancED Accreditation



Odyssey Charter School is in the process of re-accreditation through AdvancED/SACS. Accreditation provides Odyssey with opportunities to define and reflect on our practices, and to gather feedback from our stakeholders on our program

and direction. In addition, the accreditation process provides additional frameworks for continuous improvement. As we seek stakeholder feedback, our students, staff, and parents will be surveyed about the school.

Your opinion is important to us, and we ask that you take the time to complete the Accreditation survey. For parents with students at our both our Elementary and Jr/Sr High campuses, you can just complete the survey once for all your Odyssey Charter School students. The online survey will be available until mid-November. Students in grades K-12 will also have a chance to complete a student survey at each site. We value your opinion and ask that you take the time to complete this survey. In order to complete the survey, please go to: <http://www.advanc-ed.org/survey/public/9237335>.

**Please be assured that your responses to this survey will be anonymous. Your honest opinion is appreciated.**

## Read Aloud Program

– a great way to earn volunteer hours at home!

The Read Aloud program is a wonderful way for parents to fulfill their volunteer hours while supporting their 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." Reading aloud helps expand your child vocabulary and models fluency, as well as being an enjoyable time spent together!

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. Then complete the Read Aloud log which can be provided by your classroom teacher or through the front office. Next turn in your log at the end of each month to your classroom teacher or to the front office and you will receive volunteer hours for the time spent reading aloud to your child (earn up to 1 hour per week, 4 hours per month).

For more information about the importance of reading aloud to your child, please visit Jim Trelease's web site at: <http://www.trelease-on-reading.com/>



## School Improvement Plan

– Feedback Needed

Each year the school analyzes student data and current practices in order to focus on continuous improvement and develop our School Improvement Plan (SIP). We encourage our families to familiarize themselves with the SIP and provide us with feedback. Do you have suggestions for changes? Improvements? Please check out our SIP at the following link (<http://www.odysseycharterschool.com/OCS-SIP.pdf>) and provide feedback to the Site Administrator:

Elementary – Wendi Nolder – [nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com)  
Jr/Sr High – Monica Knight – [knightm@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:knightm@odysseycharterschool.com)  
Odyssey Charter School Campuses and run for about one hour.

## Coffee/Tea with Administration

– join us!

Ms. Wendi Nolder (Site Administrator), Dr. Monica Knight (Site Administrator for OCS Jr/Sr High), and Mr. Mike Davis (Dean of Students) would like to invite you to join us on Wednesday, November 2, at 8:30 am on the Elementary Campus for coffee and tea. Ms. Nolder and Mr. Davis will be available to listen to parent/guardian suggestions and answer any questions.

## Odyssey Green Bags for sale

As a fundraiser to raise funds for a trophy case for our athletic trophies, we have reusable grocery bags for sale for \$3 apiece. The bags are hunter green, with white imprints of our logo, along with the logos of our sister schools and management company. If you would like to help eliminate the use of plastic grocery bags and help save the environment through the purchase of our Odyssey Green Bag, please stop in the front office.

## Early Check-out for Students

Parents, we are asking that if you need to check out your elementary student early, that you do so by 2:15 PM. and Jr/Sr students by 3:30 PM. It can become a dismissal safety concern when students are checked out too close to the dismissal time. Students may be checked out of school by their parent or legal guardian. If you are checking your student out, please present to our front office staff a valid form of photo identification. 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. E-mail communication will not be an acceptable form of written notification. 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!

## Student Medication

Any student requiring medication should have it checked into the front office by a parent or legal guardian. Students may not bring medication to school at any time. If a student requires an asthma inhaler or epi-pen on his/her person, the inhaler or epi-pen must be checked in through the office and must be accompanied by a doctor prescription stating the child must carry it with them at all times. Please also notify school administration of any medical conditions your child might have that you believe we should be aware of.

## Study Island

[www.studyisland.com](http://www.studyisland.com)

Study Island has been purchased by Odyssey to support our students with interactive lessons that can be done on their own and specific assignments from our teaching staff that target standards. Study Island is also used as a tool to measure student success in standard mastery and retention of standards through diagnostic tests.



Study Island has added instruction, practice questions, and diagnostics in both the Language Arts Florida Standards (LAFS) and the Mathematics Florida Standards (MAFS). Please encourage your student(s) to practice the FSA standards through Study Island regularly from home.

Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or if you want your child's login information. If you have difficulty, please contact Mike Davis (Elementary) at [davism@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:davism@odysseycharterschool.com) or Rose Harrison (Jr/Sr) at [harrisonr@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:harrisonr@odysseycharterschool.com).

## Birthday Policy

Odyssey's Birthday Celebration Policy is solely focused on the essence and uniqueness of each child. At school, birthdays are not celebrated with cake or food. Birthday recognition and any related activities are at the discretion of each teacher. Social and personal growth is encouraged via the sharing of student life histories/timelines, favorite books and/or hobbies, or a special nature walk/outdoor activity. For more information on the school's Wellness Policy or Birthday Policy, please visit our website at [www.odysseycharter-school.com](http://www.odysseycharter-school.com).

## Tardy Policy

Students are expected to be in their seats and ready to learn by 8:00 AM at the elementary campus and 9:00 AM at the Jr/Sr High. Students arriving after those times will have to be walked into the office by an adult and signed-in to obtain a tardy slip. Parents, please do not park in the front car loop if you are late. We thank you for making the effort to have your students to class on time every day.

## School Advisory Council

The School Advisory Council (SAC) works with our leadership team to support the Mission and Vision of Odyssey Charter School and to make improvements to our school. This team is made up of parents, teachers, students and community members who come together to support the leadership team by lending their expertise and support. If you are interested in partnering with our school by serving as a member of our SAC committee, please email, Ms. Wendi Nolder at [nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com), with a brief statement of interest and a short biography.

Members must be able to commit to meeting 4 to 6 times each year. Meetings usually take place during the school day at one of the Odyssey Charter School Campuses and run for about one hour.

## Elementary Athletics

Our 5th and 6th grade volleyball is underway. Our Titans have been working very hard on skill development and team work, and won their first game! The season ended this past weekend. Great work Titans and Coach Waszkiewicz and Coach Miller!

Our 5th and 6th grade flag football team has begun practicing for their season with Coach Bernardo.

## Elementary Specials

### MUSIC -

Autumn time in Music Class means going over the basics! For September and October, students will be reviewing concepts like steady beat, note names, Solfège, Kodaly hand signs, and rhythm. We are creating our own sheet music to help us learn to sing and play our classroom songs, and using our listening ears to develop artistic opinions on world famous pieces. Always be sure to ask your little Titan what they are learning in Music – you will get an earful! The 6th graders are learning about music from the Baroque era focusing on the music of Bach and Handel. They are also learning how to read and play music on the violin's D and A string using all 3 fingers.

### SPANISH -

Students have been using a variety of programs in the computer lab. Kindergarteners have been learning phonics with Teach Your Monster to Read. First, Second, and Third Grade students have been improving their reading fluency and comprehension with Myon. Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Grade students have been preparing Powerpoint presentations for the Science Fair. Many of the programs the students use in the computer lab can be accessed at home as well. Look for login information to be sent home with students in the coming weeks.

### ART -

All grades are currently focusing on Color. This includes students demonstrating their understanding of warm and cool colors, complementary colors and the color wheel. Students are working with an assortment of media like watercolors, color pencil, markers, and acrylic paint. All projects are in accordance with the Florida State Standards.

### PE -

The fifth and sixth graders are studying overall health, and effective ways of warming up and stretching. In their warm up for class they incorporate several exercises that strengthen their core muscle groups. We do a complete warm up to prevent injuries and maximize performance.

## Walking Club

In alignment with our mission, and to help our students with a commitment to a healthy lifestyle we have initiated a walking club for our 5th and 6th grade students. Each morning from 7:35 to 7:55 our students go out to the walking trail and get physical exercise before starting their academic day. Thank you to our sponsors Coach Williams and Coach Duke!

OCS Jr/Sr High also has walking club daily with Coach Kevelin and Coach Wulf. Since the start of the year, students have walked almost 300 miles.





## How do we make certain our students are “getting it” in class?

### Ways Teachers are Checking for Understanding

Checking for students' understanding is essential to ensure students comprehend the lesson and then are able to apply and analyze the information. Often during or after a lesson, a teacher will ask “Any questions?,” “Can you repeat that?,” “Everybody understand?,” or “Does that make sense?”

At OCS, teachers take it one step further by using the superb computer labs at their disposal. Students are given the opportunity to use unique and exciting applications. Here are some examples:

**EDpuzzle.com** allows teachers to make any video on the internet a lesson for their students. The attached quizzes allow teachers to immediately see student responses and check for understanding.

**Newsela.com** provides teachers, parents, and students with more than 1,000 current event articles created for different reading and comprehension levels. Students read articles covering a wide array of topics then complete accompanying quizzes. Teachers can assign articles, monitor student progress, and assist students to significantly increase their reading comprehension and reading levels. The embedded quizzes and writing prompts allow teachers to immediately see student responses and check for understanding. The program also assists English language learners by offering articles in Spanish and English.

**Quizlet.com** is a memorization and comprehensive vocabulary tool. Quizlet allows users to customize sets of vocabulary. This program offers a multitude of ways to check for understanding: Flash Cards, Gravity, Learn, Long-Term Learning, Speller, Scatter, and Quiz. Teachers can assign study sets to students and in a fun and creative environment. This also assists English Language Learners as well, as it pronounces the words and definitions for the student.

**Pickers** is an automated way to engage students. Students hold a card up in class with the correct answer of the question projected and the teacher receives immediate feedback; a fast and easy way to check for understanding.

## Odyssey Jr/Sr High Athletics are on the right track

The Titans are in full swing with Fall sports. Bowling, Volleyball and Cross Country are the first Varsity sports of the year, along with Middle School Volleyball and Flag Football. Winter Sports begin in October with Middle School Co-Ed Soccer, Girls and Boys Basketball, and Varsity Basketball. To finish the year, we will have Varsity Soccer along with Track for the high school and middle school. Come out to support our student-athletes. Go Titans!



### First Titan Golden Guard headed to circuit competition

In its inaugural year, the Titan Golden Guard is already performing at an extraordinary level. Under the direction of Ms. Stephanie and Ms. Cindy, the group will soon be competing in the WGI circuit.

## Focus on the “WRITE” Stuff



Odyssey's Jr./Sr. high school students are on their way to becoming expert writers. They are learning how to cite textual evidence, to infer, and how to write an argumentative essays, which includes claims and counter-claims. They are practicing writing explanatory/informational essays with proper organization and textual evidence to support our statements. Our middle schoolers are going to be thoroughly prepared for any writing task, including the FSA Writing Assessment in February. The high schoolers are taking their writing one step further to prepare for upcoming college entrance exams. To help your students be successful writers, ask them to read their essay out loud to you. This is a strategy that helps the writer 'hear' any errors in conventions.

Mrs. Williams, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Romeo, Ms. Vincente and Ms. Pitts are helping their students to keep calm and use textual evidence.



## MUSIC to our Ears

The beginning and advanced orchestras are working on music for the Winter Concert and the Music Performance Assessment. Families who haven't gotten an instrument yet may purchase or rent one at Atlantic Strings, 1377 New Haven Avenue, near Dairy Road. You may buy a violin for \$79.00 or rent one for \$18 a month. Owner Allen Gatchell also offers a rent-to-own program. Call 321-725-4161 for more information. Be sure to mention Mr. Hoffman or Odyssey. Titan bands off to fantastic start

### The Titan Band of Gold is off to a fantastic start.

The Symphonic Band has been visiting to Riverview Senior Resort to play for the residents monthly and are preparing for the Palm Bay Holiday Parade. The Beginning Band is starting to play through their first pieces of music and are showing great musicianship in rehearsal.

### Titan chorus will perform at senior resort

The new Titan Chorus, under the direction of Ms. Marli Varnadoe, will be featured at an upcoming Riverview Senior Resort performance as well as at the Homecoming Pep Rally.

## Extra, Extra -- WRITE all about it.

Students from grade 7 through 11 are participating in the new journalism class being taught by news veteran Deidre Wilson, who worked nearly 25 years in the business before becoming an educator. So far the students have created fictional products and advertisements to sell those products. Next, they will be designing their own newspaper front pages. The future holds a tour of Florida Today and a possible collaboration with a local publication. Stay tuned for more news from Room 249.

## Calculating for another great year!

The MathemaTITANs are off to another exciting and successful year as we welcome back our talented and amazing team: Mrs. Reeves, Mrs. Jacobs, Mrs. Padilla, Ms. Gawlowski and Ms. C. Williams. This year, the students will create and maintain Interactive Notebooks, which contain notes, graphic organizers, foldables, etc., as part of their grade. They will continue to use Study Island (online program), as a major tool to help them master the state standards in preparation of our Florida State Assessments (FSA) for grades 6-8 and End of Course Exams (Algebra and Geometry). All students are expected to work on Study Island at home on a weekly basis as part of their grade.

If your child needs Math help, morning tutoring is available every day in the Math department hallway (classroom varies) from 8:30 to 8:55. If you have any questions or concerns, always feel free to contact your child's math teacher by e-mail or phone.

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## GATEway (Gifted and Talented Program) Visit the Kennedy Space Center and Bio Tech Lab

Ninety GATEway students in grades 6-11 spent a Saturday in September touring the Kennedy Space Center. Learning everything from the history of the aeronautical design/engineering of Atlantis, to building and launching model rockets, to discussing gravity with real astronauts, to watching the movie "Beautiful Planet" and learning about our amazing world, the students were exposed to an galaxy of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Agriculture, and Mathematics) opportunities.

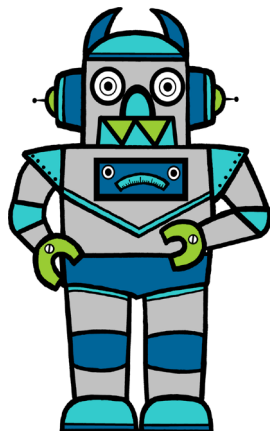


Four OCS students from the Gifted and Talented team (grades 7-11) will accompany Ms. Hoier to the "Lion Fish DNA Stomach Content Analysis" workday Oct. 12 at Vero Beach High School. The students will work in a completely outfitted CTE-level Biotechnology Lab extracting DNA, identifying prey specimens and gaining basic understanding of PCR reactions. Participants will also have the opportunity to earn scholarship hours. The trip is sponsored by Bio-Rad Laboratories.

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## Engineering I and II PLTW Students Building the Future

Students in Engineering I are beginning the second chapter of the course that focuses on honing their technical drawing skills. Much improvement is noted among the students as they have practiced their drawing skills extensively over the last two weeks. Students in Engineering II are studying simple and complex machines to include levers, pulleys, wedges and screws. We are set to begin our first robotic builds which apply simple machines into a realistic setting. The students are very excited. Parents may monitor the curriculum and their student's performance by accessing the learning management system at [mypltw.org](http://mypltw.org).



## Using the "T" in STEAM Daily

The Social Studies/Civics team has been busy setting up our students for success.

Individual classroom Websites

Mr. Cuddeback (Grade 7): [www.chiefcuddeback.weebly.com](http://www.chiefcuddeback.weebly.com)

Mr Ayala (Grade 8): [www.mrayalahistory.weebly.com](http://www.mrayalahistory.weebly.com)

Mr. Dillon (Grade 9): [www.dillonsclassrm.weebly.com](http://www.dillonsclassrm.weebly.com)

Mr. Tucker (Grade 10, 11): [www.ocstucker.weebly.com](http://www.ocstucker.weebly.com)

Other sites to enhance the education process.

[www.iCivics.com](http://www.iCivics.com)

[www.edpuzzle.com](http://www.edpuzzle.com)

[www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com)

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

### Students get better, faster communication and access.

Thanks to the Social Studies/Civics team, the students have enhanced technology to use throughout the school and at home. Students now have accounts on Microsoft 365

A Microsoft 365 account ([www.outlook.office.com](http://www.outlook.office.com)). This provides:

- OCS Email Account (Student ID # @student.odysseycharterschool.com).
- Word Processing.
- Power Point.
- A bunch of other tools from the Microsoft Office Suite.

Of course, we still have Edline ([www.edline.net](http://www.edline.net)) Parents and students are able to track progress on this system. If you don't have an access code, have your student reach out to their S.S./Civics teacher

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## Study: Kids who eat right get better health, better grades

A Finnish study on children's health found that healthy diet dramatically improved kids' reading, writing and comprehension skills. It tracked a group's diet and test scores for three years. Read more at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-3787889/Want-smart-kid-Focus-FOOD-Study-finds-healthy-diet-dramatically-improves-kids-reading-writing-comprehension-skills.html>



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## Look for upcoming information on the high school Homecoming dance.

### Grievance Procedures

- Step 1: Request Teacher conference to clarify issue
- Step 2: Contact the Site Administrator 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. Rachel Roberts 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. Rachel Roberts can be reached at 321-733-0442.