



ODYSSEY
CHARTER SCHOOL

LOWER CAMPUS NEWS

AUGUST 2012

"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 much achieve a balance of intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual and social skills as a foundation for life.



CALENDAR

- Aug. 8-10** – Kindergarten Parent/Student Meetings (by appointment)
- Aug. 13** – First day for Kindergarten
- Aug. 14** – PK, 1st-3rd grade Open House, 7 pm
- Aug. 16** – 4th-6th grade Open House, 7 pm
- Aug. 23-31** – Book Fair
- Aug. 28,** – OCS Board Meeting
- Aug. 29** – Early Release Day
- Sept. 3** – Labor Day/Holiday for All
- Sept. 10** – Professional Development Day – Student Holiday

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Hello Odyssey families and welcome back! It has been an exciting summer full of preparation and anticipation for the school year. We are very happy with our progress toward our expansion onto an upper campus, with an academic program full of rigor with an emphasis on inspiring and empowering Odyssey students to become Global Citizens. That emphasis begins here at the lower campus, with our Montessori early childhood program, which flows into our upper elementary program emphasizing academic rigor and developing a positive classroom community.

Please plan on attending our Open House(s): August 14, 7 pm, for PK and 1st-3rd grades; August 16, 7 pm for 4th-6th grades, at 1755 Eldron Blvd SE. Visit our new and improved website, still under construction, at www.odysseycharterschool.com. We also invite you to our special Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at our Upper Campus, 1350 Wyoming Drive SE, on Wednesday, September 12, 5:30-7:00 pm with the Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce.

Odyssey Charter School is a tuition-free public charter school. We are proud to be fully accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and to be designated a High Performing Charter School by the Florida Commissioner for Education.

We look forward to a wonderful year with your family!

Ms. Wendi M. Nolder, M.Ed.
Principal, K-6 Lower Campus

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for several fingerprinted volunteers who might be interested in helping out in the cafeteria for lunch duty or in the clinic with minor student 'boo-boos'. If you would like to volunteer (this this counts toward your required 18 or 25 hours) please contact our volunteer coordinator, Donna Marcinik, at 321-733-0442 ext 101, or email her at marcinikd@odysseycharterschool.com.

Open House Dates:

- Pre-K, 1st - 3rd grades: Tuesday, August 14, 7 pm
 - 4th-6th grades: Thursday, August 16, 7 pm
- (Kindergarten Open House was already held on Monday, August 6, prior to school opening)
- Note: During Open Houses we are permitted to park in the Pineapple Cove parking lot (after 6:30 pm)*

Early Release Dates:

Odyssey has 7 Early Release Dates during the school year for the purpose of professional development and teacher collaboration. Students at the lower campus are released at 1:15 pm.

- August 29, 2012
- September 26, 2012
- October 31, 2012
- November 28, 2012
- January 30, 2013
- February 27, 2013
- March 13, 2013

Students also release early (1:15 pm) 3 days prior to Winter Vacation and 3 days prior to the end of the school year for student exam days:

- December 17-19, 2012
- May 20-22, 2013

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

If you are using the car loop, we require that you follow the posted 5 mph (or less) speed limit from the time you enter the school driveway until you pull out of the driveway. For the safety of all children, please refrain from using cell phones while in the car loop. Children must be dropped off at designated orange cones in front of the main entrance. In order to keep our students safe, do not allow them to exit the car in any other area of the car loop. We are not permitted to park in the Pineapple Cove parking lot at any time during arrival, dismissal, or during the school day.

Please use the car loop sign you received during registration during afternoon car loop dismissal. If you need a sign, please stop in the front office.

During arrival and dismissal times, left turns are not permitted out of the driveway. This helps keep the traffic flowing.

Odyssey has several parking spots dedicated for disabled parking. Only vehicles with a disabled parking permit may occupy those spaces.

Please be patient for the first week or two during arrival and dismissal. It takes several days to fall into a smooth rhythm. Remember, our primary concern is the safe drop off and pick up of each child.

BUS TIMES

As we work to establish our double bus runs to accommodate students at both campuses, and work on our shuttle bus between the lower campus and upper campus, we expect there may be a few delays as we establish our routine. Please be patient as we experience a few growing pains and work through any upcoming problems.

STUDENT CHECK-OUT

Students may be checked out of school by their parent/legal guardian, or a designee specified in writing by the parent/legal guardian. When checking a student out of school, photo identification must be presented to our front office staff. Students may not be checked out after 2 p.m. Any exceptions must be approved in writing by the Principal.

In order to maintain the order and focus in our classrooms, children will not be called from the classroom to retrieve items brought to them during the school day. If a student forgets lunch, the front office will notify the classroom teacher before the student lunch period and the student will pick up their lunch on the way to the café.

STUDENT MEDICATION

Any students requiring medication during the school day must have a parent check the medication into the front office and fill out the appropriate medication form. Students may not bring medication to school at any time. If a student requires an asthma inhaler on his/her person, the inhaler must be checked in through the office and must be accompanied by a doctor prescription stating that the child must carry the inhaler with them at all times.

Our staff directory, teacher certifications and wellness policy can be found on our new website at www.odysseycharterschool.com



Grievance Procedures

- Step 1: Request Teacher conference to clarify issue
- Step 2: Contact Principal if unresolved with the teacher
- Step 3: **Contact Constance Ortiz at Academia Central Florida Management Company
- Step 4: Contact the President of the Governing Board
- Step 5: Present issue at the next monthly Board of Directors Meeting if unresolved
- Step 6: Seek mediation with the Sponsor

***Constance Ortiz, Academia Central Florida Director, 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. Ortiz can be reached at cortiz@academicacfl.org, or 321-216-7525.*

HEALTHY CAFÉ

Odyssey has a full service cafeteria ready to feed healthy, fresh meals made daily for all of our school community and their families. Parents and siblings are welcome to sign into the front office and join their student for lunch.

Payment for breakfast and lunch can be made by check (made out to Odyssey Charter School) or cash. Payment may be brought to the classroom where the teacher will record the payment information. Families may make out one check for multiple children – please note on the check the amount per student). Prepayments are always welcome.

A la carte items range from \$0.50 to \$1.50 and are strictly optional to purchase. If families do not want their children to have the option of purchasing a la carte items, please inform the Café Manager or Cashier.

If your child has allergies to any foods, please send in a doctor's note. If your child has a milk allergy and would like juice served to them at lunch, the doctor's prescription must state that juice should be substituted for milk.

Healthy Café Prices:

Breakfast - \$1.00 (full pay); \$0.30 (reduced price*)
Lunch - \$2.50 (K-6th full pay); \$0.40 (reduced price*)

Free and *Reduced prices are for students who qualify for either a free or a reduced price meal according to the Federal School Lunch Program. All families are strongly encouraged to fill out free and reduced lunch forms during our registration. If you would like a form, please contact the front office or the café.

BIRTHDAY POLICY

Odyssey has adopted a Birthday Celebration Policy, which solely focuses on the essence and uniqueness of each child. Birthday recognition timing 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. The consumption of foods of any variety is prohibited. For more information on the school's Wellness Policy or Birthday Policy, please visit our website at www.odysseycharterschool.com.

TARDY POLICY

After safety, student learning is our top priority. Students are expected to be in their seats by 7:55 a.m. ready to learn. Students arriving to school after 8 a.m. will need to be walked into the office by a parent and signed-in to obtain a tardy slip and enter the classroom.

OCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Parents and staff are encouraged to attend Board of Directors meetings. Board meetings begin at 5:15 p.m. The Odyssey Board of Directors meetings for the 2012-2013 school year are as follows: August 28, 2012, October 23, 2012, January 22, 2013 (Annual Board Meeting), April 23, 2013, June 25, 2013