



Odyssey Preparatory Academy

1350 Wyoming Drive S.E. • Palm Bay, Florida 32909 • 321-345-4117



NOV-DEC 2018 NEWSLETTER

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



SCHOOL-BASED LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ms. Constance Ortiz
Founder

Ms. Wendi Nolder
Principal/Site Administrator

Ms. Pat Carvil,
**Assistant Principal,
Curriculum & Instruction**

Mr. Mike Davis,
**Assistant Principal,
Facilities & Transportation**

Ms. Da'neen Cuthbertson,
Instructional Coach

Ms. Alicia Cohen,
Family Engagement & Dean of Students

Ms. Alexis Rotstein,
ESE Coordinator

Ms. Kinasya Davis,
Guidance

Note from our Principal, Ms. Nolder:

Our 2018-2019 school year is off to a strong start as we finish the first quarter. We are happy to have welcomed back our returning scholars and open our arms to our new Olympians. We are excited to have tied with our sister school – Odyssey Elementary – in our student performance last year, and to have outperformed all of the traditional public elementary schools in Palm Bay.

We are excited to share some new things at Odyssey Preparatory Academy, including: starting our first National Elementary Honors Society; the introduction of new clubs and afterschool activities; continuation of athletic development opportunities for grades K-6; more opportunities for parents to get involved in our Parents as Partners (PasP) Parent Organization; NEW opportunities for GATEway (Gifted and Talented) students during weekly sessions; more rigorous online science curriculum through Discovery Education; and the opening of the new STEAM lab (where ART is more deeply infused with the Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, and Mathematics). Look for beautiful pieces of art posted throughout the OPA halls when you visit!

For information about these exciting components of our school, please contact these staff members: For general parent information, please contact Ms. Cohen, Dean of Students and Family Engagement Specialist at cohen@odysseyprepacademy.com. For curriculum information, please contact Ms. Carvil, Assistant Principal of Curriculum, at carvil@odysseyprepacademy.com. For any other extra-curricular activities (including athletics), please contact Mr. Davis, Assistant Principal of Operations, at davism@odysseyprepacademy.com and he will forward your question to the appropriate staff member.

As a college-prep school, we will continue to offer weekly tutoring during Success Saturday for grades 3-6 starting in October from 9:00-11:30AM. In addition, we have added Finish Friday, a facilitated homework completion time from 3:00-4:00PM on early release Fridays, for 6th grade students to get assistance in keeping up with the rigorous course work and homework expectations.

In addition to offering your student these great opportunities, we want to offer you the chance to learn how to support your son or daughter at home. Learning to use things like Edline (moving to FOCUS in October, 2018) so that you can check grades, understanding when/where tutoring is available, and helping you have smooth and regular communication with our teachers/staff is important to us. We want to hear from you about what you need to help us help your child reach his/her full potential in all areas of life. That is our mission and we need you to help us accomplish it. Let's work together this year to ensure the success of our students, our school, and our community.

Our team looks forward to working collaboratively with each of you. If you have any questions, concerns, or needs, please email me directly at nolderw@odysseyprepacademy.com or call 321-345-4117. *Please also consider liking us on Facebook and joining our school-wide REMIND app!*

FALL 2018 CALENDAR



Wednesday, November 21-23
No School – Thanksgiving Holiday

Thursday, November 29
Parents as Partners (PasP) Parent
Organization Meeting at 6:00pm

Friday, November 30
Dress Out of Uniform Day/Early Release @1:45pm

Saturday, December 1, 2018
Palm Bay Holiday Parade

Friday, December 7, 2018
Early Release @ 1:45pm

Friday, December 14, 2018
Early Release @ 1:45pm
Family Dance at 6:00pm

Monday, December 17, 2018
School Spelling Bee

Wednesday, December 19th-21st
Early Release @ 1:45pm

Friday, December 21, 2018
Dress Out of Uniform Day
Early Release @ 1:45pm

Monday, December 24- January 9th
Holiday and Winter Break

Starting NEHS

Odyssey Preparatory Academy is beginning a chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS). The NEHS was established in 2008 by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASPP) in cooperation with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) to recognize elementary students in both public and non-public elementary schools for their outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated personal responsibility, to provide meaningful service to the school and community, and to develop essential leadership skills in the students of elementary schools. The OPA NEHS chapter will recognize outstanding elementary students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship and responsibility and will work to develop leadership and promote service to the school and community for its members.

Homework Expectations

Homework is an important part of a child's learning experience. It is designed to teach responsibility of completing a task or tasks and is for the reinforcement of a skill previously taught in the classroom.

Your child will get the most benefit out of homework if:

- 1) There is a set time to work each night.
- 2) There is a place to do homework that is clean, well-lighted, quiet, and properly supplied. (Pencils, paper, eraser, etc.).
- 3) There is attention from a parent/guardian during this important part of the day. (CHECK YOUR CHILD'S AGENDA/HOMEWORK PACKET EACH NIGHT AND SIGN OFF THAT ALL WORK IS COMPLETED)
- 4) There is a plan to make sure that homework is returned each day.
- 5) Remember that homework is practice for your child and not for you.
- 6) Students are expected to spend an average of 20-30 minutes on homework at the primary grades (K-3) and an average of 45 minutes at the elementary grades (4-5), four days a week (Monday-Thursday).
- 7) Parents are encouraged to read to their children in the lower grades, and students in the upper grades should spend at least 30 minutes a day in silent reading at home.

Homework Help

Show your child that you think homework is important

- Check to see that it is completed. Even if you don't understand the assignment or don't speak English, you can still check to see that it is finished. Tell your child that you are proud of the work she is doing.

Don't be afraid to use your native language

- Talk with your child about what she is learning, and ask her to explain new concepts to make sure she understands them.

Study the same things in different ways and places

- Help your child learn about new words or content in a variety of ways. Talk about new vocabulary words several times over the course of the week, in different settings. This will help enrich your child's understanding of the word.



Switching from Edline to FOCUS

We recently moved from Edline to FOCUS, our new grading and communication system. You should have received your FOCUS pin in your child's October report card. Please reach out to your child's teacher or Mr. Davis, davism@odysseyprepacademy.com, if you have questions.

Title 1

Welcome back to a new school year! As a Title 1 school, ALL of OPA's students receive free breakfast and lunch every day. FSA scores are in. Please come to the front office to pick up your student's FSA scores if you have not already. If you would like to meet and discuss the scores, see Mrs. Clark in the front office to make an appointment with your student's teacher or with administration.

Parents and Community Members: We need your INPUT! Please join us at our Parents as Partners meetings each month where you can give us your input into our Schoolwide Plan, our Parent and Family Engagement Plan, and our School-Parent-Student Compact. There will be another opportunity for input at our Annual Title 1 Meeting as well.

Odyssey's SPAR (School Public Accountability Report) for the school year 20162017 is available at: http://doeweb-prd.doe.state.fl.us/eds/nclbpar/year1516/nclb1516.cfm?dist_schl=5_6507 There is a copy available in the front office in our Title 1 binder. You may request a copy and/or translation of the SPAR with the front office staff.

New Discovery Education Online Science

We are happy to announce that this year we have implemented the Discovery Education Science program. Discovery Education captures the minds and imaginations of students with the fascination of Discovery, tapping into students' natural curiosity and desire to learn. Our students will have online access to Discovery Education at school and at home. Discovery Education impacts the way students learn, breaking down barriers and moving beyond static textbooks to a digital delivery they already embrace. By using the below link, along with your user name and password provided by your child's teacher, students will be able to access assignments that their teacher has created for their class. Once logged in students can also use the search to find videos, interactives, images, games and more.

<https://login.discoveryeducation.com/?returnUrl=students.discoveryeducation.com>

For more information, contact your child's teacher.

iReady



We are excited to announce our school, for the second year, will implement i-Ready® Diagnostic & Instruction which will provide our students with an innovative diagnostic assessment and engaging instruction. The focus of this online program is reading and math. i-Ready Diagnostic & Instruction helps teachers to effectively assess their students and then provide individualized instruction based on each student's unique needs. i-Ready Diagnostic & Instruction assesses and teaches the following skill areas:

Reading

- Phonological Awareness
- Phonics
- High-Frequency Words
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension

Math

- Number and Operations
- Algebra and Algebraic Thinking
- Measurement and Data
- Geometry

How Can I Help My Child Get The Most Out Of i-Ready?

- Talk with your child about how practicing i-Ready Diagnostic & Instruction at home will help prepare for classwork.
- Explain that i-Ready Diagnostic & Instruction will show teachers where your child is doing well and which topics need further review.
- Encourage your child to use the tools provided during lessons (reference objectives, key terms, etc.) and to use scrap paper for math computation.
- Help your child identify and become familiar with the different parts of the student home page (My Assignments, MyStuff, MyProgress).
- Encourage your child to take each lesson and question seriously. Emphasize "think before clicking" as just clicking through will not give an accurate report of what your child knows and is able to do.
- Discuss your child's results by looking together at the "MyProgress" box.
- Contact your child's teacher about how often your child should practice at home, or with any additional questions about i-Ready Diagnostic & Instruction.

Instructions for Completing Online Lessons

1. Open an internet browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari)
2. Go to: login.i-ready.com
3. Enter your username and password. If you do not have your username and password, ask your teacher.
4. Select your state and click GO!
5. Select either Reading or Math. Your teacher will tell you which one to start with.

Grievance Procedures: **Step 1:** Request Teacher conference to clarify issue / **Step 2:** Contact Principal 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

**Mrs. Cindy Gilmore 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. Mrs. Gilmore can be reached at gilmorc@odysseycharterschool.com or 321-733-0442.

Carloop/Parking Lot Reminders

Parents – Please remember to do the following when picking up your Olympian during carline:

- 1) Please drive less than 5 miles per hour in the parking lot.
 - a. Please be mindful that there are children and adults walking to their cars in the morning and afternoon!
- 2) If you park and pick up, please remember that you need to come inside to pick up your child. All other students are picked up in the car line. Students may not be picked up in the walkup area in front of the building. This is for safety and security reasons.
- 3) Please save all disabled parking for those with disability placards.
- 4) Please do not pull into the left lane to go around another car, as to assure the safety of all students and staff.
- 5) Please have your blue card/name tag on their dashboard.
 - a. If you need a blue tag, to please go to the front office to get one.

Thank you, car loop has been running smoothly.

Breakfast Reminder

Please be on time for breakfast/drop off it starts at 7:30, and children are moving to their classrooms by 7:45 so to allow time to eat breakfast and not have children feeling rushed please give them ample time to start their day successfully.



Intervention

The purpose of Intervention is to give your child additional time and support in reading in order to enhance his/her literacy skills to become a successful life-long reader. Our goal is to teach your child strategies he/she can use independently to decode words and comprehend texts of all genre and reading level. Students are strategically placed in intervention groups that target their decoding, fluency, comprehension or vocabulary skills.

Yearbook

Did you know Yearbooks are still being sold in the front office? Come by and get your memories from the 2017-2018 school year at a discounted price of \$15.00. You can also purchase the 2016-2017 yearbook for a discounted rate of \$5.00.

