



Odyssey Preparatory Academy

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

SPRING 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

Dr. Monica Knight
Principal/Site Administrator

Mr. Paul Galloway
Assistant Principal

Ms. Alicia Cohen
Dean of Students

Ms. Caitlin Cummings
Instructional Coach

Ms. Paulette Brancaccio
Instructional Coach

Ms. Rebecca Estes
Social Worker

Ms. Deborah Wright
Office Manager, Elementary

Ms. Diane MacGilvary
Instructional Coach and After Care

Ms. Amy White
Director, Preschool/VPK and Before & After School Care

A Message from our Principal – Dr. Monica Knight

Dear Olympian Families and Community,

Our parents and families are our students' first and most important teachers. When parents and families are involved in their children's education, the children perform at higher levels and have more positive feelings about school. Many studies show that what families do is more important to children's success than family income and parent education level! How can you support your children's learning at home throughout the school year? Here are a few ideas:

- Partner with your children's teachers and school staff. Attend parent-teacher conferences. Keep in contact with your children's teachers. Ask questions and share concerns.
- Support your child academically. Read aloud to your child each evening (and record your hours for volunteer time!). Have a positive attitude about education. Encourage your child to read. Ensure your child knows/practices their math facts. Make sure your child completes homework. Help your child study/prepare for tests.
- Get involved with our school. Join our Parents as Partners (PasP) Parent Organization. Attend parent/student events. Volunteer at school.
- Encourage your child. Talk with your child about what they are learning. Encourage your child to be responsible and work independently. Encourage active learning – asking and answering questions, solving problems and exploring interests.

We have completed our midyear assessments, and we are excited to dig in deeply this semester and working to ensure that every child is growing and learning!

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at 321-733-0442 or at Knightm@odysseycharterschools.com. Let's finish the year strong!

Sincerely,

Dr. Monica Knight
Principal/Site Administrator

What's Happening in Spring

MARCH

- 3/19-3/23 Scholastic Book Fair
- 3/19 Scholastic Book Fair Opening Night
- 3/20 Elementary Report Cards Issued
- 3/21 Early Release Day
- 3/28 Early Release Day
- 3/30 Dress Out of Uniform Day

APRIL

- 4/2-4/6 Spring Break NO SCHOOL
- 4/9 Students Return
- 4/11 Early Release Day
- 4/13 Founder's Day
- 4/18 Early Release Day
- 4/20 End of 4th Interim
- 4/21 Founder's 5K
- 4/25 Early Release Day
- 4/27 Dress Out of Uniform Day
- 4/30 Lagoon Quest 4th Grade
- 4/30 Elementary Interims Issued

MAY

- 5/2 Early Release Day
- 5/7-5/11 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5/9 Early Release Day
- 5/11 St. Augustine Trip 4th Grade
- 5/16 Early Release Day
- 5/18 Dress Out of Uniform Day
- 5/21-5/23 Early Release Day/Exam Day
- 5/23 Last Day for Students
- 5/23 6th Grade Stepping Up



We are proud to inform you that Odyssey Preparatory Academy has been ranked 2nd place in the district for the number of minutes the students are reading outside of school hours. myOn is the first-of-its-kind personalized literacy environment that integrates technology and students' ability to match their reading level with their preferred choice of books into one comprehensive online literacy program.

As a family in our school you are provided free access to myOn. myOn provides you with infinite access to a growing collection of thousands of enhanced digital books that can be read anytime, anywhere there is an Internet connection, or offline on any device to which the free myOn app has been downloaded. In addition to implementing myOn throughout our school we are excited to give our families the opportunity to spend time with their children in an engaging, fun reading environment to build reading stamina and fluency.

We hope you find this program as exciting as we do, and will join us in continuing to make myOn a success. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact our coaches Ms. Brancaccio or Ms. Cummings, or your child's teachers.

Getting to Know I-Ready

You may have heard your student talk about I-Ready in the classroom or at home. If you were able to attend either our math or reading parent nights, you will have received information on how to help your child login to I-Ready at home.

I-Ready Instruction (grades K-6) provides each student with a personalized instruction plan based on the results of the I-Ready Diagnostic. Students at Odyssey Preparatory Academy take a Diagnostic at the beginning, middle and end of the year. This allows the teachers to meet each student's unique needs. Because the I-Ready Diagnostic is an adaptive assessment, teachers and parents can feel confident that each student's instructional path is highly prescriptive and built uniquely to meet each student's needs.

How can you help your child get the most out of I-Ready?

- Speak with your child about how using I-Ready will help him or her prepare for class work. Also explain that I-Ready will show teachers where your child is doing well and which topics need some more review.
- Encourage your child to take each lesson and quiz question seriously. Emphasize "thinking before clicking," because just clicking through will not give teachers an accurate report of what your child knows and is able to do.
- Help your child identify and become familiar with the different parts of the student dashboard.
- Encourage your child to use the tools that will appear at the bottom of the screen in some lessons.
- Discuss your child's results by looking at "My Progress" together to see the number of lessons your child has completed in I-Ready and the percentage of questions your child answered correctly in the quiz at the end of each lesson.
- Contact your child's teachers about how often your child should practice at home, or with any other questions about I-Ready.

Early Check-out for Students

Parents, we are asking that if you need to check out your elementary student early, that you do so by 2:30 PM. It can become a dismissal safety concern when students are checked out too close to the dismissal time. Students may be checked out of school by their parent or legal guardian. If you are checking your student out, please present your valid state-issued photo identification at our front office. Please remember that we do not take dismissal changes over the phone. All changes made to your child's normal means of transportation home are required in writing. We would also like to encourage you to make appointments for your child outside of our school hours in order to maximize your child's learning time and minimize classroom disruptions for all students. We thank you for your partnership!

FSA Testing Season is starting

Our first test, ELA Writing, for grades 4-6 will be on Tuesday, March 6th. It is important that parents talk to their student(s) about the assessments in order to keep them stress-free. Our students are well prepared so they have no need to worry. It is imperative that your student(s) has a good night sleep the night before the test and comes to school at 7:30 in order to have a good breakfast and a calm, settled morning.

We will have our annual FSA night for parents on Thursday, March 22nd. Please attend to receive details regarding the FSA assessments. The website, www.fsassessments.org has many resources for families. Just click on the 'students and families' link. Our tentative schedule for the rest of testing is below:

Grades 4-6 Writing: March 6th
3rd Grade Reading: April 11-12
6th Grade Math: April 16-17
5th Grade Reading: April 19-20
4th Grade Reading: April 23-24
6th Grade Reading: April 26-27
5th Grade Science: May 1-2
3rd Grade Math: May 3-4
5th Grade Math: May 7-8
4th Grade Math: May 10-11



Let's Talk about State Testing!

It's that time of year again when all students in the state of Florida prepare to take the state's standardized assessments.

According to the Florida Standards Assessment website, "Florida's K-12 assessment system measures students' achievement of Florida's education standards, which were developed and implemented to ensure that all students graduate from high school ready for success in college, career, and life. Assessment supports instruction and student learning, and test results help Florida's educational leadership and stakeholders determine whether the goals of the education system are being met."

<https://fsassessments.org/>

At Odyssey, the students and teachers have been working diligently to prepare for the various assessments. We would like to invite our families to participate in the preparation process as well. After all, "it takes a village." (Author, Unknown)

Preparing your Student

Have your student:

- 1) Get a good night's sleep the night prior to the day of testing
- 2) Have a good breakfast on test day
- 3) Relax!
- 4) Feel encouraged to do their best

FSA Resources for Parents can be found at:

<https://fsassessments.org/users/students-and-families.shtml>

Preparing Supplies

We provide our students with a special healthy snack on testing days. Would you like to contribute? Our options are:

Pretzels, Pretzel Goldfish, Whole Grain Goldfish (Plain, not multicolored) and Peppermints

Snacks should be individually packaged to allow one per student.

(We have about 60 students per grade level)

Preparing Time

In an effort to maintain a silent and calm testing environment for our students, we postpone our parent/child lunch dates until after testing. Only assigned and planned volunteers are requested to be on campus during FSA testing time.

If you would like to volunteer your time to help with monitoring our hallways during testing, please feel free to reach out to Mr. Paul Galloway-Assistant Site Administrator at gallowayp@odysseyprepacademy.com

Illness Guidelines



If your child will not be attending school for any reason, it is very important for you to call and notify the school office of the reason for the absence. This helps us to keep track of illnesses among our students. It also helps us be assured that your child is safe at home. With the arrival of colder weather, we have entered the cold and flu season. For the health of your child, other students, and school staff, it is important to know when your child should stay home due to illness.

Students should stay home if they have had any of the following symptoms in the last 24 hours: fever, fatigue, severe congestion and/or nasal excretions, vomiting and/or diarrhea, sore throat, aches and chills, nausea

Good Habits to Keep You and Others Healthy

- Wash your hands frequently. You may use soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rinse (alcohol rinses are available at all pharmacies and should contain at least 60 percent alcohol). Remember to wash your hands for 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Viruses are often spread after a person touches something that is contaminated with the virus and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick. If your coworker is ill, steer clear of his or her sneezes and coughs. When possible, avoid shaking hands with someone who is ill with a respiratory infection. If you are caring for an ill family member, wash your hands frequently and minimize proximity to his or her face.
- Cover your mouth or tuck it into your elbow when coughing or sneezing and encourage others to do so. Wash your hands afterward.
- Stay home if you have a respiratory infection when possible.

Handwashing is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of illness.

- Wash your hands often — when they are dirty, before eating, after using the restroom and after sneezing into a tissue
- Use soap and warm water and rub your hands together for at least 20 seconds before rinsing and drying.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are ok to use when your hands aren't visibly dirty, but hand washing is preferable
- Make it fun with kids – sing a song and model thoroughly soaping up!
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea — "the stomach bug" – are often transmitted via a fecal/oral route, meaning virus is shed in the stool, gets on hands, and then enters the body through the mouth. Thorough hand washing after using the bathroom helps prevent this type of illness.

How should you wash your hands?

- Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
- Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
- Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
- Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
- Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Cough Etiquette

- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands – use a tissue, or your shoulder or elbow

Uniform Policy Reminders

- All students are required to wear khaki or black UNIFORM STYLE pants, shorts, skirts or 'skorts'. Shorts, skirts and 'skorts' length must be at least mid-thigh. Legging style pants are not appropriate.
- Students must wear a collared polo shirt or a t-shirt. Student polo's and t-shirts must be solid green or blue. All shirts must bear the Odyssey Logo.
- Shoes must be closed in the back. Light-up shoes, flip-flops, slippers, or high heel shoes are prohibited.
- If a student chooses or needs to wear a jacket or sweat-shirt due to cold weather, it must be a solid color and in accordance with the individual schools' uniform guide.

Cold weather appropriate dress:

- Solid Black, Navy, or Gray jacket or sweatshirt (with or without an Odyssey logo)
- Long sleeve under shirts – solid color black, green, gray, navy, or white (only under uniform shirts)
- Leggings or stockings under skirts for girls – solid color; black, green, gray, navy, white (skirts and shorts MUST be mid-thigh or below)
- Shoes must be closed in the back. Light-up shoes, flip-flops, slippers, or high heel shoes are prohibited.
- Elementary Campus: Khaki or black UNIFORM STYLE pants/shorts/skirts (On cold days if students wear jeans they must bring uniform bottoms to change into at school)

Dress Down Day Reminders

- Students must adhere to the Brevard Public Schools Dress Code policy.
- Please wear shorts and skirts that are at least mid-thigh length
- Please do not wear items with holes or rips
- Please do not wear light-up shoes, flip-flops or sandals. Shoes must be closed in the back.

Parent's Right to Know

Each parent of a student at Odyssey Preparatory Academy has the right to request information about the professional qualifications of the student's teacher(s) and any paraprofessionals who serve the student. The information must be provided on request, and it includes, at a minimum, the following:

1. Whether the teacher is certified in the grade levels and subject areas he teaches;
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional certificate through which licensing criteria have been waived;
3. The bachelor's degree major of the teacher, and any other graduate degree or certification the teacher may hold, and the field or discipline of that degree or certification;
4. Whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Tardy Policy

Elementary students are expected to be in their seats and ready to learn by 8:00 AM. If you arrive at 8:00 or later, parents must park and walk their child into the office, sign them in, and have a tardy slip issued for admittance to class. Parents, please do not park in the fire lane – this is a safety concern. We thank you for making the effort to have your students to class on time each and every day.

Spelling Bee

Our 4th through 6th grade Spelling Bee finalists battled hard during our in-school Spelling Bee on January 26th. Congratulations to our winner, 6th grader Fatima Yaseen, and our runner-up, 4th grader Jude Lochlan! Fatima represented our school at the District Spelling Bee on March 2nd and came in 20th place in the district. Congratulations to our fantastic spellers!



Student Medication

Any student requiring medication should have it checked into the front office by a parent or legal guardian. Students may not bring medication to school at any time. If a student requires an asthma inhaler or epi-pen on his/her person, the inhaler or epi-pen must be checked in through the office and must be accompanied by a doctor prescription stating the child must carry it with them at all times.

Please also notify school administration of any medical conditions your child might have that you believe we should be aware of.

Read Aloud Program – for Volunteer Hours

The Read Aloud program is a wonderful way for parents to fulfill their volunteer hours while supporting their students academically, socially, and emotionally. In 1983, the U.S. Department of Education report "Becoming a Nation of Readers" found that, "the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children."

To participate in the Read Aloud program, parents should spend at least 15 minutes reading aloud to their child each day. In order to maximize your child's benefit, select a book that is two grades above their independent reading level. In order to receive volunteer hours for your involvement in the Read Aloud Program, simply complete the Read Aloud log provided by your classroom teacher or through the front office. You can turn in the log at the end of each month to your classroom teacher or to the front office. Ms. Alyssa Sferrazza will be recording the hours

For more information about the importance of reading aloud to your child, please visit Jim Trelease's web site at: <http://www.trelease-on-reading.com/>

5517.01 Policy Against Bullying & Harassment

Odyssey Preparatory Academy follows the Brevard Public Schools Student Code of Conduct. In response to state law the "Jeffery Johnson Stand Up for all Students Act", the Brevard County School Board adopted a policy that prohibits bullying and harassment. 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 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:

- Site Administrator: Dr. Knight, knightm@odysseycharterschool.com, 321-345-4117
- Anonymous Reports: Speak-out hotline, 1-800-423-8477
- Bullying Report Form: <http://www.brevard.k12.fl.us/forms/pdf/BullyingWitnessReportFormElementary.pdf>

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

Safety First at Arrival & Dismissal - School Hours and Car Loop Reminders

The school's car loop certainly has its limitations and we thank you for your patience and support during arrival and dismissal. Our school hours are from 8:00 a.m. until 2:50 p.m. each day. On Early Release Wednesdays, Elementary students are released at 1:45 p.m. We appreciate your willingness to share the space with other parents as you travel and merge through the loop. Please continue to exercise caution and safety during arrival and dismissal. Our children are counting on you! Remember to follow these tips to keep traffic flowing and students safe in our car loop:

- Be sure to honor the 5mph posted speed limit
- Refrain from using cell phones
- Always display your car loop pick-up sign in your window
- Reserve disabled parking for vehicles with disabled parking permits
- Always drop off children at the designated area in the back of the building.

Casual Dress Days

Casual dress days are on the last Friday of each month. Students are welcome to dress out of uniform but must follow the Brevard County Dress Code outlined in the Brevard County Student Handbook. A copy of the handbook can be found on our website www.odysseycharter-school.com. Dress down days for Elementary students for the first semester are: March 30, April 27, and May 18.

We Need You!

If you are yearning to make a difference in children's lives and are looking for a part-time job working during your child's school hours, look no further.



Substitute Teachers Wanted

Odyssey needs you! Won't you please take a moment to apply to become an Odyssey substitute by contacting Ms. Amanda Encarnacion at 321-345-4117. All substitutes must undergo and pass the Brevard County Fingerprinting and Background Checks.

Parent Resources

Check out the newly launched Parents for Healthy Kids website! This resource is offered through Brevard Public Schools with the goal of educating and empowering parents to be a part of creating healthier schools. The site shows parents how to reinforce healthy habits at home and provides an online platform for sharing personal stories. Check it out with this link: <https://parents-forhealthykids.org/>

Volunteer System - Raptor

All volunteers must complete the volunteer application process and go through a background screening prior to starting any volunteer activity at OPA. As a potential volunteer, you will be asked to provide the information necessary to perform a background check. You may not be on campus as a volunteer until your background check has been completed and you have been approved as a volunteer. OCS is participating in the district-wide Volunteer and Visitor check in system to add additional security to our campuses. The system, called Raptor, scans state-issued photo licenses and ID cards, required for admittance to the building past the front office.

Steps to Becoming a Volunteer

- 1) Please go to the Brevard County Schools web Page PLEASE USE INTERNET EXPLORER: http://www.edline.net/pages/Brevard_County_Schools/
- 2) Click the Parents & Students heading.
- 3) Scroll down to Volunteer Information (Please use Internet Explorer; Google Chrome is not compatible).
- 4) Complete the Pre-Application.
- 5) Level A: payment and Raptor Application are on the same link.
- 6) Level A+: complete Raptor Application first, then return to the same page and make payment.
- 7) Level A+: after completing Pre-Application and Raptor Application payment, please visit: District and School Security , 2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Viera, FL 32940 Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- 8) Please wait five days after being fingerprinted to contact Amanda Encarnacion for status or any volunteer related questions.

Classroom support

Contact Ms. Amanda Encarnacion for opportunities to assist with classroom needs such as copying, sharpening pencils, and working with small groups of students (Level A+ volunteer).

Donations Needed for Clinic: Ziploc Sandwich Bags, Hand Sanitizer, Crackers, Large Band-Aids, Gluten free crackers, Unscented baby wipes, Mini Refrigerator

OPA School-Level Science Fair Winners



Congratulations to our DISTRICT elementary science fair winners for Odyssey Preparatory Academy.

Alexis Woods 4th Grade - 5th place - Physical

Omayya Clark 6th grade - Aspiring Scientist Award (only 3 given in the area)

Special thanks to Ms. Bigwood, our science coach, for helping

our students through this rigorous and rewarding process!

- Keira Masse- 4 - Biological
- Zakaria Elghazali - 4 - Environmental
- Alexis Woods - 4 - Physical
- Brianna Lykins - 5 - Physical
- Omayya Clark - 6 - Biological
- Abby Ahmed - 6 - Environmental
- Logan Murphy - 6 - Physical



From the Desk of our Social Worker – Mrs. Estes

Positive Discipline

Before children can learn their “three R’s,” they need the vital protections provided by the “four C’s”; Connection, Capability, Counting and Courage. (Kottman, 1999). A child who can connect with others (connection), can take care of oneself (capable), feel valued by others (counting), and have courage, have a greater opportunity to grow up responsible, productive, cooperative, self-reliant, resilient, resourceful, contributing, and happy. (Kottman 1999) And you guessed it, do better academically!

For the purpose of this article, I would like to focus on the “capable” portion of the “four C’s.” Think of the child who, in the morning, gets himself dressed, participates in the preparation of breakfast, is included in problem solving the issue of how to get ready and out the door by 7:30am, is encouraged to take a risk, is allowed to make mistakes. Now think about the child, who is told what to wear to school, (mom actually dresses this child!); is not allowed to help with breakfast because it takes too much time or is too messy; is constantly reminded about what he has to do to get ready for school; isn’t allowed to walk to school with friends because mom or dad don’t trust him to get there on time.

Which child feels more capable?

Which child is going to walk into their classroom with confidence and a feeling that they can contribute and be an important part of their classroom and their learning?

In our society of super moms and busy schedules it’s just so much easier to do things for our kids that they can do for themselves. We all know how long a six year old can take to tie his shoes. We all know how painful it is to watch our child struggle as they learn a new skill or try a new math problem. But what message do we give them when we step in do it for them?

Could it be the message of...

“You’re too little, let someone bigger do it”
“I can do this better than you”
“Stop trying, you’ll never get it”
“You don’t do it well, so don’t even bother”

Off to school this child goes with a belief of “I’m not capable, others can do things better than me, I’ll just mess it up if I try”

A child with this belief is not going to feel capable of learning and is not going to take responsibility for his or her education. Children are born feeling capable. Remember the baby that tries so hard to hold up her head while lying on her tummy, or the two year who’s favorite line is “I can do it myself”. As parents we can nurture and guide this journey of developing capability.

The following suggestions will hopefully guide you along the way.

Stop doing for children what they can do for themselves. What are you doing for your child that developmentally, he or she can do on their own?

Have faith in your children. Have faith that they are capable. When you want to step in and do something for them that they can do for themselves, ask yourself, “Am I acting from faith or from fear?”

Allow your children to ask for help...instead of just jumping in when they are struggling. Give them the dignity to be capable of doing the task themselves. ASK if they would like to do the activity together or by themselves.

Actions speak louder than words. We can tell our kids over and over again...“you can do it, you’re smart, you’re capable.” But do our actions voice those same words?

Allow your child to contribute to the family. If your child likes to cook, give him meaningful way to contribute to a family meal. Gives him jobs that truly make your task easier; not just jobs that keep him busy while you actually prepare the meal!

Believe that mistakes are wonderful opportunities to learn. When your child makes a mistake...celebrate! Acknowledge the mistake and ask your child what they learned from it. Ask them to help you with a solution on how to repair the mistake. Children feel better when they’re not just part of the problem (the mistake), but part of the solution (the repair).

Model making mistakes...Take yourself lightly. Say “whoops, I made a mistake”. Share what you learned and voice your solution for repairing it. At dinner time have everyone share a mistake they made during the day, and how they repaired it.

Brainstorm household chores (contributions) with your kids. Create a routine for getting the chores done. Along with the boring, menial chores, allow children to do chores that once were only adult chores.

So, when your child heads off to school, give them a big hug and a kiss. Tell them to take risks, get messy and make lots of mistakes. And when they come back home and tell you about the difficult day they had...Give them a hug and listen, listen, listen. Tell them you have faith in them and you know they will find solution!

Article based on the work of Positive Discipline by Jane Nelsen, Ed.D, Lynn Lott, LMFT, et.al.

Intervention



In reading intervention we are using the Levelled Literacy Intervention (LLI) from Fountas and Pinnell to accelerate the growth in students’ reading abilities. With LLI, students work in small groups with an adult, in order to target specific reading behaviors that must be mastered to progress to the next reading level. The primary focus is reading comprehension. We address the literal meaning of the text as well as the implied message. Students also analyze the techniques the author uses to convey their message. Beyond working on comprehension, students also practice to achieve reading fluency and improve word decoding skills. You can help your student improve their reading at home by asking them questions that require them to think carefully about what they have read. For example, follow up a question about what happened in the book with a question about why it happened, or you could ask what a character was feeling at a certain point in the story. That type of critical thinking is the key to strong reading comprehension.

Kindergarten

In February, we celebrated the 100th of Kindergarten! Students enjoyed a day exploring the number 100! With spring approaching we will be studying the changes of the seasons in regards to plants, farming, and taking care of the earth. After learning about the needs of plants, we will apply our learning and grow our own plants in our classroom. In math, we recently explored three dimensional shapes. We learned about how 3D shapes are different than 2D and where we find each in the world around us. We are working on becoming more fluent in our addition and subtraction facts. Remember to complete nightly homework off the homework calendar and 15 minutes of reading nightly. Don't forget about myOn's online reading library for an endless selection of books on any topic that interests your child!

2nd Grade

Second grade is springing into lots of new learning. For Reading we are starting CKLA Domain 12; Fighting for a Cause will introduce students to several ordinary people who stood up for what they believed in and who fought for a cause, even when faced with immeasurable odds. Students will learn how members of very powerful groups have often excluded members of other groups from exercising certain rights. They will learn about some key historical figures that fought for various causes such as the abolition of slavery, the right for women to vote, and the welfare of migrant workers. Each of these individuals struggled for a cause, their struggles later helped change many laws, and they all practiced nonviolence. These historical figures also had an impact on the ability of others in our nation to exercise their individual rights. Students will understand the connection between ideas and actions, and how ordinary people can do extraordinary things, changing people's awareness throughout an entire country. Students will also learn the terms civil rights and human rights, and what these terms mean.

In math, your child is exploring tiling rectangles to get ready for learning how to find the area of rectangles next year. Examples of tiling can be found throughout your daily life. You may find squares tiles the kitchen floor, the bathroom wall, or a ceiling. You may see squares filling a game board or a calendar. Invite your child to share what he or she knows about tiling squares!

Thank you for all of your support at home with homework, projects and learning at school. Your positive support and genuine interest in your child's learning is deeply appreciated by your child's teachers, and more importantly, your child. Thank you for all you do!



1st Grade

In January, first grade read many fables, and we learned to determine the central theme or moral/lesson of stories. In February we have read about many famous black American, including Martin Luther King, Jr. In Math, we have been working on addition and subtraction fluency, and we have been learning about place value in our base ten system. Ms. Ebersol's K/1st grade class has been learning about our government. Every week we elect a Class President and Vice-President to run our morning meetings. We have learned lots of new vocabulary such as: nominate, candidate, ballot, democracy, consensus, and impeach. Ms. Steven's class started an Italian garden in their classroom. Mrs. Rodriguez's class has been comparing schools of the past to schools of the present using Venn Diagrams.

3rd Grade

In 3rd grade, students are currently working on measurement in math. This includes mass, volume, length and width, and graphs. To ensure success, parents should have students helping them cook and measure things around the house. They may also continue to work on I-ready at home.

In reading, we are currently working on re-teaching some standards to prepare for the FSA which is on April 11-12th. These standards may include main idea, connecting text and illustrations, text features, etc. To ensure success for reading, please have your child on I-Ready reading and reading a book at home.

3rd grade homework includes 20 minutes on I-Ready math, 20 minutes of reading (whether it be on MyOn or in a book), and a math worksheet a night.

4th Grade

Fourth grade rocks! We are learning all about the different types of rocks and the rock cycle. In Science Lab our students were able to see the erosion process by using stream tables. They slowly poured water down a slope of sand and clay and drew a diagram of where the erosion and deposition occurred. We are using our CKLA Geology unit to reinforce our science standards, while learning about informative text structure and how to compare two texts on the same topic.

Math has been all about fractions. We have made equivalent fractions, compared fractions, added and subtracted fractions, and even multiplied a fraction by a whole number! Our students made some real-world connections by taking a recipe and multiplying each ingredient by the number of servings they wanted to make.

We are so excited to be preparing for our St. Augustine field trip. We have been learning all about the over 250 years of Spanish rule that influenced the Florida that we see today. Did you know that St. Augustine is the "Nation's Oldest City"?

Fourth grade parents can assist at home by helping their student practice their multiplication facts. Also encourage your student to get on I-Ready and myOn at home!

To ensure success for reading, please have your child on I-Ready reading and reading a book at home.

5th Grade

As the new term progresses so, do our students. Over 96% of students continue to make great progress in Math with 30% scoring a 100% on their algebra standards assessment. Many 5th graders are coming to success Saturdays with noticeable improvements in ELA and Math. Our recent trip to the symphony was a great success with Mr. Stout adding to their appreciation of classical music.

Our Science prep continues with Ms. Bigwood and Mr. Galloway working harder than ever to teach their inquiring minds in this subject area. Please check your child's Social Studies portfolio over the next weeks to see how their research and writing skills progress. If you have any need to discuss your child's learning needs or academic goals, please feel free to contact me for a student led conference together. All students and you're child's academic and emotional needs are my primary concern.

6th Grade

FSA Writing is March 6, 2018. There is a Field Trip March 15, 2018 to Brevard Central Disposal Facility, Cocoa from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm. Mode of Transportation- School bus. Homework must be completed weekly and is due every Thursday. myOn Reading must be done nightly for at least 20 minutes per night. An I Ready report was sent home, please review and encourage students to read more. As of February 26, 2018 we will start reviewing our standards in ELA to make sure students master each standard before the FSA Reading, Students/Parents have been selecting Electives and Core Subjects for 7th Grade. Please contact the school if you have not done so yet

In Math we are currently finishing up the standards and are covering Ratios and Proportions and then Statistics. After those two standards, I will be re-teaching concepts to the students that they need assistance with according to I Ready reports. Encourage students to meet the 45 minute expectation of math I Ready minutes each week. Students are practicing FSA test questions daily at fsassessments.org to prepare for the upcoming math FSA.

In Science we are currently working on differentiating the different spheres of Earth's Systems and identifying the importance of their interactions.

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. Wendi Nolder 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. Nolder can be reached at nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com or 321-733-0442.

Athletics

Odyssey Prep has concluded another season of sports for this school year! All of our teams did an outstanding job in their respective sports! Our flag football team battled through some tough teams and finished 5th in their division. Our OPA/OCS basketball team had the best season in OPA athletic history! They finished their regular season 7-1. They competed in playoffs and finished 3rd overall in their division! Our most popular sport, soccer, concluded at the end of February. I want to complement our 1st/2nd grade teams as they showed true teamwork and sportsmanship at every game.

I want to also send congratulations to both of our 3rd/4th grade teams on UNDEFEATED seasons! Our soccer-loving 5th grade team went out there every Sunday and dominated the field! We take pride in our student-athletes as they always demonstrate the true meaning of hard work, dedication, and team-work. GO OPA!!



Olympian Athletics

Odyssey sports are in full swing. We currently have over 50 K-5 students participating in our soccer and basketball programs. Next year we will be shifting the focus of our athletics to skill building for all grades. We will have select sports that we will focus on and teach students, with qualified coaches, the basic skills needed to compete at higher levels when they reach the Jr/Sr high athletic program. If anyone is interested in helping out with the athletic programs please contact Caitlin Cummings cummingsc@odysseyprepacademy.com or Alicia Cohen at cohenc@odysseyprepacademy.com
