

"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.

CALENDAR

- Oct. 24 – SAC meeting
- Oct. 25 – Dress Down/Clean Up Day
- Oct. 29 – Elementary Conference night
- Oct. 30 – Early Release Day
- Nov. 11 – Veteran's Day – Holiday for all – NO SCHOOL
- Nov. 12 – Picture Make-up Day
- Nov. 15 – Second Interim Ends
- Nov. 19-21 – Florida Charter School Conference - Orlando
- Nov. 20 – Early Release Day
- Nov. 21 – Elementary Interims issued (1st-5th)
- Nov. 22 – Dress Down/Clean Up Day
- Nov. 27-29 – Thanksgiving Holiday – NO SCHOOL

School Advisory Council (SAC) Committee Parent Elections:

Odyssey Preparatory Academy is looking to build its SAC committee for SY13-14. The School Advisory Council (SAC) is a group of school stakeholders that meet approximately once a month to ensure that our School Improvement Plan's implementation is on track. The SAC committee is made up of parents, teachers, community members, administrators, and other relevant stakeholders. The SAC team is open to all Odyssey parents.

A ballot was sent home with your child listing the names and short biographies of those who are interested in being SAC members. Our first SAC meeting will be held on Thursday, October 24, at 3:30 pm.

Car Loop Safety

We encourage all parents to use the car loop for drop off and pick up of children. **Students may NOT be dropped off before 7:45 am** and will need to be signed into the office if they arrive after 8:15am. Students dropped off prior to 7:45 am will be signed into before-school-care and will be assessed a fee. The student drop off area is in the southwest corner, near the cafeteria. Please make certain that a staff member is present before dropping your child. If you park in the parking lot and walk to drop off or pick up your child, please use the crosswalk. We want to set a good example for all our students. We thank you for your assistance in keeping our students safe.

Important Health and Wellness Reminders

Odyssey Preparatory Academy has a well-defined Wellness Policy in order to provide the healthiest learning environment for your child. Please review the policy on our website and click on the Healthy Café link: <http://www.odysseyprepacademy.com/cafe.html>.

With the holidays approaching, it is important to be familiar with our school policies. Students may not bring soda or candy to school at any time. In addition, we do not dress up for Halloween as it detracts from your child's education. Thank you for supporting our efforts to educate your child.



Water, Water, Everywhere!

Students need to remain well-hydrated in order to function at their highest potential during the course of the day, both outdoors and within the classroom. Why drink water?

- Water helps maintain the body's balance of fluids which aid in digestion, absorption, circulation, transportation of nutrients, and maintaining body temperature.
- Water helps energize muscles and helps keep the body hydrated.
- Water helps remove toxins from the body.
- Water helps us stay energized and alert!

Please avoid sending in flavored water or other beverages for your child to drink throughout the day. Just plain water will do wonders! Please be sure to send your child with a reusable water bottle, clearly marked with your child's name, every day.

Google group – sign up today!

Want to be more informed? Subscribe to our OPA Google News Group. Email information is sent out at least weekly to help you know what is happening on campus. Go to www.odysseyprepacademy.com, scroll down to the middle of the page, and sign up for OPAnews. It's that easy!

Educational Programs:

Positive Discipline in the Classroom

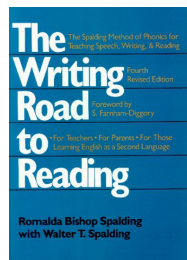
We have begun to implement our positive discipline in the classroom program. This program is designed to teach young people to become responsible, respectful and resourceful members of their communities, beginning with their classroom community.

- Helps children feel a sense of connection. (Belonging and significance)
- Is mutually respectful and encouraging. (Kind and firm at the same time.)
- Is effective long - term. (Considers what the child is thinking, feeling, learning, and deciding about himself and his world and what to do in the future to survive or to thrive.)
- Teaches important social and life skills. (Respect, concern for others, problem solving, and cooperation as well as the skills to contribute to the home, school or larger community.)
- Invites children to discover how capable they are. (Encourages the constructive use of personal power and autonomy.)

The Spalding Method – The Writing Road to Reading

We are thrilled to introduce The Spalding Method -- Writing Road to Reading as an integral component of our reading curriculum. In The Writing Road to Reading, all elements of the language are integrated in spelling, writing, and reading lessons, and instruction is explicit, systematic, interactive, diagnostic, and multisensory and includes:

- Phonemic awareness
- Systematic phonics
- High-frequency vocabulary
- Word meanings and usages
- Word parts
- Grammar
- Composition
- Literary appreciation
- Text structure
- Fluency
- Listening
- Reading comprehension



The success of *The Spalding Method* with diverse students, even those who have learning disabilities or are English Language Learners, is in large part due to the integration of scientifically-based content and methodology. *The Writing Road to Reading* is a favorite of classroom teachers because Spalding-taught students become competent and enthusiastic readers, spellers and writers. It is used with great success in the United States, Canada, Australia, Central America, Europe, Singapore and Taiwan.

National Geographic Science

We are excited to bring in our new science curriculum, National Geographic Science. It is correlated to our state standards, and is a research-based program that brings science learning to life through inquiry and by building scientific literacy. The curriculum includes many hands-on science activities, reading material at various reading levels, and an online component to support student learning.

Early Reading Mastery Materials

Our Early Reading Mastery Materials have arrived and are busily being prepared for classroom use. The materials are Montessori-style independent hands-on lessons focusing on foundational skills in reading, focusing on phonemic awareness, letter recognition and the alphabetic principle, decoding and word identification, and preparation for books. These materials will help fill in the gaps for our struggling students, and will build the foundation for our youngest students. Thank you to the many parents and staff members that have been working to cut, glue, laminate, and prepare the materials so that the children can use them.

5517.01 Policy Against Bullying and Harassment

Odyssey Preparatory Academy follows the Brevard Public Schools Student Code of Conduct. In response to a new state law, the Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for all Students Act, the Brevard County School Board recently adopted a policy that prohibits bullying and harassment. The policy ensures that all students, employees, and volunteers learn and work in an environment that is safe, secure, and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. Florida is now one of 32 states with a law regarding bullying in schools.

The Policy defines Bullying as systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employee and may involve but is not limited to: teasing, social exclusion, threat, intimidation, stalking, including cyber stalking, physical violence, theft, sexual, religious, or racial harassment, public humiliation, and destruction of property.

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 Preparatory Academy 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 the School Principal, Ms. Wendi Nolder, nolderw@odysseyprepacademy.com, 321-345-4117. Anonymous reports can be made by calling the Speak – Out Hotline at 1-800-423-8477.

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

To report bullying at our charter school go to <http://www.brevard.k12.fl.us/portals/parents/pdf/Form7ParentReporting.pdf>

PAST EVENTS:



Book Fair a Success!

OPA's first book fair was a success, in large part due to the volunteers who contributed their valuable time and can-do attitudes! Over the course of four days, the OPA book fair generated \$1600 in sales—which resulted in a profit of \$640 Scholastic dollars. All of the money spent at the OPA book fair helps support our school. The funds will go toward outfitting our classroom libraries. Thank you for making our very first book fair a great success, and remember to keep reading!

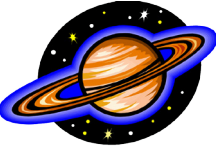
Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance

In honor of Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, Odyssey Prep students were visited by the Palm Bay Fire Department, the Palm Bay Police Department, the SWAT team, the Coast Guard, and the Civil Air Patrol. Students learned about each of these public service positions and about how the men and women in our city work each day to help keep us safe.

Green Apple Day of Service activities

On Friday, September 27, Odyssey Preparatory Academy students and staff participated in our first Green Apple Day of Service. The Green Apple Day of Service provides parents, teachers, students, companies and local organizations the opportunity to transform their school into healthy, safe and productive learning environments through local service projects. Our students and staff provided service in the following ways: cleaning up hallways, washing walls, pulling weeds, recycling water bottles, and picking up trash outdoors. Everyone did a wonderful job caring for their school environment, an important part of our school's mission.

Star Gazing Party



Odyssey Preparatory Academy (OPA) would like to thank the Brevard Astronomical Society (BAS) for conducting a successful Star Party on Friday, October 4th. Six very large telescopes were set up and used to demonstrate the beauty and variety of celestial bodies. Ms. Wyman and Ms. Graham's 4th and 5th grade classes were able to see globular clusters, which are millions of stars grouped into what looks like one small area. Galaxies such as the Andromeda galaxy and another neighboring galaxy were visible through one of the large telescopes. The constellations of Sagittarius and Scorpio were easily identified in the night sky, as well as the Northern Cross, but when viewed with a telescope, other stars and objects were found within the constellations. The planet Venus was particularly bright and in its 3-quarter phase, which was a sight to behold. The gentlemen of BAS that provided the telescopes were extremely knowledgeable. All attendees left knowing more about the night sky than when they arrived.

Thirty-three faculty, students, and family members were in attendance. Everyone was able to view numerous cosmic sights with guidance from the astronomers. OPA plans to invite BAS to return in the spring, during which time we would like the entire school to attend. More telescopes will be present and new constellations will be visible. We look forward to providing this learning experience to all future attendees.

Harvest meal and Open House



Thank you to all who joined us for our first annual Harvest Meal and Open House. We had a total of 135 join us for a delicious dinner menu including: roasted chicken thigh, roasted root vegetables, steamed basmati rice, a sampling of chicken noodle soup, and a full salad bar that included roasted beats and feta cheese and homemade honey lemon dressing! It was a wonderful dinner and an informative open house evening.

International Walk to School Day

International Walk to School Day is a global event that involves communities from more than 40 countries walking and biking to school on the same day. It began in 1997 as a one-day event. Over time, this event has become part of a movement for year-round safe routes to school and a celebration. On Wednesday, October 9, Odyssey Preparatory Academy students and staff enjoyed a successful event on a beautiful morning. Students and staff enthusiastically participated by walking the perimeter of our fields. Kindergarten through second grade walked approximately 700 meters, while 3rd-5th grade walked about 900 meters. Thank you to all our participants!



Patriot Day & National Day of Service and Remembrance



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Brevard Astronomical Society (BAS) Star Party

Grievance Procedures

- Step 1: Request Teacher conference to clarify issue
 - Step 2: Contact Principal if unresolved with the teacher
 - Step 3: **Parent Liaison
 - 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
- **Dan Kuhar, Director of Odyssey Charter School, 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. Mr. Kuhar can be reached at kuhard@odysseycharterschool.com, or 321-345-4117.