



# Odyssey Charter School

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



## FALL 2019 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.

### CALENDAR

#### NOVEMBER

- 11/11 Veteran's Day (Holiday for All)
- 11/13 Picture Day makeups
- 11/15 2nd 9 weeks Interim ends
- 11/20 2nd 9 weeks Interim posted to FOCUS
- 11/21 2nd 9 weeks Interim sent home with students 7th period
- 11/27-29 Holiday for All

#### DECEMBER

- 12/4-5 FSA Algebra Retakes (Jr Sr only for grad requirement)
- 12/17 Exam Period 1 (regular day release; modified schedule)
- 12/18 Exams Period 2 and 3
- 12/19 Exams Period 4 and 5
- 12/20 Exams Period 6 and 7
- \*\*All Exam Days are Early Release Days**

12/23-27 Holiday (Winter Break)

### Message from Dr. Knight, Principal:

Happy Fall, Titan Families!

We are off to another amazing year at Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High School. We are honored to serve over 800 students this year in our 6th-12th grade classrooms. With the continued leadership of our Founder, Ms. Constance Ortiz, and the Odyssey Charter School Board of Directors, we are excited with the progress being made on the construction of our new Fine and Performing Arts Center and Gymnasium slated to open for the 2020-21 school year.

As a growing college-prep school, we are increasing academic opportunities by adding new course offerings, such as Aerospace Engineering, Forensics, Digital Information Technology, Robotics, Reading for College Success, Psychology, Coding 2, Engagement of Service Learning, and more. We have also added to our Advanced Placement coursework with the addition of AP Statistics, AP Chemistry, and AP Literature to support Odyssey becoming an AP Capstone school. These classes enhance our growing GATEway (gifted and talented program) along with the addition of honors courses in ALL middle school and high school core courses (Math, Science, English, and History).

In addition, many efforts are being made to help high school students complete their Bright Future hours so those students can secure the Academic Scholars diploma which covers full Florida university tuition and fees. This year we continue to enhance our academic and other clubs. Sports, music and fine arts opportunities are also being expanded based on student interest and abilities.

We have expanded our counseling office to include an Academic Dean, Ms. Moore; a College Counselor, Mr. Viola; a Bright Futures/Dual Enrollment Specialist, Ms. Havet; a Counselor, Ms. Alary; and a Social Worker, Ms. Finch. If a student has an academic or social/emotional need, this office is ready to assist. The Guidance Team is available daily for parents and/or students for appointments related to college applications, scholarships, Bright Futures, transcripts, and other counseling support needs.

Athletics continue to expand at our school with both middle school, JV, and Varsity sports. Varsity Titans can now participate in Cross County, Track, Soccer, Basketball, Bowling, and Cheerleading. At the JV and middle school levels, we now offer Cross County, Track, Soccer, Basketball, Flag Football, and Dance. Along with our high school regulation gymnasium with basketball and volleyball courts and our new track and field and high school regulation soccer field will help us to continue to enhance our athletic offerings at both the middle school and high school levels. In addition to competitive athletics, we have students participating daily in Tai Kwon Do (during the day and after school), Yoga (before school and during the day), and walking club (before school), as well as well-rounded physical fitness courses which include health and nutrition.

As we expand, we hope that you will provide us with needed and appreciated feedback on what we can improve and what you hope to see us offer your student. Since its inception, Odyssey has been designed to be a family-like setting and community-based school. Your feedback drives our growth and our progress. If at any point you would like to share your thoughts with us, please contact me at 321-446-6659 or at [knighmtm@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:knighmtm@odysseycharterschool.com).

Monica Knight, PhD  
Principal

**USB Flash Drives can be purchased for \$10. See Ms. Amanda at breakfast on Tuesday and Thursday to purchase your OCS USB.**

## CTE

The Career Tech elective department at Odyssey continues to educate middle and high school students in digital art, gaming, coding and simulation I and II, anatomy and physiology, introduction to engineering, principles of engineering and aerospace engineering. The academic endeavors within these courses aid not only in disseminating relevant information within the sub-disciplines, but also aid in building cross-curricular skills in science and mathematics. The students both embrace and enjoy these specialty classes.

## Cybersecurity & Modeling

Ms. Nikki Hoier and her Cybersecurity students plus Design and Modeling students attended the Space Coast Symposium in Viera on October 18. They learned about emerging technologies in Brevard county from business leaders, and all about employment opportunities in the future. 3 panels of experts described their industries which include aerospace engineering, cybersecurity, autonomous vehicle operations, traffic control using drones, and engineering materials fabrication using CNC machines. Students also learned about scholarship opportunities. The Greater Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce sponsored our attendance through member business partners.



## World Language Program

The mission of the world language program is to provide students with the tools and opportunities to effectively communicate in a global community and to promote cultural awareness. The goal within the classroom is to foster communicative proficiency. This approach encompasses more target language use throughout the class. There are many different components of learning a foreign language. These components are broken down into key categories that are the focus of the curriculum: Speaking, Listening, Writing, Reading and Culture.

In addition to offering four different Spanish courses face-to-face, we also provide students with the opportunity to take a language course online in the language lab. The following languages are offered in the virtual format: French, German, Latin, and Sign Language.

## Language Arts

A highlight from our middle school English Language Arts department. This department teaches reading comprehension and writing skills through evidence-based strategies that bring literature alive for students.

In Ms. Liddell's 6th grade English class, students use interactive notebooks to learn organization, critical thinking, and innovation skills that will prepare them for middle school and beyond. The students are currently learning how to analyze informational texts and write informative essays.

In Mrs. Randolph's 7th grade English class, students are learning how to use vocabulary strategies to deepen their understanding of higher level texts.

In Mrs. Cipponeri's 8th grade English class, students are learning how to appropriately format essays and deconstruct nonfiction texts, as they prepare for the expectations of high school.

As a team, we are dedicated to our Titan's success and offer tutoring services before and after school. We encourage you to email us for extra help, support, or motivation at the following addresses:

Casidy Liddell - [Liddellc@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:Liddellc@odysseycharterschool.com)

Roxie Randolph - [Randolphr@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:Randolphr@odysseycharterschool.com)

Melissa Cipponeri - [Cipponerim@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:Cipponerim@odysseycharterschool.com)

## Social Studies

Social Studies teachers at Odyssey Charter Junior/Senior High School are working hard developing students' critical thinking skills. We are not satisfied with merely memorizing and reciting facts. We aim for the act of analyzing events, people, geography, cultures, technology, economics, and other factors when studying in order to develop that deeper understanding of social interactions and outcomes. We recommend that you and your children access [www.cpalms.org](http://www.cpalms.org) which will provide you with the standards for every class. When the standards are understood, the education process is streamlined. CPALMS also provides lesson plans, tutorials, and other information that may help your children's understanding of their subjects.

The Social Studies Department is also beginning to incorporate a concept of Socratic Seminars. In this teaching model, students share ideas about the current unit of study among themselves. A small group of perhaps five to eight students sit in the amphitheater surrounded by other students whose job is to observe, listen, and develop new ideas based on what they hear from those in the amphitheater. The students in the amphitheater share questions with each other and; using information gained from lectures, assigned readings, and independent study; attempt to come to a conclusion regarding that question. During discussion and prior study, students share and develop insights regarding connections among and between facts and concepts while developing a clarity regarding the general concepts under discussion. This is a powerful learning and teaching tool and we expect that our students will soon show great gains in depth of knowledge as they mine information to a more profound level.

## Math

The Junior/Senior High School Math department is excited and prepared to begin another successful year with their students at Odyssey! We are pleased to have four new teachers in our department this year, including Ms. Rebecca Irving teaching 7th grade and AP Statistics, Mr. William Young teaching 7th grade and 7th grade Advanced, Mr. Harold Nicholson teaching 8th grade Pre-Algebra and Mr. Joseph Bajger teaching Algebra II and Trigonometry. We also welcome back Mrs. Kathy Jacobs teaching Geometry and Geometry Honors, Mrs. Audrey Padilla teaching Algebra and Algebra Honors, Ms. Nina Brent as our Algebra 1 Interventionist, and Ms. Beata Janowicz as our Math Interventionist. Go MathemaTITANS!

## I-Ready and Study Island

Students in grades 6th through 8th will be using "I-Ready" (online program) as a major tool to pinpoint student performance of the Florida State Standards. I-Ready provides individualized online instruction targeted to each student's needs.

Students in grades 9th-12th will be using "Study Island" (online program) as a major tool for instruction and practice. Study Island is an internet-based computer program where students learn and practice the skills necessary to be successful in the course.

All students are expected to work on I-Ready or Study Island at home as part of their grade on a weekly basis. I-Ready and Study Island are both major tools to help students master the state standards in preparation of our Florida State Assessments (grades 7-8 FSA's) and End of Course Exams (Algebra and Geometry EOC's), which will take place in May.

Parents can help their students master these standards by taking an active role in monitoring their progress on I-Ready or Study Island. Please remind your students to practice using the program weekly, ask questions regularly about their progress, and have them physically show you the program to demonstrate their mastery levels of each practiced skill. Mastery of each objective is continuously averaged as the student practices, and indicated as a percentage. Pay special attention to the percentages your student achieves for each practiced objective. If students are struggling with a particular objective or perform below a 70%, there are lessons embedded in the program as well as Khan Academy video tutorials to help them increase their level of mastery.

Students are expected to review these embedded lessons and use the videos as remediation, and then continue to practice the objective until they reach their goal. If students continue to struggle with the objectives after reviewing the lessons, morning tutoring is available. This tutoring program is also available for homework help.

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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## Citing Textual Evidence

We are diligently teaching Jr/Sr High students to use textual evidence to prove themselves in their discussions and in their writing. Sit with your student at home and ask him/her to:

- define evidence;
- explain why textual evidence is important in writing and discussions;
- use a text from school to explain what he/she is learning citing the text explicitly;
- cite evidence to support the analysis of fiction, poetry, non-fiction, and photographs; and
- use evidence to make logical inferences about texts.

Here is a great video giving more details on the importance of learning to cite textual evidence. <https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/teaching-about-textual-evidence>

by: GreatSchools Staff | April 17, 2019

## College Prep

### Dean Discussion regarding College-Preparation

Parents, students and teachers! We are off to a roaring start at Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High! Our number one purpose is to prepare your students for their future. For our Jr High students, it's preparing them to be successful High school students and our High school students, it's preparing them to be successful college/university students. The bottom line is, we are preparing your students to be successful at the next level, with college and university in mind.



OCS uses a two-prong approach to ensure your students are being prepared for the next level. Number one is academics. Odyssey Charter students follow a classic college prep track. For math: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, etc. Science follows a classic university track of: Biology, Chemistry Honors and Physics Honors, etc. These are just a few examples. In addition, your student has the opportunity to accelerate with dual enrollment courses via EFSC and advanced placement courses on campus, earning college credit. The focus is the most rigorous and challenging academic content. Why? So, when your student goes to UCF or FSU they will be prepared to handle whatever academic course work is provided!!

As a college-prep school and academics are a priority. We want to provide your students with as much support as possible for them to be successful this year. All students are REQUIRED to complete ALL of their assignments and we understand that sometimes students need additional time outside of the classroom to complete them, so we are doing everything we can to support every student reach this goal. We are proud to announce that we have incorporated several options to provide our students with every opportunity to complete assignments (including computer access) in order to be successful.

Below is an explanation of our Academic Assistance Program in detail:

Morning in the Titan Learning Center (TLC) Beginning at 7:30 am

Finish Friday (TLC) 2:45 – 4:00

\*\*Students required for Finish Friday may also request to be pulled from PE and work in the TLC with Ms. Lewis\*\*

Success Saturday 9:00 – 11:30

Morning Tutoring (by request)

It is important for your child to attend the session that will best fit their needs. If your student needs extra time to complete an assignment, but does not require additional assistance they should attend TLC (Mornings, Finish Friday, during PE, or Success Saturday). If your student needs a little assistance, request morning tutoring pass from their teacher or attend Success Saturday (9:00 – 11:30).

If your student needs intensive assistance, attend Success Saturday (9:00 – 11:30)

If your child is struggling in any class, please contact our Academic Dean, Ms. Moore so she can assist.

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## Club Highlights

**Morning announcements club** – This club, led by Mr. Pagel, offers the morning announcements daily at 8:55AM. Our morning announcements include the Pledge of Allegiance, a positive thought of the day or an On-This-Day event, the lunch menu, athletic information, club information, and more.

**Ukulele Club** – This unique club started by Odyssey students and led by Ms. Boehr takes place each Wednesday from 4:15-5pm in room 256. Students may attend with or without their own ukulele.

**Dance Team** – This middle school dance squad bring cheer to our school events. The team meets Mon, Tue, Wed in café or 216 after school from 4:30-5:30PM in the yoga room.

More club information will be posted this month in a special club newsletter. That newsletter will include all club types, costs (if required), dates, and times.



## Dual Enrollment

Rising 10th and 11th Graders Interested in DUAL ENROLLMENT:

On January 7, 2020, we will have an OCS Dual Enrollment Parent Information Night from 5:30-6:30PM at OCS Jr/Sr High. Information for dual enrollment is listed below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Knight, Site Administrator, or Mr. Viola, our school College Advisor.

### EASTERN FLORIDA

EFSC DUAL ENROLLMENT INFORMATION <http://www.easternflorida.edu/admissions/dual-enrollment/publicprivateschoolstudents.cfm>

EFSC GUIDE TO DUAL ENROLLMENT <http://www.easternflorida.edu/admissions/documents/priv-public-school-guide.pdf>

**STEPS 1-3:** You will complete these steps with your student.

**STEP 4:** At this time, we are unable to give the PERT at the school. If you wish to have your child apply for Session C this summer, please register your child now. We will notify you if EFSC allows us to offer the PERT at our school site.

Student Guide - [https://college.measuredsuccess.com/mscollege/help\\_resources/P.E.R.T\\_Study\\_Guide.pdf](https://college.measuredsuccess.com/mscollege/help_resources/P.E.R.T_Study_Guide.pdf)

PERT Practice Test - <https://www.mdc.edu/main/testing/exampleprep/3ps.aspx>

**STEP 5:** This step your student will complete with Mr. Viola.

**STEP 6:** The EFSC advisor for Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High School will be Nick Sbano. He is located on the EFSC Palm Bay campus at 321 433-7723.

**STEP 7:** Your student will work with Mr. Viola on the course textbooks.

EFSC Frequently Asked Questions <http://www.easternflorida.edu/admissions/dual-enrollment/frequently-asked-questions.cfm>

### FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Florida Tech's current dual enrollment policy dictates that applicants must be junior or senior level high school students. In addition, admitted dual enrolled students may only complete a total of 12 semester credit hours at Florida Tech. In some circumstances, very high achieving students have been permitted to enroll in more than 12 total credit hours. These students are evaluated on a case by case basis. If you wish to look into FIT early enrollment, please contact me. For more information on your child's future enrollment with FIT, please see their website. <http://admission.fit.edu/>

#### 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.

## Student Government

This important group meets with Mr. Ayala every other Thursday morning at 8:15AM to discuss school events, coordinate fundraisers and community service, and support schoolwide initiatives. On Oct 18th, the Student Government held their elections with the following results:

7th grade Governor: Jessica Morency

8th grade Governor Julisha Jean-Jacques

9th grade Governor: Carlos Santiago

10th grade Governor: Carter Dodson

11th grade Governor: Leah Brent

12th grade Governor: Gabriella Crisman

Vice-President: Soreina Fleming

President: Michal "Miggy" Pineda R

## Space Coast Fall Art Festival

Congratulations to the winners from the Space Coast Art Festival!

**Rowan Welch** - 1st place middle school drawing and painting; **Annabelle**

**Eliyahou** - 2nd place middle school drawing and painting; **Leah Brent** -

3rd place high school painting. Amazing work by students and their

supportive teachers,

Ms. Reilly & Ms. Oakes.



## Focus

**FOCUS for Parents** – if you have not received your FOCUS log in (new students/parents) please [email Ms. Campbell](mailto:Ms.Campbell).

**FOCUS for students** who returned to OCS Jr Sr is the same for both students and parents from last year. If you have questions, please email Ms. Campbell.

**FOCUS App** – there is a new FOCUS app. You can download it to your smartphone and get easy access to grades and communication with your child's teachers.

## Helpful Articles

 by: GreatSchools Staff | April 17, 2019

### What can I do at Home to Help my Child Succeed in School?

*"Studies show that a child's academic performance is linked to their home life and the amount of parental support. The students who perform best tend to have happy and stable homes and good communication with their parents."*

Read full article here: <https://www.educationquizzes.com/knowledge-bank/what-can-i-do-at-home-to-help-my-child-succeed-in-school/>

### How parents can stay involved in middle and high school

*"When your child moves on to middle or high school, staying involved in her education can be tricky. Try these strategies to help your child succeed."* Read full article here: <https://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/stay-involved-in-middle-and-high-school/>