

*"Committed to academic excellence and the education of the whole child"*

## Our Mission For Every Child

The mission of Odyssey Preparatory Academy 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.

## Mid-Year Wishes from Ms. Rachel

It is hard to believe that we are almost halfway through our school year. The first two marking periods have been amazing at Odyssey Preparatory Academy and our students are focused, engaged and actively learning each and every day. As I shared with families at our open house, OPA has set academic learning goals for this school year, which includes 80% proficiency school-wide on the Fountas and Pinnell Reading Benchmark. This means that we expect that our students will read on grade level and I am proud to share that our students and staff are working hard to reach this goal.

We are entering our second assessment window for assessing student reading levels. Please be sure to ask your child what level they are reading (if they can't tell you, please ask their teacher!). OPA is also focused on our mathematics goal; to increase our Florida State Assessment percentage by 10 points. Our students have been working hard to reach this goal, and we have seen steady growth over the last two marking periods.

Finally, I want to share the great news that came from the Florida Department of Education, OPA's "simulated" school grade is a C. This is an increase of two levels over the first year of operation of the school. While it is not our end-goal, it does show the wonderful progress and ability of our students, families and staff. We know that OPA will be the shining star in Palm Bay and thank everyone for their support of our wonderful school. Go OPA!

Warmly,

Ms. Rachel

## CALENDAR

### January

- 1/4 No School/Teacher Work Day
- 1/5 Classes Resume
- 1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27 Early Release
- 1/7 Parents as Partners Meeting 6 PM
- 1/8 Report Cards Sent Home
- 1/13 Early Release Day
- 1/18 MLK Holiday No School
- 1/25-1/29 Literacy Week
- 1/28 OPA Board Meeting 5:15 PM

### February

- 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24 Early Release
- 2/4 Parents as Partners Meeting 6 PM
- 2/5 3rd Interim Ends
- 2/15 Student Holiday
- 2/17 OPA Board Meeting 5:15 PM
- 2/26 OPA/OCS Family Dance

## Leadership Team

### Founder/Head of Schools

Ms. Constance Ortiz

### Leadership & Teacher Development

Mr. Gregory Turner

### Site Administrator, OPA

Ms. Rachel Roberts

### Discipline Dean

Mr. Mike Davis

### Literacy Coach

Ms. Charlotte Foreman

### Math Coach

Ms. Paulette B

### Science Coach

Dr. Jane Martin

## Tardy Policy

Students are expected to be in their seats and ready to learn by 8:00 AM. We open our doors for Breakfast for All at 7:45 AM. Students who arrive after 8:00 AM will be walked to the office for a tardy slip. Five accrued tardy slips equal an unexcused absence.

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## Early Checkout Policy

We understand that there are times when you need to pick your child up early for appointments or other family reasons. Should you need to check out your child early, you must notify the office by 3:15 PM. No early check-outs will be allowed after that time. Please remember that we do not take dismissal transportation changes over the phone. All changes made to your child's normal means of transportation home are required in writing. Email communication will not be an acceptable form of written notification.

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## Letters of Intent

Letters of Intent will be sent home with your student on Monday, Jan 11th and are due no later than Friday, Jan 15th. This form lets us know that you plan on having your student return to OPA next year. Your child's seat may not be reserved for the 2016-2017 school year if this form is not completed and returned. If your student will not be returning to OPA next year please complete one form per family indicating this. Any family that does not turn in a form will be contacted. Siblings not in attendance this year but who plan on attending OPA next year, must complete a new student application. This application is available at the front desk or on our school website.

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## OPA Preps for the District Spelling Bee

Our students in grades 3 through 6 have been feverishly studying and preparing for the district spelling bee. Students were provided with study guides at the beginning of the year and we recently held a practice bee before the winter break. Timothy Waldron, a sixth grader, placed first in our practice bee. We will have another practice bee on January 8th and our official bee to determine our OPA representative on January 15th. The Brevard Public Schools District Spelling Bee is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24th, 2016.



## Odyssey Preparatory Academy's Science Lab Opens!

We are excited to share that our new K-6 Science Lab is ready and open for our students. Odyssey Preparatory Academy was fortunate to receive a large federal grant and utilized a portion of these funds to create a state-of-the-art science lab designed after the lab at Odyssey Charter School's flagship campus. Our students will now have access to meaningful, hands-on science activities under the direction of Dr. Jane Martin and our classroom teachers. Please feel free to stop in and check it out next time you are on campus.

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## Celebrate Literacy Week!

Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida is an annual event during which students, teachers, administrators and parents help students strengthen their literacy skills and become better prepared for academic success. Throughout this week students are encouraged to keep reading and improving in their language skills toward increasing student achievement in literacy. We know that if our students are going to shoot for the moon and achieve great success they must have the literacy skills required for 21st century careers.



The goal of "Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!" is to promote the enjoyment of reading for children and adults of all ages. Stay tuned for ways you can support your students reading achievement!

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### OPA 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

\*\*Ms. Joy Perez 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. Perez can be reached at perezj@odyssey-school.com or 321-345-4117.