

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

October 2015

"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.

School Calendar

- 10/14 - Ribbon Cutting - Wyoming - 10 am, Harvest Lunch - Eldron - during 4th - 6th Grade lunch period
- 10/19 - Elementary Report Cards Issued
- 10/20 - Jr/Sr High Report Cards Issued
- 10/21 - OCS Inc. Board Meeting
- 10/26 - Elementary Parent Conferences
- 10/28 - Jr/Sr High Student/Parent Conferences

DID YOU KNOW?

Through rigorous instruction and dedicated teachers, staff, and administration, Odyssey Charter continues to be a high-performing, SACs accredited school.

Odyssey Charter Elementary School (K-6th grades)

- Odyssey had 83% of 3rd grade students pass the brand new FSA Reading assessment, one of the highest pass levels in the City of Palm Bay.
- On the Spring 2015 5th grade Science FCAT, Odyssey students were in the top three schools in Palm Bay for academic performance.

An exceptional number of our students placed at last year's county science fair, with four students placing and an additional winning Best of Show for the entire fair.

Odyssey Jr/Sr High School (7-10th grades, adding 11th in 2016 and 12th in 2017)

- 92% of the OCS Jr/Sr High 7th grade students scored proficient or higher on the Civics End-Of-Course Assessment this spring. This was the third highest score in all Brevard Public Schools, placing OCS in the top 5% of the state.
- Odyssey's 8th grade FCAT Science scores significantly surpassed all surrounding public and charter schools serving Palm Bay, as well as the Brevard County School District and State of Florida.
- OCS Jr/Sr High 9th grade students significantly outperformed Bayside, Heritage, and Palm Bay High and the state average on their Biology End-of-Course Assessments this spring.

Additional scores coming in show that both OCS Elementary and OCS Jr/Sr High scored very well compared to local schools.



Founder/Head of Schools
Ms. Constance Ortiz

Site Administrator, Elementary Campus
Mrs. Wendi Nolder

Site Administrator, Jr/Sr Campus
Dr. Monica Knight

AP, Technology, Scheduling, Testing
Mr. Jon Chace

Discipline Dean, Jr/Sr and Bus Transportation
Mr. Mike Davis

Curriculum and Behavior Specialist
Ms. Mary Bigwood

Literacy Coach
Ms. Jeannie Myers

Math Coach
Ms. Laura Lopez

Science Coach
Dr. Jane Martin

Leadership and Teacher Development
Mr. Gregory Turner

School Counselors
Jessica Ayala, Elementary Campus
Dr. Stevie Weimer, Jr/Sr Campus

Harvest Lunch and Ribbon Cutting

On Wednesday, October 14th, at 10 am, on the Wyoming Campus, parents are invited to join us for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, with Ms. Constance, Dr. Knight and Mayor Capote, inaugurating "The Farm at Odyssey." Two years ago our students asked for more outdoor learning opportunities. The farm offers just that but so much more. Students develop critical thinking and problem solving skills as learning becomes connected to real life, offering them opportunities to gain knowledge in math, science, engineering and technology. A huge thank you to our partnerships with Lowes and Healthy Living Aquaponics.

On the same day on the Eldron Campus, parents are invited to join their 4th-6th grade students during their lunch hour for our Annual Harvest Lunch. 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 student(s).

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.

Read Aloud Program

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."

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.

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 Public Accountability Report

The annual Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) School Public Accountability Reports (SPARs) will be available for Odyssey Charter School in the near future. The SPARs meet ESEA's requirement for school to provide parents with an annual school status report at the beginning of each school year. The Odyssey SPAR will be posted on the school's web-site at <http://www.odysseycharterschool.com/reports.html>.

Policy Against Bullying and Harassment

Odyssey Charter School follows the Brevard Public Schools Student Code of Conduct. In response to state law the "Jeffery Johnson Stand Up for all Students Act," the Brevard County School Board adopted a policy that prohibits bullying and harassment.

The policy defines harassment as any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or employee that: Places a student or employee in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

Odyssey is committed to providing a safe learning environment and will not tolerate bullying or harassment of any kind. Incidents of bullying or harassment can be reported to:

- Elementary Campus Site Administrator:
Mrs. Nolder, nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com, 321-733-0112
- Jr/Sr High Campus Site Administrator:
Dr. Knight, knightm@odysseycharterschool.com, 321-345-4117
- Anonymous Reports: Speak-out hotline, 1-800-423-8477
- Bullying Report Form: <http://www.brevard.k12.fl.us/forms/pdf/BullyingWitnessReportFormElementary.pdf>

To learn more about bullying and find out what adults can do to help prevent it visit: www.stopbullying.gov/bullying

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 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!

Yearbook Ads

Business card size ad space is available in the OCS yearbook! For just \$25, we will scan your business card in full color. Just send in your check or money order, payable to OCS along with your business card to Ms. Pitts on the Jr/Sr campus or to your classroom teacher on the elementary campus. This is a great way to promote your business and connect our Odyssey families with our community. We look forward to serving you.

In addition to selling ad space, we are also saving space for student dedications. It's just \$7 for a space (about the size of a business card), so send in a check or money order payable to OCS to Ms. Pitts on the Jr/Sr campus or to your classroom teacher on the elementary campus along with your dedication to your friends and family here at Odyssey!

Study Island 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(ren)'s teacher(s) if you have any questions or if you want your child's login information. If you have difficulty, please contact Jon Chace, AP, at chacej@odysseycharterschool.com.

Gifted and Talented Students

This year, we have expanded our gifted student education program to include academically talented students: Gifted and Talented Education, or GATEway. Students can qualify in grades K-10. We are excited to welcome Ms. Kim Jafrate as our gifted student teacher. Ms. Jafrate comes to us with many years' experience working with gifted students.

Elementary gifted and talented students have formed a Nature Trail Speakers Bureau to build upon last year's investigations and publication of a handbook about the plants and animals on our OCS Nature Trail. Students are using their personal reflections to inspire prospective tourists to connect to the wonderful details available in the story of each plant, animal and their interactions. The Speakers Bureau offers their services to Clubs, classrooms and administration tours. Call on us!

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 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 the Lead Administrator, Ms. Wendi Nolder at 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.

Casual Dress Days

Casual dress days are on the last Friday of each month. Students are welcome to dress out of uniform but must follow the Brevard County Dress Code outlined in the Brevard County Student Handbook. A copy of the handbook can be found on our website. Dress down days for the first semester are September 25, October 30, November 27 and December 18.

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.odysseycharterschool.com.

Substitute Teachers Wanted for Elementary and Secondary -- We Need You!

If you are yearning to make a difference in children's lives and are looking for a part-time job working during your child's school hours, look no further. Odyssey needs you! Won't you please take a moment to apply to become an Odyssey substitute by contacting Ms. Melissa Todd or Ms. Barbara Marcus at (321) 733-0442. All substitutes must undergo and pass the Brevard County Fingerprinting and Background Checks.

Do you have a Special Skill or Expertise Area?

We are looking for parents, grandparents, and community members with special skills to help us enhance our learning community. If you are a photographer, speaker of another language, artist, gardener, musician, scientist, cook, elected official, or if you have some other special skill or talent that you can share with our students, please email: info@odysseycharterschool.com.

OCS Inc. Board of Directors Meetings

Parents and staff are welcome to attend Odyssey's Board of Directors meetings. The next OCS Board meetings will be held on October 21 at 5:15 p.m. To attend, please come to the Jr/Sr high campus and ask for the Green Apple Conference Room.

ELEMENTARY NEWS

What is happening en la clase de Espanol at OCS?

Hola! We are thrilled to offer a Spanish program for students in Kindergarten through 6th grade this year. Senora Munoz, our super-talented 3rd grade teacher, has pursued her dream of teaching Spanish at Odyssey. Students have already started out with greetings and polite phrase. Ms. Munoz will still be involved the planning process for 2nd and 3rd grades, and will support learning in several intervention blocks, when not teaching Spanish. Students are building a basic understanding of the Spanish language using a very natural approach in the classroom setting. We are learning new concepts daily in many fun ways using TPR (Total Physical Response). Total Physical Response is the learning of another language through actions. We sing, dance, play games and hablamos espanol. Hasta la vista!



Notes from the Music Man

During the month of September the K-6th grade music students are practicing rhythmic training. They are learning to read and clap various rhythmic patterns. Elementary music students are also investigating music from the Baroque period (as part of our core curriculum), focusing on the music of Bach and Pachelbel. Students are comparing the original compositions with more modern arrangements.



News from the PE field

This month we will be working on The President's Council of Physical Fitness. This initial practice will establish a baseline for each student. Once the students have that information, they can use it to set goals and establish a fitness plan to achieve those goals.

News from the Elementary Art Room

Artist of the Month: Pablo Picasso

K-3: Students are learning and using the Elements of Art: line, shape, color, space, (warm and cool) and are applying their new knowledge in the Cubism Style of art discovered by Picasso.

4-6: Students are learning and understanding the importance of the Elements of Art. We have sketchbooks for keeping our ideas, drawing rough drafts and writing art vocabulary words. Students understood that Cubism is made with geometric shapes and does not copy nature.

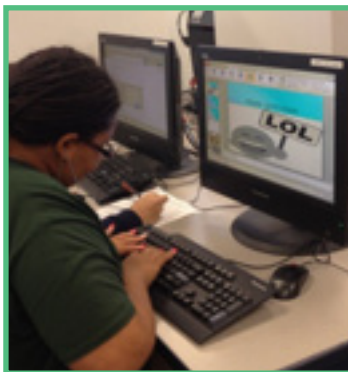
Breaking News from OCS Media Center

We want our students to read more. We want them to enjoy reading. We know that reading builds vocabulary, fluency, and background knowledge. So our media center will do our part to promote and encourage independent reading. This year students will study a variety of types of media, such as literature, magazines, movies, music, and current events and we will increase the amount of technology used during student visits. Our goal is to use a number of strategies to enhance reading capabilities through different forms of text. Students are welcomed and encouraged to check out books to read regularly. There is a two book limit for each student, although parents are also able to create accounts to come check out books as well. Please help your children remember that library books can only be checked out for a two-week maximum. I look forward to meeting every student at OCS and hopefully their parents too.



Computer Lab

Students will enjoy a “hands on” approach while learning computer basics including how a computer works, basic computer parts, and will begin learning various computer programs, including typing! Students will also learn about internet safety, the importance of their “digital footprints”, and what it means to be a digital citizen. Look for more information coming home about how you can support keyboarding skills at home through Typing.com.



Parents – Have you started earning your volunteer hours yet?

All of our parents are valued members of our volunteer team and are key stakeholders in their children's success at school. Make sure you are planning how to fulfill your volunteer requirement of 18-25 hours for the school year. Opportunities for volunteering are sent out in our newsletters and through the Odyssey parent e-mail list from Ms. Cynthia Waszkiewicz, our volunteer coordinator. Ms. Waszkiewicz can help you find volunteer opportunities that best align with your availability. If your classroom teacher has a volunteer opportunity for you, please make sure you make arrangements to check in with Ms. Waszkiewicz. As our volunteer coordinator, she will track your hours and ensure all safety/screening requirements have been met if you will be chaperoning or helping on campus. Stop in and say hello – you can find Ms. Waszkiewicz at the front desk on our Lower Campus. She can also be reached by phone at 321-733-0442 x100 or email: waszkiewicz@odysseycharterschool.com.

Safety First at Arrival & Dismissal

The school's car loop certainly has its limitations and we thank you for your patience and support during arrival and dismissal. Our school hours are from 8:00 a.m. until 2:50 p.m. each day. On Early Release Wednesdays, Elementary students will be released at 1:30 p.m. We appreciate your willingness to share the space with other parents as you travel and merge through the loop. Please continue to exercise caution and safety during arrival and dismissal. Our children are counting on you! Remember to follow these tips to keep traffic flowing and students safe in our car loop:

- Be sure to honor the 5mph posted speed limit
- Refrain from using cell phones
- Always display your carloop pick-up sign in your window
- Remember, when turning onto Eldron, RIGHT turns ONLY during arrival and dismissal times
- Reserve disabled parking for vehicles with disabled parking permits
- Always drop off children at the designated orange cones – nowhere else in the carloop area
- Do not use Pineapple Cove's parking area

The car loop is the safest and most efficient way to drop off and pick up your child. During our busiest times, it takes just about 5 minutes from the driveway entrance to the driveway exit during the car loop. The car loop is least busy in the morning from 7:40-7:50 and in the afternoon from 3:05-3:10.

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.

JR / SR HIGH NEWS

Reminders

Odyssey's Jr/Sr High Campus Uniform requirements

- Odyssey Logo Shirts in the following colors – Gray, Light Blue, Royal Blue, or White.
- Black or Khaki pants, shorts, or skorts. At minimum, bottoms must not be shorter than mid-thigh. No “skinny”, form-fitting or “baggy” style bottoms.
- Any Navy Blue or Black Sweatshirt with, or without, our Odyssey Logo is acceptable. While hoods on clothing are permissible, hoods, hats and headgear are not permitted to be worn while on school property, including while on school buses.

Jr/Sr High Hours 9am - 4:10pm

We value our instructional time with your student. Please schedule all appointments before or after school when possible and minimize early check out. Thank you!

OCS Jr/Sr High Math Department

The Junior/Senior High School Math department is excited and prepared to begin another successful year with their students at OCS! We are pleased to have 3 new teachers in our department this year, including Ms. Courtney Williams teaching 7th grade, Mrs. Pati Reeves teaching 8th grade, and Ms. Rhonda Gawlowski teaching Intensive Math. We also welcome back Mrs. Kathy Jacobs teaching Geometry and Geometry Honors and Ms. Audrey O'Dea teaching Algebra and Algebra Honors. Go MathematiTITANS!

The math department teachers will all be requiring that each student create and maintain an "Interactive Notebook," which contains notes, graphic organizers, foldables, etc. as part of their grade. They will also be using "Study Island (online program)," as a major tool to help students master the state standards in preparation of our Florida State Assessments (grades 6-8 FSA's) and End of Course Exams (Algebra and Geometry EOC's). Study Island is an internet-based computer program where students learn and practice the skills necessary to be successful on the FSA/EOC test, which will take place in late April or early May. All students are expected to work on Study Island at home as part of their grade on a weekly basis. Each week, students have a minimum number of practice problems to complete on Study Island in order to reach 70-80% mastery for that week's assigned skills.

Parents can help their students master these standards by taking an active role in monitoring their progress on 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 Study Island objectives after reviewing the lessons, morning tutoring is available every day in the Math department hallway (classroom varies) from 8:30 to 8:55. 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.

OCS Jr/Sr High Science Department

The year has kicked off with a bang and diligent students are learning the standards through, labs, lectures, and various hands-on activities. We are enthusiastic to welcome two new faculty members to our team as well as three new STEM course offerings. **We were also proud to discover that last year's eighth graders had the top FCAT score among all local middle schools.** OCS students were also successful in obtaining successful Biology EOC scores which exceeded those of all local high schools. We hope to match or exceed these performances this year with a combination of hard work, patience, teamwork, and perseverance. The science department provides hands-on labs 2-3 days a week in all science classes and requires students to complete homework and follow-up lessons 3-4 days a week to apply their understandings of new science content. Please visit our growing science lab and "The Farm at Odyssey" to see student scientists in action.



Coming Soon...

Pictures and details about "The Farm" at Odyssey are on their way.

Stay tuned!



OCS Jr/Sr High English Department

The ELA Department is busy learning to write multi-paragraph formal essays. Ms. Romeo's class is learning how to pull information from the novel and cite it correctly. This year 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th grade will be writing Argumentative and Informational Essays. Students will be able to correctly cite textual evidence to support their claims. Students are also reading high quality literature, such as The Alchemist in 10th grade, and are applying their writing skills to interpret the text. In addition, regular sessions focused on Greek and Latin roots and academic vocabulary can be seen in all ELA classes.



Clubs and Extra-Curricular Activities

Check out the growing club and extra-curricular opportunities at OCS Jr/Sr High! Students can begin signing up for these opportunities during the first week of October. Clubs that have already started are noted with an asterisk *.

Clubs / Extracurricular Activities	Name(s) / Department
Chess	Tucker / Social Studies
National Honor Society	
National Junior Honor Society	S. Williams & Reeves & Warren & Crabb / ELA & Math & Art & Science
National Art Honor Society	
National Spanish Honor Society	
Strategy Club *	Ayala & Chace / Social Studies & AP
E-sports	Ayala / Social Studies
National Art Honor Society/Art Club	Jacobs & Warren / Math & Art
Odyssey of the Mind	TBD
Latin Dance	O'Dea / Math
Rainy Day Club (Games and more)	S. Williams & Warren / ELA & Art
Glee Club	Hoffman & Varnadoe / Music
Cooking/Nutrition	Romeo / ELA
Mystery Books	Romeo / ELA
Morning Tutorial/Media Center Time* (DAILY FROM 7:30-9:00AM)	Romeo and Vincente / ELA
Literary Arts Magazine	Pitts / ELA
Yearbook *	Pitts / ELA
Math Counts	C. Williams & Gawlowski / Math
Aqua-Culture	Gallagher / Science
Morning Meditation	Reeves / Math
College-Ready Coaching *	M. Sluzky and Weimer / Social Studies and Counseling
Puppetry Arts	N. Lonergan/ Elementary Teacher
Yoga (Forrest / Universal / Hatha Integrated)	R. Harrison / Curriculum & Instruction
Student Government	Knight / Site Leader
Social Club/Community Events	Davis / Dean
Green Team (Be Green... Stay Green)	C. Sluzky / Science
Mindful Learning (Thinking, Breathing, Focusing)	Knight / Site Leader

OCS Jr/Sr High Athletics

This year Odyssey started competing in the FHSAA for the first time ever! This fall, we started our bowling and volleyball programs and will have basketball and soccer this winter. We are proud to point out that we are the only Junior/Senior High School in Palm Bay that has 7th and 8th grade students participating in junior varsity or varsity high school athletics.



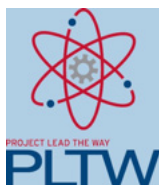
OCS Jr/Sr High Elective Spotlight: OCS Jr/Sr High Student Voices - Student Newsletter

For the first time, Odyssey Charter Jr./Sr. High School students will create, design, publish, generate advertising sales' revenue, and connect to their communities – near and far- through the lens of a journalist! Our Journalism I course will enable students to develop fundamental, journalistic styles, ethical practices, analysis skills, and interview strategies. They will develop a 'nose for the true story'.

Students have already chosen the newspaper software and publishing company, and are in the process of choosing template designs, the newspaper's title, developing a business plan for pricing variations based on circulation, frequency, advertising to editorial ratios, et al. Students will build on their capacity and success with print journalism, and eventually experience broadcast, digital, and multi-media journalism platforms so they are able to connect the technology evolution in journalism – past and present – to the future of the industry as a whole. In the process, students will become aware of historical giants in various fields of journalism, like Margaret Fuller, Howard Cosell, Barbara Walters, Walter Cronkite, Robert Capa, and many more.

Career and Technical Education Spotlight: Project Lead The Way

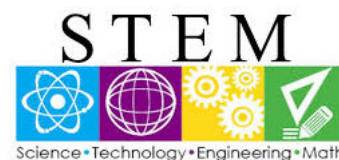
(PLTW - <https://www.pltw.org/>)



Odyssey Charter School is excited to bring our students research based curricula for both our Engineering CET and Computer Simulation and Programming. PLTW is the nation's leading science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) solution in over 8,000 schools across the U.S. Project Lead The Way's success in engaging the hearts and minds of students through science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education. Independent research studies reveal that PLTW students outperform their peers in school, are better prepared for post-secondary studies, and are more likely to consider careers as scientists, technology experts, engineers, mathematicians, healthcare providers, and researchers compared to their non-PLTW peers. Odyssey Charter School investment in our students with PLTW is a great step towards college and careers for all students that participate.

OCS Jr/Sr High Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Corner

For the second consecutive year, Odyssey Charter School Jr/Sr High was honored to have been selected to participate in "Zero Robotics," a prestigious summer program from MIT in collaboration with NASA, CASIS and other space agencies, that combined Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. As part of the program, our team learned how to program in C++ via a graphical interface and participated in a series of exceptional STEM and Space Science experiential learning opportunities. The team participated in trainings and competitions at Kennedy Space Center, as well as geospatial investigations at Malabar Scrub, a space satellite & robotics expo and engineering & entrepreneurial think tank. Students were mentored by Astronauts, Aerospace and Mechanical Engineers, and scientists from various fields. Our students demonstrated commitment, enthusiasm and dedication to working together and developing the skills needed to program SPHERES satellites. Odyssey's AstroTitans "Investigating the Sea of Our Universe"!



Virtual Classes

Odyssey Charter School has expanded our course offerings through our virtual classes. OCS now uses both the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) and Edmentum (EdOptions Academy) so that we can offer more courses than ever. Edmentum adds many more languages, course recovery opportunities, and advanced courses. These options help us deliver a blend of personalized teaching approaches with proven, award-winning online learning programs that specifically address the needs of individual learners. Using both FLVS and EdOptions Academy, OCS will be able to provide a broader set of courses to our growing middle and high school students.

OCS Gifted and Talented Opportunities

If your 7th grade student got a high score on a 5th or 6th grade FCAT/ FSA test, you received a Duke TIP enrollment form. Duke University's Talent Identification Program (TIP) offers an opportunity for your student to take the SAT or the ACT test early, and find out your student's truer level of knowledge and reasoning beyond FCAT/FSA limits. Duke also sends its own summary of the results in addition to the SAT or ACT summary. You'd have two interpretations to support you in assessing your student's needs for enrichment or acceleration. Odyssey Charter School supports tools to better understand and meet the needs of your students. Please contact Dr. Knight if you have any concerns about fees. Enrollment in Duke TIP includes the test fee. Duke TIP membership creates eligibility to take enrichment courses from Duke University. Informative webinars are available at <https://tip.duke.edu>. 8th -10th grade students may also take the SAT/ACT on their own, and submit their scores during TIP enrollment to be eligible for enrichment courses.



SAT/ACT test dates and one of many test centers are listed below.
OCS School ID: 215913-EB

Test	City	Center Name	Center Code	Test Dates
SAT	PALM BAY	BAYSIDE HS	10547	DECEMBER 05, 2015
SAT	PALM BAY	BAYSIDE HS	10547	JANUARY 23, 2016
ACT	PALM BAY	BAYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL	226870	DECEMBER 12, 2015
ACT	PALM BAY	BAYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL	226870	FEBRUARY 06, 2016

Guidance College Coaching Team

Just like any team, the Guidance College Coaching Team is here to help improve your students' skills as they compete to achieve college acceptance. As one of the 'coaches,' I want to be sure that all the students at Odyssey Charter School have all the information they need to be ready for the ultimate challenge, their acceptance into college. We will be covering such topics as different kinds of colleges, grades, courses, tests, transcripts and deadlines.

Each newsletter will contain an area of focus, an area for improvement or exploration that will help increase your student's chances for college acceptance. Our first area of focus is the area of career exploration.

Students often do not know about the variety of occupations available or the ones they may be particularly well-suited to pursue. There are many different websites that help students with this area of exploration. One of the best is the one created by the Florida Department of Education. You can find it by Google-ing "MyCareerShines Kuder Navigator". This will take you to a page to create an account. Once that is done, there are two assessments to take. They take no more than a couple of minutes. Once the results are added to the student's account page, a series of white tabs appear toward the top of the screen. If your student clicks on "Related Occupations," they can receive a list of careers that reflect the results of the two interest assessments done. This is a great tool for finding all sorts of new career possibilities. Remember that if you do not have a computer available, you can always use the ones at all the Brevard Public Libraries.

What a perfect opening for conversations with your student about their possible career paths. Until next time, this is your Guidance College Coaching Team signing off. Dr. Weimer, Mr. Slusky, and Ms. Jafrate Go Titans!



OCS Jr/Sr High Expansion

We are pleased to report that we have more than 110 high school students this year with many participating in dual enrollment, advanced placement, and career and technical education. Each year, our program is expanding to meet the needs of students of the school community. Due to community request and our school's high performing status, our innovative and holistic education is growing through the 12th grade. We are establishing more educational and community partnerships with organizations such as NASA, The Solar Energy Center, Florida Institute of Technology, and Eastern Florida State College. Stay posted to learn more about our upcoming activities and partnerships that reflect

our rigorous academic and exemplary enrichment, STEM, elective, extracurricular, sports, art and music opportunities. Do you have a friend or family member with a student that is OCS Jr/Sr High age? Do you want to help us expand our programs through grade 12? If so, please refer your friends and family to contact Ms. Greenwalt at Odyssey Charter School Jr/Sr High for more information.



Raising Funds

Do you shop at Target or Amazon? Well did you know that you can help raise money for Odyssey Charter School when you make purchases at either of these places.

AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your purchases to Odyssey Charter School all you need to do is:

- Go to www.smile.amazon.com (use the same log in that you use for Amazon.com)
- Search Odyssey Charter School Palm Bay, FL
- Select our school and That's It!

Now 0.5% of your purchase will go to our school.

Target's Take Charge of Education

(need to be a holder of a Target REDcard credit card)

- Go online to Target.com/TCOE
- Sign me up, look up our school ID # 113492 and select enroll
- Next enter your name and REDcard number. That's it!

Now, for every purchase you make at Target using your REDcard 1% will be donated to Odyssey Charter School.

These are great ways to help raise money for your students education at their school.

10th Grade PSAT – October 28, 2015

Odyssey Charter School will administer the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) to all Odyssey 10th grade students on Wednesday, October 28, 2015. There is no fee to take this assessment. The test is a diagnostic tool that can be used to help students and families plan for advanced coursework and college/career decisions.

PAST EVENTS

International Literacy Day

September 8, 2015 - International Literacy Day, was a day to shine a light on "global literacy needs" across our world. Developing conscious citizens that are inspired to make our global and local community a better place is part of the heart at Odyssey. This year at OCS we took a small step toward helping our students understand the value of literacy. We joined with parents in reading children's books to our students in a variety of language. Our school community had the wonderful opportunity to listen to books read in Spanish, French, Romanian, Hebrew, Greek, Arabic, and English. What a treat! And this is only the beginning - we hope to foster in our students a love of reading that will extend beyond our own school community!

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

**Dr. Jane Martin 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. Dr. Martin can be reached at 321-733-0442.