



ODYSSEY
CHARTER SCHOOL

NEWS

SUMMER 2010

"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

- ▶ **July 21:** K-5th registration at 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. & 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.
- ▶ **July 22:** 6th-8th registration at 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.
- ▶ **July 29:** OCS Board Meeting at 4 p.m.

Odyssey Charter School Hours

Kindergarten – 4th Grade: 8:00-2:30

5th – 8th Grade: 8:00 – 2:45

Students may arrive at 7:45 a.m.



IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

All new and returning students are required to attend registration.

Registration will be held on the following dates and times:

K-5th:	July 21st 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. & 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.
6th-8th:	July 22nd 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.

Families who have children in both elementary and middle school may attend registration for both children on July 21st.

Fees due at registration:

K-8th:	\$3.00 Science Lab Fee
5th-8th:	\$3.00 Technology Fee

Open House Dates and Supply Lists will be available online and in the front office after July 12th.

Required Registration Documents:

Kindergarten Students

- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Health form with the following vaccinations
 - 5 doses of DTP/DtaP
 - 4 doses of Polio
 - 2 doses of Hepatitis B
 - 2 doses of Varicella or verification of chicken pox listed
 - Physical examination completed within the last year

7th and 8th Grade Students

- TD Booster or proof of any form of tetanus within 4 years and physical completed within the last year.

New Students

- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Health form with the following vaccinations
 - 5 doses of DTP/DtaP
 - 4 doses of Polio
 - 2 doses of Hepatitis B
 - 2 doses of Varicella or verification of chicken pox listed
 - Physical examination completed within the last year
 - 7th and 8th grade students TD booster or proof of any form of tetanus within 4 years and physical completed within the last year.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

Please allow me to welcome our new Interim Principal, Mrs. Wendi Nolder. At the same time, we would like to express our thanks and wish Dr. Revis and Mr. Orris well in their future endeavors. Mrs. Nolder graduated from Western Maryland College with her degree in Mathematics/Secondary Education and recently earned her Master's Degree from Florida Tech in Elementary Science Education. She is a founding teacher of Odyssey Charter School who spent her first year at Odyssey teaching 4th-6th grade math and science and finished teaching Montessori kindergarten. Mrs. Nolder has been with Odyssey since its inception and is deeply aware of its mission and vision for children and all aspects of the school's programs. Mrs. Nolder is also a gifted endorsed teacher and recently finished her certification in Educational Leadership. Please welcome her to her new position.

I am also pleased to announce the opening of our new Middle School Campus addition. The campus contains several large classrooms, a new computer lab, and a multi-purpose room which can be used for light athletic activities and as a general gathering area. The design of our new addition mirrors our current facility. Large windows shed natural sunlight into the large spacious classrooms. The paint is low VOC and is a color that both soothes and engages the middle school student. As in the other areas of our building, the air filtration system is equipped with a hepa-filtration system that provides students with the freshest air. We welcome our middle school students to their new campus home.

Sincerely,
Constance Ortiz

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Odyssey Families,

As we move into the 2010-2011 school year, we look forward to another year with your student. There have been many changes over the summer but we have been working hard to prepare the school for the upcoming school year. We are excited about finally being able to move into our newly finished middle school wing and breathe a sigh of relief at the extra, needed room. We have brought in some wonderful new additions: Montessori Philosophy Training for many of our teachers, beginning Montessori certification training for several of our teachers, Carnegie Math for our Middle School, and a Technology Teacher for our new Computer Lab! We are excited to move forward in these areas, while continuing to adhere to the special qualities of Odyssey Charter School as a holistic educational experience for your child.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Wendi Nolder M.Ed.

WELCOME NEW TEACHERS AND STAFF

We would like to welcome some new additions to our Odyssey family. Over the summer we have recruited several new teachers that will further support our mission to educate the whole child. These teachers are highly qualified in their disciplines and will be an excellent resource for your children as they move into a new school year.

- 2nd grade - Tobey Carpenter
- 6th-7th Language Arts - Amie Perschnick
- 6th-7th Social Studies/Science - Yoni Zimm
- 7th-8th Science - Dr. Julie Sereno
- Technology Teacher - Marlene Cardenas

FCAT RESULTS

FCAT results for students in grades 4 through 7 will be available at registration on July 21 and 22. Parents wishing to receive the FCAT results before that date may pick them up in the office after July 12 between 2 and 4 p.m. All 8th grade FCAT results will be mailed directly to the student's home after July 12.

STUDENT CHECK-OUT

If you wish to check out your child for a doctor's appointment or for any other reason, please make arrangements to do so **before 2:00 p.m.**

The office is unable to process ANY bus or car driver changes over the phone.

If you need to make a change you **MUST** submit a note to your child's homeroom teacher the day any changes are needed. Keep in mind, we cannot allow your child to leave the school with anyone that is not on file with the Front Desk. If you need to add someone, you must come in to the front office and make the change. The safety of your child is of the utmost importance to us all.

Please be prepared to show your identification when picking up a student. Students will not be released unless we are able to confirm that the adult is on their pick up list.

EARLY RELEASE DAYS

Early Release Days are established to provide time for meaningful, school-determined staff development during regular school hours at the school site. They are intended to reduce travel and some after school staff development activities by having staff development for employees during their regular working hours.

On these days, K-4th grade students must be picked up by 1:30 p.m. and 5th through 8th grade students must be picked up by 1:40 p.m. Younger students may wait for pick-up with their older siblings. Children not picked up promptly in the car loop will be taken to our After Care program and a drop-in fee of \$10 will be assessed per student.

School food service will operate as usual and lunch will be served before students are dismissed.

These days are counted as part of the 180 school days for students, and only students are "released early."

Early Release Dates at 1:30:

- Friday, August 27
- Friday, September 24
- Friday, October 29
- Friday, November 19
- Friday, January 28
- Friday, February 25
- Friday, March 25
- Friday, April 29

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Volunteering is a requirement for each family to attend Odyssey; 18 hours for 1 child, and 25 hours for 2 or more children. There are many volunteer opportunities at Odyssey as well as the Read Aloud Program at home. Parents can get up to 4 hours per month to read to their children and log their time on the Read Aloud form that can be downloaded from our website.

HEALTHY CAFÉ

Welcome to the Odyssey Charter School Healthy Café.



Odyssey has a full service cafeteria ready to feed a healthy, fresh meals made daily to 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, come in and share lunch with your child.

Payment for breakfast and lunch can be made by check or cash. Prepayment is always welcome. This should be sent in to your child's teacher in the morning. You can make out one check for multiple children and note how you want it dispersed on the check. A la cartes range from .50 to \$1.50 and are strictly optional to purchase. If you don't want your child to have the option of purchasing A la carte, let us know. If your child has allergies to any foods please send a doctor's note. The prescription must state that juice be substituted for milk.

Healthy Café Prices

- Breakfast Daily- \$1.00 (Reduced Price \$.30)
- Breakfast Weekly- \$5.00
- Breakfast Adults- \$2.00
- K-6 Daily Lunch- \$2.40 (Reduced Price \$.40)
- K-6 Weekly Lunch- \$12.00
- 7-8 Daily Lunch- \$2.80 (Reduced Price \$.40)
- 7-8 Weekly Lunch- \$14.00
- Adult Lunch-\$3.50
- Ala Carte (extras)- \$.60-\$2.00

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 encouraged to fill out free and reduced forms during our registration.

STUDENT PLANNERS

Student planners will be provided to all 3-8 grade students through student fees. The planners are designed to teach organizational skills. They also contain weekly calendars so that our students can track their assignments and grade in each subject area. A space for parent signatures is also available. **Parents are asked to bring the planners with them during parent/teacher/student conferences.**

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation will be provided to children who live 2 to 4 miles from the school and further based upon varying student population needs. At registration, a table will be set up for families who wish to sign up for bus service. Students who live less than two miles from the school are not eligible for bus transportation. Students may be driven to school, may ride their bicycle with a helmet or may walk to school.

ENRICHMENT

Odyssey Charter School offers an enrichment program which provides before and after school child care. Students will have time during our afternoon enrichment program to do homework. A healthy snack will be provided and students will have an activities planed daily.

- Registration Fee \$25.00 per family
- Before Care \$35.00 per child per week
- After Care \$50.00 per child per week
- Before and After Care \$65.00 per child per week
- Siblings will receive a 10% discount
- School Readiness vouchers are accepted



SUMMER READING

Keep your child reading over the summer! Studies show that children who read over the summer are better able to maintain their reading skills than those children who do not read. Participating in a summer reading program has been proven to help children maintain these skills because over the summer months these children are encouraged to read both for fun and for enjoyment.

Tips:

- Set a book goal for the summer.
- Set a regular time for reading for all family members.
- Show an interest in the stories your child discovers.
- Read to your child.
- Read yourself!

http://www.educationworld.com/summer_reading/

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Uniforms are required. Our uniforms can be purchased at School Time (723-3223) or online at www.schooltimeuniforms.com. Their location is 4175 West New Haven, near Sam's club and Cinema World on 192.

Students may wear either green or white odyssey polos and khaki pants, shorts, capris skirts or skorts. Shorts and skirts must reach mid thigh or below in length.

PRESCHOOL

The preschool program has expanded dramatically since the addition of our Voluntary Prekindergarten program last school year. We are excited to announce the addition of a new preschool classroom. The new Montessori classroom will be beautifully equipped with materials for our Voluntary Prekindergarten children. Voluntary Prekindergarten registration information is available at our front desk. The preschool also accepts school readiness vouchers for our students who participate in our full day tuition based preschool.

MEDICATION

Prescription, non-prescription and over the counter medication must be submitted to the school in the original container along with written permission from the parent explaining when to administer the medication and the dosage. A form for administration of medication should be filled out in the school office and signed by the parent or guardian.

Students are not permitted to possess medication at any time.

NEW PROGRAMS

There are a number of exciting new programs that will be implemented during the 2010-11 school year. Each program has been selected to support the learning environment of Odyssey Charter School.

Montessori Live Philosophy Training

The Montessori philosophy is a corner stone of the educational foundation at Odyssey Charter School. To further cement the teachers and staff's Montessori education and development we have introduced Montessori philosophy training through Montessori Live. At the conclusion of the training the teachers will be able to help facilitate student learning through a problem-based methodology wherein learners seek solutions to everyday problems and correct mistakes on their own.

Professional Learning Communities

Professional Learning Communities is an initiative adopted by Odyssey Charter School. The school will develop learning communities within grade level and subject level. This will allow teachers to share their best practices and assist in providing continuity of the curriculum. Student learning will be enhanced as faculty members analyze both program and student results and work collaboratively to develop strategies to assist in your child's academic growth.

Response to Intervention

This year Odyssey Charter School will embark on a new federally mandated process called Response to Intervention (RtI). Response to Intervention is a classroom based general education process that will help our children by integrating assessment and intervention. Children at risk for poor learning outcomes will be identified and scientifically researched interventions will be provided and monitored.

Carnegie Learning for Middle School Math

Carnegie Learning® will help our middle school students by integrating conceptual and procedural knowledge needed to be successful when they enter an Algebra course. It will also help those students who are exhibiting gaps in their mathematical knowledge and skills through remediation.

Measures of Academic Progress

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), is a state- aligned computerized assessment program that will give parents and teachers information they need to help our children. This is done by providing data on individual areas of strength as well as need which will assist with and improve teaching and learning.

KEEP UP TO SPEED
AND CHECK OUR
SCHOOL WEBSITE
WEEKLY!

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 identified person 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

OUR FACULTY & STAFF



Administration:

Principal - Wendi Nolder M.Ed.
Administrator/Science Consultant - Joe Kroto
Guidance Counselor/Student Services - Janine Frahm
Office Manager/Montessori Preschool and Before/Aftercare Director- Michelle Sutton M.Ed.
Facility Manager - Mark Grant
Technology Specialist - Danny Wentworth
Registrar - Ria Tutzarakis
Health Technician/Title I Parent Liaison/
Volunteer Coordinator - Donna Marcinik
ESE Secretary - Shirley Meyer

Teachers:

Preschool - Martha Brown
Preschool - TBA
Kindergarten - Nancy Keane/Angela Madden
Kindergarten - Alice House/Jessica House
1st Grade - Nathalie Arribas/Donna Mayo
1st Grade - Lindsay Chambers/Renee Grant
2nd Grade - Sherry Love/Tobey Carpenter
2nd Grade - Kathryn Archibald/Cherilyn Rouzer
3rd Grade - Julia Apple/Valarie Gonzalez
3rd Grade - Mandi Rasch
3rd Grade - MaryAnn Everington/Debora Munoz
4th Grade - Kimberly Kelly (LA/SS)
4th Grade - Amanda Kassabian (MA/SC)
4th Grade - Alexis Rotstein
5th Grade - Pamela Mann (LA/SS)
5th Grade - Elayne Ferris (MA/SC)
5th Grade - Jennifer Breinlinger (LA/SS)
5th Grade - Tara Jankovic (MA/SC)
6th-7th Language Arts - Amie Perschnick
6th-7th Math - Carol Chisolm
6th-7th Social Studies/Science - Yoni Zimm
7th-8th Language Arts - Stephanie Williams
7th-8th Math - Audrey O'Dea
7th-8th Social Studies - Vicki von Saman
7th-8th Science - Dr. Julie Sereno
Technology Teacher - Marlene Cardenas

Specialists:

Art - Karina Warren
Media Specialist - Linda Baker
Music - Glenn Hoffman
P.E. - Dina Ramos/Gomer Morgan
ESE - Linda Monfredo/Jolene Madaffari
Speech Pathologist - Dayana Miraglia

Paraprofessionals:

Christina Rubado
Kristina Anderson
Barbara Marcus
Permanent Sub - Stacie Hunt
Math Tutor - Kaye Heasley

Support Staff:

Maintenance - Bill Marra/Tom Dunn
Bus Drivers - Ana Coto, Martha Perez, Chris Tomlinson, Rob Seneschal

Enrichment Staff:

Katie Coates

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