

A Message from Ms. Constance,
School Founder and CEO,
Green Apple School Management



inspired learning in "green" and healthy schools

Happy 20th to Odyssey Charter School!

Odyssey was founded in 1999 and opened with 112 students in a church building in Palm Bay. Raising millions of dollars, we built the first "green" building for a school in the State of Florida and developed a nationally award-winning model of education and school lunch program. Opening Odyssey was a labor of love that continues with dedicated faculty and staff and a wonderful community of parents and students. **This year, we will celebrate 20 years in our Palm Bay community.** It is an exciting time for us as we contemplate our journey and our contribution to the education of students within our community.



On April 5th, our students enjoyed **Founder's Day** which focuses on the mission of our school: rigorous academic programs, holistic education, health and wellness, collaborative leadership, and STEAM.

We celebrated students who have earned the Founder's Award for their exemplary academic and social contributions, and how each one of us, through utilizing our own unique talents, can make positive contributions now and in our futures.

We welcome all parents to join us in the celebration of our 20th Anniversary on Friday, May 17th, from 7-10 pm at the Eau Gallie Civic Center. Please save your spot and RSVP with Kavel Green at greenk@odysseycharterschool.com by no later than Friday, April 26th. We hope you will take some time to join us in the fun and remembrance of twenty amazing years. This adult-only celebration is cocktail attire. Parents, faculty, community leaders, and alumni are invited to attend and celebrate with us our last 20 years and our vision for the next 20!

Our students are the real reason and only reason we all do what we do each day! We are very proud of their achievements.

The Founder's Award recognizes students who have displayed outstanding leadership skills, have achieved academic excellence, and have shown a spirit of collaboration, respect, and responsibility. These are students that embody the Odyssey mission and are making, and we believe will continue to make, very positive contributions to our world. It is our highest award. These students are original. They show creativity and imagination. They are pillars within our school community. The Founder's Award is reserved for those students who personify the spirit of both hard work and selfless service.

2019 Founder's Awardees:

OCS Elementary –
Conrado Jacob Martinez
OPA –
Jude Lochlan
OCS Jr/Sr –
Danielle Deonarine



District Science Fair Winners

Odyssey Elementary:

4th grade

- 1st Place Physical Division, Khloe Procter
- 2nd Place Environmental Division, Nicholas Holpfer
- 2nd grade Biological Division, Sophia Friel

5th grade

- 2nd Place Biological Division, JoSea Martin
- 5th Place Environmental Division, Isabella Holpfer

Odyssey Preparatory Academy:

4th grade

- 5th Place Biological Division, Vivian Kilcommons

District Art Fair Winners

Odyssey Preparatory Academy:

- Gabe Kow, 5th grade (1st Place)
- Isabella Alexander, 2nd grade (Merit award)

Odyssey Jr/Senior High News

Senior Recognition for Academic Excellence - Rahzzia Edwards - A Merit Award Winner of the Bill Posey Congressional Medal, she was honored for her contribution, leadership, and achievements with full recognition of outstanding academic achievement, commitment to her community, and civic involvement. She plans to attend Florida Atlantic University to study gerontology as she would like to become a geriatrician.

Valedictorian Named - Congrats to Skye Cronje, our Valedictorian for the 2018-19 Class. Skye plans to attend Stetson University majoring in communications, and received a \$122,000 scholarship so that she can achieve her dreams. After college, she would like to make an impact by working for the United Nations and would also like to teach English abroad. Within her school community, she has been the president of National Honor Society for two years and co-founded the school's first Model United Nations club.



District Science Fair and Internship - Sean Stanton and Mason Imperato came in 2nd in their Science Fair division. They also both got outstanding science awards from NASA and Lockheed Martin. Sean Stanton was sent to the regional fair at the Orlando Science Center and was awarded an internship for Lockheed Martin once he graduates.

College acceptance has begun.

Congrats to the following students who have received acceptance and/or scholarships! We are proud of your achievement!

Maya Bachman: Florida Atlantic University, Nova Southeastern University - (Full Tuition Scholarship)

Skye Cronje: Stetson University - (\$122,000 scholarship)

Danielle Deonarine: Florida Southern College - (Watson Scholarship \$72,000)

Rahzzia Edwards: Florida Atlantic University, Eastern Florida State College

Marques Gough, Julio Guzman, Alexander Garcia, Chandlie Davila-mar, Alyssa Cruz, Emmanuel Correa, Macey Chandler, Raven Jones, Antonio Lauricella, Hunter Lindner, Kayla McClain, Naudia Rodriguez, Deeyana Saleh, Sebastian Velez, Liam Whitt, Cody Wilson, Briar Wright: Eastern Florida State College

John Garcia: Florida Institute of Technology, Full Sail

Kylee Johnson: Nova Southeastern University - Dean's Scholarship

Edwin Moran: Eastern Florida State College, Indian River State College, Valencia

Joan Rivera: Eastern Florida State College, Nova Southeastern University

Marques Rivera: Eastern Florida State College, Fullsail University

Jasmine Taylor: Florida Atlantic University

Odyssey is Growing—Titan and Olympian Strong!

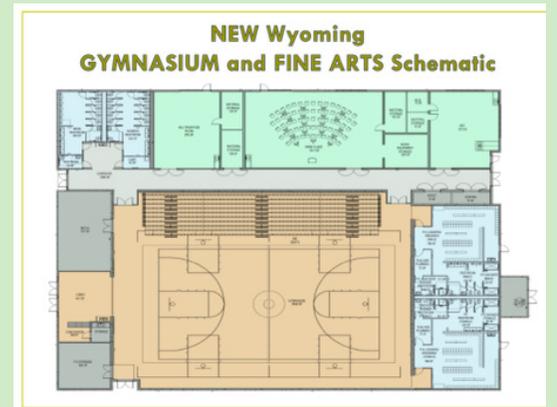
We want to thank you parents for spreading the news about our schools and appreciate your support. Most of our new parents come to us by word of mouth and already seem to know that our schools outperform all traditional public schools in Palm Bay. This achievement takes dedication from our students, faculty and staff and from you, our parent partners. We are proud to say that we even now have Odyssey alumni children attending our schools—and we love it!

This next school year on both campuses, Odyssey, Odyssey Prep, and Montessori Village Green will fill our halls with over 2,000 ages 3 - 12th grade students, primarily from the growth of our senior high school. We are the first K-12 public charter school in our county, and we live and love to serve. Our award-winning schools are AdvancED accredited and use a combination of holistic, STEAM, classical and college-prep teaching methods and programs to help prepare students for tomorrow's world. We thank you for the honor of serving your children.

Construction Projects – Eldron and Wyoming

Plans are moving forward for the construction of a 23,000 square foot Gymnasium and Performing Arts Center at the Wyoming Campus, presently where our organic farm is located. (The farm will be re-located on our site before we break ground.) We are on schedule to open the Gymnasium for the 2020-21 school year.

On the Eldron Campus we have purchased three adjacent parcels of land and plans are to extend the car loop into the present soccer field and to build a regulation under-12 soccer field on one of the adjacent parcels. This will allow for a longer and safer car loop and additional student drop off space. Over 100 parking spaces will be added (including a separate staff parking lot on one of the out parcels). Lastly, a 10,000 square foot addition and smaller office space addition will be added to facilitate additional VPK and classroom space. The projects are currently going through the Conditional Use process with the City of Palm Bay, with plans to break ground this summer and with all improvement in place by the 2020-21 school year.



Safety

Student and staff safety is of utmost important to us. As most of you know, we partner with the Palm Bay Police Department and work closely with them throughout the year in a multiple number of ways to keep our students safe. We appreciate their support. We have an officer on each of our campuses daily. At Odyssey, we are 100% behind armed defense on our campuses and do not hesitate to prepare our students and staff. Our Principals have personally been trained by the Palm Bay Police and have participated in active shooter drills. The Palm Bay police have performed during the last year safety audits and reviews on both our campuses. Recently, the Principals met with Palm Bay police to continue to discuss safety measures in preparation for annual safety drills. Annually, we review our drills with the Palm Bay Police, and then practice, first with teachers and staff, and then with teachers and students in simulated drills. Spring safety drills are underway and you will always be notified when they involve your students. Our schools use our Blackboard connect system (text or email), as well as a notification sent home in bookbags, about the drill dates.

Other drills practiced or completed monthly at both locations include fire drills, tornado drills, medical lockdowns, full lockdowns, evacuation, and medical emergencies and lockdowns. Odyssey has agreed to follow the same safety procedures and policies as Brevard Public Schools, so that Fire and Police do not have to adjust to different protocols at our schools. Any additional questions, on Safety Protocols at our school can be directed to Mike Davis, AP & Safety Director, at 321-243-0494.

Safety Grant Funds

We are happy to report that Odyssey has qualified for over \$60,000 in school safety grant money this spring. This money will be allocated for bullet-resistant film for windows (Eldron campus), inside lockable door hardware for every classroom with one motion egress, as well as duress buttons (Eldron and Wyoming) for both campuses, and security card gate access control (Wyoming campus).

Welcome to a Parent Tea and School Improvement Initiative

School improvement is a daily, ongoing opportunity. I have spent the last few weeks speaking with leadership and faculty/staff on their suggestions and ideas on how to improve our schools and the feedback was excellent.

Please know that after working on developing the schools for these last 20 years, I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to hear your insights, suggestions, and views. I will be meeting with parents at Odyssey-Wyoming for Tea on Tuesday morning, April 30th, from 9:30-10:25, and will have individual appointments open all day, ending at 3:15 pm. Our Tea on the Eldron Campus will be on Wednesday morning, May 1st, from 8:30-9:30. Individual appointments will be available throughout the day for discussion on school improvement. Appointments can be made through Laney Eliopoulos, personal assistant, at LEliopoulos@greenappleschools.com. For those who are not able to make the tea or schedule a Tuesday appointment, please contact me directly at cortiz@greenappleschools.com.

Bussing

This Spring we are looking at multiple ways to improve bussing and will be making adjustments to the new school year and a few adjustments for the remaining months. Please send your suggestions to improve bussing to Mike Davis, AP & Safety Director, at 321-243-0494.

2019-20 Early Release Survey Results

Our parents have spoken. Recent survey results have indicated that 60% of our parents want our schools to continue with the same Early Release schedule as the district, which will continue to be Friday's at the same time. Parents may expect the same school schedule for the 2019-20 school year.

Social Media

As we reflect on how we can better educate our students on both the negative and positive impacts of social media, we start with ourselves with the goal of being great exemplary role models, using social media opportunities for the betterment of all.

Please know we have a policy at Odyssey, not to respond to social media posts. We adhere to strict guidelines protecting your student's right to confidentiality through the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Working with you as partners in your student's education, we encourage you to call the school and speak to an Administrator if you have any questions or any concerns. Your calls are very important to us and offer us an opportunity to always improve our schools.

We ask that you please continue to work with your students on how to use social media in positive ways. When social media is used in positive ways, it can fill your pages with uplifting messages, and can lead to positive connections, raised spirits, and even comradery. Here is a link from Kids Health about "Teaching Kids to be Smart about Social Media." It has some simple but valuable advice on how to navigate and guide our students to avoid some of its pitfalls. (<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/social-media-smarts.html>)

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 or 321-676-8737.



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