

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

SPRING 2017

"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.

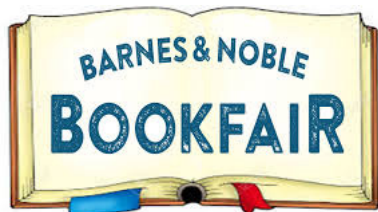
Spelling Bee



Every year, there is a school-wide Spelling Bee in preparation for the District Spelling Bee. Three students from each grade level 4th – 8th participated in our school level Spelling Bee. Every participant receives a certificate of recognition and participation. The 1st Place winner of the school-wide Spelling Bee goes on to represent Odyssey at the district level.

This year's 1st place winner at Odyssey Charter School was 5th grader, Jonah V. Odyssey Charter is proud to acknowledge Jonah as he represented our school and moved on to compete at the district level Spelling Bee held on February 21, 2017, at the Brevard County School Board.

Odyssey Titans congratulate Jonah and thank him for representing Odyssey Charter School at the 2017 DISTRICT SPELLING BEE!



Barnes & Noble Night

Our Annual Barnes & Noble Book Fair is taking place on Friday, March 3 from 6-8pm. Show your Titan pride by coming out and joining with the community in this evening celebrating literacy and showcasing student talent! Our teachers will be conducting read-alouds, there is a scavenger hunt for children, and you can enjoy browsing through the book stacks. All proceeds benefit classroom guided reading libraries.

School Calendar

FEBRUARY:

2/28 – FSA Writing Assessment for 4th grade and up

MARCH:

3/3 – Barnes & Noble Book Fair
3/4 – NEHS Volunteers at Animal Shelter
3/10 - STEAM/Farm Field Trips
3/15 – Brevard District Art & Science Fair
3/15 – OCS Inc. Board of Directors Meeting
3/16 – Kindergarten Field Day
3/21 – NEHS Induction @6:30
3/24 – 1st & 2nd Grade Field Day

APRIL:

4/1 – Annual Founder's Day 5K – Clash of the Titans!
4/6 – Founder's Day!
4/10 to 14 – Spring Break
4/26 – Administrative Professionals Day
4/28 - Jr/Sr High Spring Formal

MAY:

5/1 to 5 – Teacher Appreciation Week
5/9 - 6th grade visitation day
5/11 - Jr/Sr High Spring Fine and Performing Arts Concert
5/16 – 3rd & 4th Grade Field Day
5/18 - 5th & 6th Grade Field Day
5-19 - 8th Grade Gradventure
5/23 – 6th grade Stepping-Up Ceremony

ELEMENTARY NEWS

Honor Roll and National Elementary Honor Society

On Friday, 2/17, we celebrated the hard work and dedication of over 160 3rd-6th grade students who made the A/B Honor Roll with a special Honors Breakfast! Students enjoyed a delicious meal and learned about the National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS). NEHS students are selected based on specific criteria including Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Citizenship, and Character. Honor Students in 4th-6th grades were provided an NEHS application packet, which is comprised of a student resume, letter of recommendation, essay, and teacher evaluation (3). Interested students must complete the application requirements and submit to our NEHS Sponsor, Dr. Baldwin, by March 8 for review. Our NEHS Induction will take place on March 17. Congratulations to our Honor Roll Students!

ESOL Update

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) students are currently participating in the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, which measures students' progress in listening, speaking, reading, and writing English language skills. It measures students' abilities to understand and produce English used within school settings.

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 is administered every year to help school districts monitor the English language development of students identified as English language learners. Individual Student Reports are generally released in the Spring, which provide information about how well students are progressing in the English language.

To learn more about ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, a helpful Parent Handout is available exclusively online (<https://www.wida.us/membership/states/Florida.aspx>) under the Parent Information tab in the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, Haitian Creole French, Hmong, Spanish, and Vietnamese. If you have any questions related to this test administration, you may contact Flavia Nelson at 321-733-0442 or via email at nelsonf@odysseycharterschool.com.

Debating in 4th grade!



Fourth graders have been learning about character traits, inferencing, elements of poetry, drama, and prose as well as comparing points of view while reading literature. Occasionally, student analysis of the text is different from person to person. Students have been learning to discuss their different thoughts and to respectfully challenge each other when they discover a difference in their analysis. For example, some students may believe that evidence in a story tells us that a character's actions are reasonable while others believe that the evidence supports that the same character is unreasonable. Students were given an opportunity to debate their point of view with their fellow classmates. Before the debate began, students who shared the same thought discussed the evidence within the text that supported their belief. The class then came together and had a debate about their reasons and evidence. Some students acted as speakers for the group, while others acted as supporters – reminding the speakers of the evidence within the text and the talking points agreed upon by their group. Students were guided by speaking stems provided by their teachers. Students drove discussion with comments such as "I disagree with the idea that he is reasonable because, in the first paragraph, the character says..." At the end of an energetic debate all students were able to come to agreement about the characters trait and the evidence from the text that supported it. Students learned to listen to each other and to analyze the information that their peers are sharing.

From the Artist Palette of Ms. Claflin-Bryant

This month in art K through 6 students are focusing on getting to know art mediums like; water soluble pastels, oil pastels, watercolor, pencil and much more. Each grade is concentrating on doing their best with the goal of possibly being selected as a participant for our upcoming Art Fair, Brevard District Art Show and hopefully end of the year OCS Student Art Show.



MyON is on at Odyssey Charter School

Odyssey Charter School will starting the myON After School Reading Club on Tuesday's in the Media Center, for students in grades 2 -5. Flyers have been sent home with all the information and registration form.

Why myON? Research shows that students tend to read more when they have choice and ownership over their reading and learning. That's the core concept behind myON!

Because myON provides unlimited access to thousands of digital books that match each student's interests, grade and Lexile® level, and flexible scaffolds that make texts even more accessible for all readers, students naturally want to read more. Literacy tools enable students to foster close connections to the text, further increasing engagement and comprehension.

The more students read with myON, the more information they, their families and their teachers have available – literally at their fingertips – about their reading activity and growth. This information empowers students and informs their families, while helping their teachers monitor progress and differentiate instruction.

Science Notes

We were happy to have Seed Survivor visit our school for our 2nd and 3rd grade students. Seed Survivor educates the next generation about the importance of agriculture and where food comes from. It is a FREE program, sponsored by Agrium and Crop Production Services. Non-profit organizations whose mission is agriculture education (such as 4H, Future Farmers of America and Agriculture in the Classroom) are selected in each state or province the program is offered in. The role of the non-profit organization is to coordinator schools and local presenters (who are often teachers or agriculture professionals) to deliver a one-hour presentation to elementary students. All materials in Seed Survivor are unbiased, curriculum-based and factual. Every presentation explores how to grow healthy plants, how much of the earth can grow food and what can be grown locally. Students have a chance to play games and plant a seed to take home and grow!



Five displays travel North America year-round visiting over 100,000 children a year.

2nd Grade

On January 25, 2017 second grade students were able to participate with the Seed Survivor program. This free program visits schools to teach about agriculture. Their state of the art trailer contained educational computer games that the students were able to play. The games taught science topics such as: the water cycle, where food comes from, and what plants need to grow. Each student also had the opportunity to plant a seed to take home. For more information and to play the fun games at home go to www.seedsurvivor.com



A Musical Note from Ms. G. and Mr. Hoffman



This month in Music, we have two exciting projects on the horizon! Our OCS Talent Show took place on Thursday, February 16 and was FREE for Odyssey students to attend! We had a terrific turnout and show of support for our Talented Titans! If you missed them, you will have an opportunity to catch several of our acts at our upcoming Barnes & Noble night on March 3.

We have also just begun our Spring Musical, The Jungle Book KIDS! Our Glee Club is working hard to put on a great show, opening Friday, May 12. In class, our younger scholars are in the beginning stages of learning Orff Instruments (xylophones, metallophones & glockenspiels) while our more seasoned Titans are diving into String Instruments (violins). It's never a dull moment in Ms. G's Music Room. Make sure you are asking your Titan about what they learned in Music!

The 6th graders are examining the music of Beethoven with emphasis on the 9th symphony. They are learning the major scale on the violin and learning how to sight read. In addition, they are working on the 4th movement of the 9th symphony (ode to joy) on the violin. If your child is in 6th grade and has a violin, they should be practicing this at home.

Technology

While in the technology class, students continue to develop skills that will serve them well in the remainder of their academic career and beyond. Kindergarteners are honing their phonics skills using the program, Teach Your Monster to Read. First and second grade students are learning written communication skills using Microsoft Word and Powerpoint. In addition, Kindergarten, first, and second grade students are taking their reading skills to the next level by using age and reading level appropriate texts on Myon and ABC-Mouse. Third through sixth grade students are using a wide variety of programs to complete projects, learn and demonstrate mastery of ELA and Math standards, and develop critical and computational thinking skills. The list includes Study Island, Myon, Word, Powerpoint, Tynker, NewsELA, Social Studies Weekly, Gizmo, Flocabulary, and more. Many of these programs can also be used at home to accelerate learning.

Intervention

In reading intervention we are using the Levelled Literacy Intervention (LLI) from Fountas and Pinnell to accelerate the growth in students' reading abilities. With LLI, students work in small groups with an adult, in order to target specific reading behaviors that must be mastered to progress to the next reading level. The primary focus is reading comprehension. We address the literal meaning of the text as well as the implied message. Students also analyze the techniques the author uses to convey their message. Beyond working on comprehension, students also practice to achieve reading fluency and improve word decoding skills. You can help your student improve their reading at home by asking them questions that require them to think carefully about what they have read. For example, follow up a question about what happened in the book with a question about why it happened, or you could ask what a character was feeling at a certain point in the story. That type of critical thinking is the key to strong reading comprehension.

How is Spanish taught at OCS?

Our Odyssey Elementary students are learning Español once or twice a week during the school year. Most of the classrooms are learning level 1 Basic Spanish vocabulary, while other classes are in Basic level 2 Spanish. Our Goal is



that The Spanish program in our school gives them a good base of mastering the Spanish language during the early years so student's transition well to Middle or high school allowing students is successful in learning the language in a deeper level according to requirements in the state of Florida.

GATEway is thriving!

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) students are emulating professionals, with Design Steps, designing and engineering authentic tools with Tynker.com.

- 6th GATEway engineers are designing not-so-futuristic autonomous vehicles precisely so a task is successful.
- 5th GATEway students are creating a simulation in a model of a phenomenon too big to observe directly, like an epidemiologist.
- 2nd, 3rd and 4th tech-savvy GATEway students are asking, "How do humans and computers communicate?"
- 1st GATEway students will be finding out how technology can be their tool to communicate through presentations.



Gifted students may also be working on independent projects like developing and displaying a news scrapbook on the wall outside of our Science Lab to greet a whole school audience. Students are encouraged to contribute articles about Geography, responses to Wonder Wall ponderings, and interviews.

JR/SR HIGH NEWS

Mark Your Calendar

8th Grade Gradventure May 19th – Field trip forms are due by the end of February

OCS Jr/Sr High Valentines Dance Feb. 17th

OCS Jr/Sr High Spring Formal April 28th

OCS Jr/Sr High Spring Fine and Performing Arts Concert May 11th

Clash of the Titans 5K April 1

6th grade visitation day May 9th Cuddeback

STEAM/Farm Field Trips - 6th grades from other schools to visit the farm and have students explain it in action, as well as set up science lab space to show off biotech, engineering, coding March 10 University of Florida

Jr/Sr High GATEway Program

Did you know that 34% of the students at OCS Jr/Sr High are in the GATEway (Gifted and Talented Program), Students in the GATEway and Honors programs have had several special opportunities in the past few months, specialized courses, unique field trips to the beach to plant sea grass and NASA, Honors luncheons with healthy snacks and extra recreation time, PSAT testing, DUKE placements, college information nights, National Honor Society invitations, and special invitations to provide tours and mentor new students. If you believe that your student should be in our GATEway program, please contact Dr. Knight. If your child is in the GATEway program and you hope to find more ways to support him/her, please look at these helpful websites and strategies. Next GATEway trip is for high school students on March 2nd University of Florida for high school students with 3.0 GPA or higher.



Websites

Davidson Institute - <http://www.davidsongifted.org/Search-Database/topic/105114/entryType/1>

Duke Talent Search - <https://tip.duke.edu/resources>

Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth - <http://cty.jhu.edu/services/>

National Association for Gifted Children - <https://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/resources-parents>

Strategies

<http://www.giftedkids.ie/homesupport.html>

Spend some time alone with your child, if you can. This is often difficult if you have other children. Listen to their ideas. Try to share their passion.

Encourage their passions. Help them discover new ideas with trips to the library, museums; even a walk in the local park can bring forth discussions on nature, the universe and everything.

Praise the effort, not the ability! Underachievement is a big issue for exceptionally able children. The gifted and talented label can become a liability if the child strives for perfection and will only pursue those activities where they are almost guaranteed 100% results every time. By praising the amount of work the child puts into an activity it's giving him or her the message that it's okay to make mistakes and that effort gets results rather than intelligence just on its own. Remember even Einstein had to put the work in!

Advocate on your child's behalf with your school.

Jr/Sr High Social Sciences – Focus on Civics

Want to review for the VERY IMPORTANT 7th grade Civics test in a fun and enriching way? Consider logging into iCivics and use the Games module to have a family fun night. iCivics has a growing collection of video games that offers students the opportunity to play with civic skills and knowledge and can be played in many ways: 1-to-1, small groups, or as a whole family. iCivics games don't require prior knowledge -- they teach you everything you need to know to play and they are completely FREE! Remember that it is a requirement for students to pass Civics to move into the 8th grade. <https://quest.icivics.org/products/games>

Jr/Sr High Math

The Odyssey Junior/Senior High School Math department is off to another great start this semester! 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. In addition, all upper campus 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 Florida State Assessments (FSA's) for grades 7 and 8 as well as the End of Course Exams (EOC's) for Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II.

Parents can help their students master the new state standards by taking an active role in monitoring their progress on 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 the 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. 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.

If your child is struggling in Math, morning tutoring is available every day from 8:00 to 8:55. Success School 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 or phone. E-mail addresses can be found on the school website at odysseycharterschool.com.

Jr/Sr High English/Language Arts

Odyssey's Jr./Sr. High School students are learning to become expert writers. We are learning how to cite textual evidence, to infer, and how to write an argumentative essay which includes claims and counter-claims. We are also practicing writing explanatory/informational essays with proper organization and textual evidence to support our statements. Our Junior High students are going to be thoroughly prepared for any writing task they will encounter in life, including the FSA Writing Assessment in February. The Sr. High students are taking their writing one step further by identifying rhetoric in writing and using the appeals of logos, ethos, and pathos in their argumentation to prepare for upcoming college entrance tests.

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

Jr/Sr High Science

The science department continues its academic pursuit of completing the standards-based curriculum with fidelity. The 7th grade is beginning their section of life science, heredity, and genetics. The 8th grade, fresh from its field trip to the planetarium, is in the midst of the space science standards and FCAT review. In 9th grade, biology is investigating the details of cell division in preparation for the end of course exam. In 10th grade chemistry, the subjects at hand concern understanding gas laws and mixtures. The marine biology class continues fundraising efforts for their upcoming field trip to the Atlanta aquarium.

PLTW Engineering Programs

Students in Engineering Design are in the process of physically completing their self-designed cube puzzle assemblies. We are looking forward to modeling the five pieces of the puzzle cube using Autodesk Inventor. Students in Principles of Engineering have moved into the robotics phase of the curriculum. They are learning to ROBOTC programming language as a means to toward getting their motors to spin, LEDs to light up, and servos to turn on their self-constructed engineering test beds.

UF Biotechnology Programs

The 2016-17 school year was kicked off in Biotechnology with studies in the history of the topic as well awareness videos about careers in this exciting and growing field. In the areas of study, students were doing significant literature searches and reading about topics of interest as well those assigned. These readings fueled vigorous discussions and launched some interesting research ideas and off campus opportunities.

In biotechnology, students learned about lab safety in the very clean and highly technical molecular world. When we moved on to lab skills, they really enjoyed the hands-on lab activities in micropipetting, percent solutions (making and calculating volumes needed), and the world of math in science (metric conversions & measures, scientific notation and significant figures).

Science Research and Design

Science research merged with biotechnology when we began studies in molecular biology using molecular model kits to build simple hydrocarbons, carbohydrate, lipid and protein molecules common to human anatomy and physiology. These studies were foundational to the off campus opportunity for a few of the biotechnology students who participated in a full day of lab work that prepared the stomach content of lionfish, then separation lab processes enabled multiple DNA samples to be sent off for analysis. The purpose of the collaborative workday in Vero Beach was to better understand the habitat use patterns of this invasive species. Our OCS students were stellar in technique and produced wonderful results along with the 20+ lab workers.

Helping with The Farm at Odyssey

In December, both Science Research and Biotechnology classes were recruited to assist in the aquaponics facility to help clean it up so that the system could be restarted with a fresh recruit of tilapia. Much cleaning, weeding, scrubbing, water sampling, new seed propagation and crop rotation as well data monitoring was accomplished and is now a regular part of the system's maintenance plan. Students really enjoy learning on the job and knowing they are an important part of the system's health and success. In addition, one of the research students worked to help design and build a 3-tiered biofiltering unit currently integrated with the adult tilapia tank. This biofilter unit recycles the tilapia tank water while the freshwater aquarium plants uptake nitrogen wastes (nitrites and nitrates) from the fish feces and uneaten foods. When the aquarium plants are thriving, they will be harvested and sold to interested aquarium owners who want to have live plants in their fish tanks!



The spring time studies are focusing on microbiology by streaking agar plates with fish tank water and soil rinse to begin monitoring the bacterial communities of both the farm soil and aquaponics water. We are excited about all we are exploring and discovering. When you have a chance, be sure go out to the farm for a tour and ask the students all about it!

Latin Dance Club

Latin Dance Club needs more members and they want YOU to join! Whether your intention is for fun or fitness, learning Latin Dance is a great way to make new memories that will last a lifetime. Latin Dance Club is a foundation of movement for any student with little or no dancing experience. In this club, members learn the basics in 'Salsa and Merengue.' Emphasis is on the development of partnering skills, lead and follow, the basic principles of timing, as well as basic foot work and variations of simple turn patterns. Our club meets every Monday in Coach Padilla's mat room upstairs from 4:15-5:15. If you have any questions, see Coach Padilla or Mrs. Padilla room 254. Bring a partner with you next Monday and come join the fun!

Don't worry about OCS Jr/Sr High Hackers – They are the GOOD Guys/Gals.

The OCS Hacking club has many areas of interest. The students are learning to protect computer and network systems from outside hackers. They participated in the National Cyber Patriot Competition sponsored by the United States Airforce. They made it all the way to state competition before being knocked out by more experienced teams. The ability to make it to the state level for a first-year team was outstanding! In addition to the security training, students are practicing the art of 3D computer design using 3d Gaming software. The skills they learn can help them get good paying jobs to help them through college. OCS is the home of the Digital Academy; 3d Gaming, Programming, Animation, digital Design and Art.

Babysitting Clubs



The OCS Jr/Sr High Babysitting Club starting in January and the student participants have enjoyed working with the 3-5 year olds downstairs in the first few weeks of the club. Once the group decides

on their goals, we will complete the Red Cross online babysitting course (\$29.00). The goal is for each member to become certified babysitters so they can get part time jobs outside of school. Once the students are certified, Ms. Jacobs, the club sponsor, will work with them to create business cards to promote their new certificate. We will also create "babysitting tubs" filled with ideas and goodies to make our babysitting jobs easier and more enjoyable for all. The group meets on Mondays from 4:15-5:15 in room 255 with Mrs. Jacobs to start but usually spends most of the time downstairs with the little ones. High schoolers can earn Bright Future Hours while downstairs working with the aftercare program. New members are always welcome so come and join us!

National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society

Thanks to the generous contributions of Odyssey students and their families, our National Honor Societies were able to provide homeless animals at the Brevard Humane Society with food, toys, blankets, and other much-needed supplies this winter. Other service projects in our future include a book drive, a school-sponsored community garage sale, and a "Valentines for Vets" project. In recognition of student scholarship and character, we will also be inducting new members into our school chapter soon!

Get Ready for College Planning

As a high performing, rigorous, college-prep school, Odyssey offers a wide range of support for college planning – one-on-one meetings with Dr. Weimer, College Counselor, College-Prep Courses, ACT/SAT Preparation Courses, Parent/Student Information Nights, Scholarship Information, and next year we will offer a College Application and Scholarship Writing Course for interested students.

Applying to college can be complex, especially when considering how much the admissions process has changed since parents applied. There's a lot to consider when researching schools, visiting campuses, and evaluating admission requirements at various institutions. Some questions may include:

1. What is the Common Application and how do I use it?
2. What is Early Decision and how do I know if I should apply early or in the regular round?
3. Which standardized test (ACT, SAT, SAT Subject Tests) do I need to take?

The complexity of these questions can be managed with the proper organization, research, planning and guidance; the forwarded information is predominantly derived from the IvyWise: US College Admissions Guide: (https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/112958/docs/AdmissionsGuide2016.pdf?utm_source=hs_automation&utm_medium=email&utm_content=38545832&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9mCHI27HozY-8zPukQt4QZkf3Kw7_cPIGzkrn0mEyO7vpNGFtE-D9aOC94dqyS1odkPaNPnnWSM6CgB2O-7BLE0he33NlrGleHYvyElsfVdlmxRyl&_hsmi=38545832)

Content defined and described includes:

1. Finding the Best Fit Schools for You - questionnaire to help get your child started provided.
2. Building A Balanced College List
3. What are Admission Committees looking for?
4. The Common Application
5. When to Apply. When to Visit
6. Standardized Testing & Advanced Courses
7. Test-Optional/Flexible Admissions
8. Additional Resources for Applicants

Please pay careful attention to Admission Committees section, while an applicant's academic record is extremely important in the college admissions process, many schools will also consider an applicant's personal record. Who you are as a student and a person can be just as important as your academic success. Odyssey Charter School's philosophy Committed to Academic Excellence and the Education of the Whole Child parallels with the guide's holistic review, universities look beyond just academic qualifications in order to assess the applicant as a whole and determine how the student will contribute to the campus community outside of work in the classroom.

For more information, set up a parent/student meeting with our college counselor, Dr. Weimer, who has 20+ years of experience helping high school students access the colleges of their dreams.

Counselors' Corner

– Dr. Weimer and Ms. White

Second semester began January 9th! Please ensure your child begins the semester organized and dedicated to doing his/her personal best throughout the term.

Habits of Mind: Persisting – Stick to it! Preserving in task thorough to completion; remaining focused. Looking for ways to reach your goal when stuck. Not giving up. Can you think of any personal examples? What did you do to preserve?

Jr/Sr High Field Trips

No Longer Hidden - Hidden Figures

Ms. Wilson's English class was listening to an audio of a novel when a movie trailer popped up. "Hidden Figures," the untold story of three African-American women working at NASA who played a significant role in launching John Glenn into space, was instantly interesting to the class. "We should go see that," said one of the students.

Fast forward to January 25, when more than 70 of the Jr./Sr. study body and 10 adults took over the 4 p.m. showing at Carmike West Melbourne.

The number to sign up was a surprise as the nature of the movie was removed from what most of our students enjoy.

"The trailer spoke to me," said Marchee Sands, an eighth grader who says loved the movie, especially when the boss knocked down the "Colored Restroom" with a crowbar. The movie "taught me to never give up. And it doesn't matter what color you are as long as you try." Santino Henriques, grade 9, is interested in the space program and welcomed to chance to hang out with his friends.

"My favorite scene was the proposal," said ninth grader Emilio Garcia, who wasn't alone. The entire theater cheered when the main character became engaged to her longtime boyfriend.

In fact, the students were engaged from the opening credits, often clapping and cheering throughout the movie, until the very end when pictures of the real heroes appeared on the screen.

Jr/Sr High Talent Show

We will be holding auditions for our annual "Odyssey's Got Talent" talent show during 2nd lunch on Tuesday, February 14 and February 21st. Some students who pass the audition will perform at Barnes and Noble (on Rt. 192 Melbourne at 6:00 P.M. on March 3rd.

- If your child would like to sing for the audition, they must have a CD or a flash drive of the musical accompaniment without singing!
- If your child would like to play an instrument, they must play a piece that was not taught in music class.
- If your child has chosen a dance for the audition, it must be a dance and music appropriate for a school wide performance.

Odyssey reserves the right to reject any audition that we deem inappropriate for a school wide performance. You will be notified if your child passes the audition.



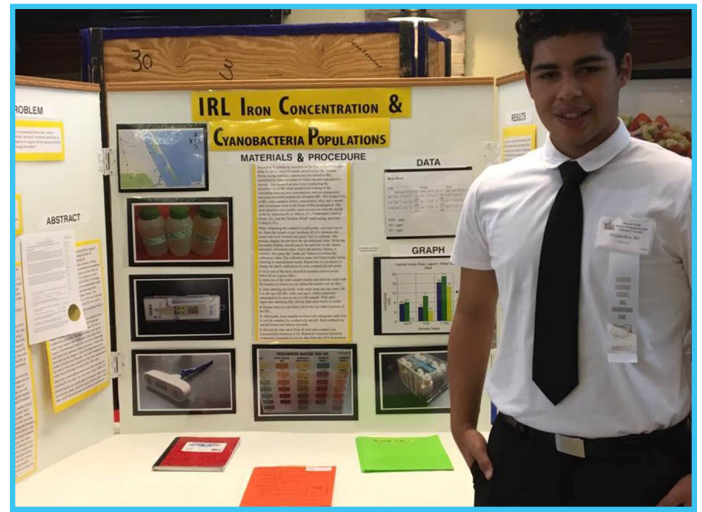
OCS Jr/Sr High Yearbook Deadline

Atlas, our first Jr/Sr yearbook, has entered the final order days this month; fewer than 200 copies are available. The yearbook must be pre-ordered as we cannot guarantee we will have extra books on hand upon delivery in May. You may order your copy for \$40 at www.balfour.com (be sure to select Odyssey Charter School in Palm Bay). A one-day-only on-campus sale will occur near the end of February—details will be posted on Facebook later. Pre-orders end March 4, 2017. (Yearbooks for the elementary students are sold separately at the Eldron campus.)

Science Fair Kudos!

Alejandro Avilez

Alejandro Avilez, the Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High Student Body President and GATEway/Honors student, placed 2nd today in the Brevard Regional Science Fair and was awarded a \$60,000 scholarship to the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT). Alejandro is an excellent student, transferring to the school from a traditional high school in 2015 because of the lack of rigor. Since moving to Odyssey, he has participated in the PLTW engineering program, the UF Biotechnology program, the gaming/simulation/coding program, the science research program, and the gifted and talented GATEway program. Next spring, he will be one of the first honors graduates from Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High, only 'A' in Palm Bay, now serving students K-12. We are so proud of your commitment to academics and leadership, Alejandro. The future is bright. Way to show your Odyssey TITAN pride!



Sean Stanton

Sean Stanton, an 8th grade GATEway/Honors student and member of Student Government at Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High, was awarded 3rd place in Environmental Engineering in the Brevard Regional Science Fair yesterday and was given special recognition and a cash prize by the fair judges for his hard work!

As an expert on The Farm at Odyssey, Sean designed a system to collect rain and city water runoff to 1) reduce water use on The Farm, and 2) determine which type of water was best to grow farm crops. Way to show your TITAN PRIDE, Sean! Special thanks to his science research teacher, Ms. Hoier, for helping him reach his full potential.

Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High has the only working organic soil-based and aquaponics farm for students to explore their interests in engineering, agriculture, botany, life sciences and biology, applied chemistry, and more. Come and let Sean and our other amazing students give you a tour of our school so you can see for yourself why we are the only 'A' in Palm Bay!

First Graduate

This spring, Claire Tucker, an Honors and Dual Enrollment student, will be the first student to graduate from Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High School. Claire has been accepted to Florida Southern and has received \$76,000 worth of academic scholarships to date. She is also a finalist for several more scholarship opportunities. The Odyssey family is very proud of Claire's accomplishments and demonstration of her true blue TITAN PRIDE.



Jr/Sr High Prom

The Odyssey Charter Jr./Sr. high school prom planning is underway. This year's event will be held March 25 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. (pictures by the water begin at 6 p.m.) at the Ted Moorehead Lagoon House, 3275 Dixie Highway in Northeast Palm Bay.

The theme is "The Lost City of Atlantis." If you wish to chaperone or donate services, please contact Austin Reynolds via email at reynoldsa@odysseycharterschool.com.

(Tickets on sale in the Healthy Café)



Titan Athletics

Athletics- With the Basketball seasons wrapping up for the middle school and high school teams, we are excited to kick off our soccer seasons for both the middle school and high school as well. The middle school co-ed soccer team had their first match this past weekend and will play another this weekend coming up. Tryouts for high school soccer, as well as middle school and high school track will be taking place at the Jr/Sr campus during the week of 2/13-2/17. We will keep you posted on the specifics via blackboard and other announcements. Go Titans!

A Fair to Remember – 2016 Renaissance Fair

After a year of anticipation, 80 senior high students once again attended Education Day at the second annual Brevard Renaissance Fair on February 3 at Wickham Park. Between colorful tents and even more colorful characters, the students experienced the period of revelry with knights and royalty, storytellers and pirates, and even a dash of fairies with a unicorn and mermaid on the side. They learned about falconry, weapons and jousting among the many venues throughout the park. Colin G, junior, was most excited about revisiting the mapmaker where he picked up maps for the lands of Gallifrey, Hyrule and, because he wore his Titan logo shirt, a complimentary map of The Odyssey which he then donated to the school.

While wandering the fair, students worked on a photo scavenger hunt to find their interpretation of words like arch, charm, quest, and light—the more abstract, the higher the point value. Camry L, junior, normally a performer during the fair, was able to join her classmates in the hunt. Even Mrs. Reeves and Mrs. Pitts participated in the fun by donning period attire with flowy sleeves and ribbon headbands. Upon returning to campus only moments before dismissal, one question remained. “Can we go again next year?”



VERY FEW SEATS REMAIN – Did you turn in your Letter of Intent for the Only ‘A’ School in Palm Bay? Last call for letters and new applications. The lottery will be held on February 15th.

Due to the huge number of applications, we have opened a few additional classrooms at Odyssey Charter Elementary (K-6 grades) and Odyssey Jr/Sr High School (7-12 grades). If you did not get a chance to apply, please stop by early this week to check availability for your child.

REMEMBER - Odyssey Charter (Elementary and Jr/Sr High) is ranked the highest in performance among all other local schools in 2016. Help your family and friends get into the best school in Palm Bay!

School Name	2016 Grade	2015 Grade	Total Points Earned	% of Total Possible Points
ODYSSEY CHARTER SCHOOL <i>(Elementary and Jr/Sr High, K-12)</i>	A	A	560	62
WESTSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	B	A	398	57
SUNRISE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	B	B	398	57
LOCKMAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	B	A	394	56
RIVIERA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	B	C	383	55
BAYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL	B	A	554	55
HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL	B	B	543	54
PORT MALABAR ELEMENTARY	C	C	369	53
ODYSSEY PREPARATORY CHARTER	C	C	353	50
DISCOVERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	C	C	333	48
CHRISTA MCAULIFFE ELEMENTARY	C	B	334	48
PINEAPPLE COVE ACADEMY	C	Not Open	328	47
JUPITER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	C	C	318	45
JOHN F. TURNER ELEMENTARY	C	C	301	43
COLUMBIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	C	C	290	41
SOUTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL	C	B	480	53
CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL	C	B	467	52
PALM BAY ACADEMY CHARTER	C	B	460	51
STONE MAGNET MIDDLE SCHOOL	C	C	426	47
ROYAL PALM CHARTER SCHOOL	C	C	397	44
PALM BAY MAGNET SENIOR HIGH	C	B	440	44
PALM BAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	D	C	267	38

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.

