



ODYSSEY
CHARTER SCHOOL

NEWS

AUGUST 2011

"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.

PARDON OUR DUST!

Odyssey Charter School is having our front walkway covers installed in the coming weeks. School arrival and dismissal will take place as usual from 7:45 a.m. until 8:15 a.m., and from 2:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Anyone arriving between 8:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. will need to enter the building through the far cafeteria door. We will have a temporary office set up during our construction phase. If all goes according to plan, the construction of the front walkway covers will be completed by the end of September.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR: TO THE BOOK FAIR AND BEYOND!

Reading is the most important skill you can teach a child. Of all the skills children learn, it is the one you can influence the most. We invite you to visit our Scholastic Book Fair and experience a celebration of reading that provides families the opportunity to get involved in a universal mission: encouraging kids to read every day so they can lead better lives.

Our Scholastic Book Fair theme – To the Book Fair and Beyond! – is part of an out-of-this-world reading event that brings to school a wonderful selection of fun, engaging, and affordable books kids want to read. Giving kids access to good books and the opportunity to choose their own books will motivate them to read more. And like most acquired skills, the more kids practice reading, the better they'll get. Reading is vital to every child's success, and raising kids as readers means getting involved while they're young. Now is the time. Since there will never be a substitute for a parent's direct involvement in his/her child's education, please make plans to visit our Book Fair. Hope to see you there!

Book Fair Dates: August 26-September 2, 2011

Shopping Hours: During the school day

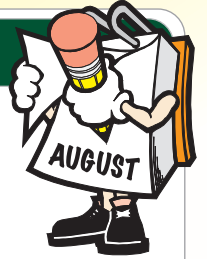
Special Events: Open Houses on Monday and Wednesday, from 5:00-7:30 pm

Odyssey's Media Specialist and loving it! Mrs. Linda Baker

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Mr. Hoffman is looking for a quality donation of an electric guitar. Please, no Walmart brand guitars. Also a parent choreographer is needed to help choreograph dances for a children's version of the Nutcracker. Email hoffmang@odysseycharterschool.com if you can help.

CALENDAR



- ▶ August 25 – OCS Board Meeting
- ▶ August 26 - Early Release Day
- ▶ August 29-September 2 – Book Fair
- ▶ August 29 – Pre-K-2nd grade Open House
- ▶ August 31 – 3rd-5th grade Open House
- ▶ September 5 – Labor Day – Holiday for all
- ▶ September 8 – 6th-8th grade Open House
- ▶ September 12 – Professional Development Day – Student Holiday

Early Release Dates/Dress Down – Clean Up Days

Odyssey has 8 Early Release Dates this year. Students in K-4th grade are released at 1:15. Students in 5th-8th grades are released at 1:30 p.m.

August 26, September 30, October 28, November 18, January 27, February 24, March 23, April 27

On the last Friday of each month, students are allowed to dress down out of uniform. Students must still be in compliance with the Brevard County Dress Code. On Dress Down days we will use part of the day to care for our learning environment, both indoors and outdoors.

Substitutes Needed

We are looking for a few spectacular substitute teachers for our Sub Pool. Qualifications include: high school diploma (minimum); successful passing of fingerprint and background clearance (\$60.00); and excellent classroom management. Please contact Michelle Sutton at 321.733.0442 ext. 103 or suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com if you are interested.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

If you are using the car loop we require that you follow the posted speed limit of 5 m.p.h. or less from the time you enter the driveway until you pull out of the driveway. For the safety of all children, we also ask that you refrain from using cell phones while you are in the car loop. Children must be dropped off at the designated orange cones in front of the main entrance. In order to keep our students safe, they are not permitted to exit the car in any other area of the car loop.

During arrival and dismissal times, left turns are not permitted out of the driveway. This helps keep the traffic flowing. Students may not arrive on campus before 7:30 a.m.

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

Please do not park at Pineapple Cove and walk your child to or from school. We do not have permission to use their parking lot for arrival or dismissal.

STUDENT CHECK-OUT

Students may be checked out of school by their parent, legal guardian or a designee specified in writing by the parent or legal guardian. When checking a student out of school, please present photo identification to our front office staff.

In order to maintain the order and focus in our classrooms, children will not be called from class to retrieve items brought to them during the school day. If a student forgets an item, we ask that you keep the item at home and have the student bring it to school the next day. If a student forgets lunch items, the front office will notify the teacher before the student's lunch period and the student will pick up the lunch item on the way to the café.

Students may not be checked out after 2:00 p.m. Any exceptions to this rule must be approved by the principal.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are looking for several fingerprinted volunteers who might be interested in helping out in the cafeteria for lunch duty and/or in the clinic to help with minor student 'boo-boos'. If you would like to volunteer your time (for volunteer hours, of course) please contact Donna Marcinik at 321-733-0442 ext. 101, or marcinikd@odysseycharterschool.com.

STUDENT MEDICATION

Any students who require medication during the school day, must have a parent check in the medication through the front office, and fill out a medication form. Students may not bring medication to school at any time. The only exception to this rule is that a student may carry an asthma inhaler if a doctor deems it medically necessary. The parent would still need to check this in through the front office with a written script from the doctor stating that the child must carry the inhaler with them at all times.

EDLINE

We will be launching our Edline pages this school year. Edline provides students the opportunity to have online access to their classroom information, including assignments and grades. The service also provides parents the opportunity to stay connected with their children's teacher(s) and to follow their child's progress in completing assignments and keep up to date with their child's grades in each class. Parents must have a username and password which will be provided at Open House. To obtain your username/password, you must present photo identification.

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OPEN HOUSE DATES

Our open houses will be held on the following dates:

- Pre-K through 2nd grades: Monday, August 29, 6:30 p.m.
- 3rd through 5th grades: Wednesday, August 31, 6:30 p.m.
- 6th through 8th grades (middle school): Thursday, September 8, 6:30 p.m.

The first two open houses coincide with our Book Fair. We encourage you to drop by the media center and shop for excellent reading material for your child! *Note: during Open Houses we are allowed to use the Pineapple Cove parking lot.*

HEALTHY CAFÉ INFORMATION

Odyssey has a full service cafeteria ready to serve healthy, fresh meals made daily for all of our school community and their families. At any time parents and siblings are more than welcome to sign in at the front office, and share lunch with their child in the healthy café.

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 and note on the check how they would like it dispersed. 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, please inform the café manager or cashier.

If your child has allergies to any foods please send a doctor's note. If your child has a milk allergy and would like juice served to them at lunch, the 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 (elementary full pay); \$2.80 (7th-8th grade full pay); \$0.40 (reduced price)

Free and Reduced prices are for students who qualify for either a free or a price reduced meal according to the Federal National School Lunch Program. All students are strongly encouraged to fill out free and reduced forms during our registration.

OCS BOARD MEETINGS

Parents and staff are encouraged to attend board meetings. Our board meetings for the 2011-2012 school year are as follows:

August 25, 2011, October 27, 2011, January 26, 2012 (Annual Board Meeting), April 26, 2012, June 14, 2012

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 321-676-8737, ext. 2001.