

"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.

From the Desk of the Principal...

Hello and welcome to Odyssey Preparatory Academy! I am so excited to embark on this adventure with you this year as we work in partnership to educate your child. This has been a busy summer of preparation and anticipation for a terrific first school year.

One of our goals this year is to focus on developing the culture of Odyssey Prep by focusing on our mission for children: *to work in partnership with the family and community, with the aim of helping each child reach 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.* With that in mind, our talented team of teachers and staff will be implementing Positive Discipline in the Classroom, creating classroom communities that work together to solve problems and resolve conflicts peacefully. Our school-wide motto is *"Respect for self; Respect for others; Respect for the environment"*. We have begun the school year by establishing common procedures and expectations that are age appropriate.

We have ordered our Nutrition Education curriculum and will begin our Wellness and Nutrition Education lessons soon. Our healthy café is providing healthy, well-balanced breakfasts and lunches each day. If your child packs a lunch from home, pack a healthy lunch with a protein and fruits/vegetables to sustain them through the afternoon. Please refrain from sending highly sweetened foods/drinks in the lunchbox.

We are also looking to begin our school gardens this year, beginning in September/October. If you would like to volunteer to support your child's classroom in their gardening efforts, please contact your child's classroom teacher.

Attached to this newsletter is information about our Read Aloud Club and a Reading Record Sheet. Please review the suggested literature list and select something to start reading aloud to your child. Record your time (15 minutes per day, up to 1 hour per week, up to 4 hours per month) on the Record Sheet and turn it in at the end of the month to your child's teacher. It will be turned in to our Volunteer Coordinator, Ms. Hearndon, and entered into our system toward your required volunteer hours. This reading is in addition to your child's required reading homework. Enjoy!

I look forward to serving as your child's principal,

Ms. Nolder

CALENDAR

Aug 28 – Early Release Day (students release at 1:45pm)

Aug 30 – Dress Down/Clean-Up Day

Aug 29-Sept 6 – Book Fair

Sept 5 – Evening Book Fair open 5-8 p.m.

Sept 11 – Patriot's Day/Early Release Day

Sept 13 – First Interim Ends

Sept 19 – Secondary & Elementary Interims Issued

Sept 23-27 – Celebrate Freedom Week

Sept 25 – Early Release Day

Sept 27 – Dress Down/Clean-Up Day

Sept 28 – National Estuaries Day Festival

Oct 1 – Open House K-5th @ 6 p.m.

Oct 4 – Student Holiday/Professional Development Day

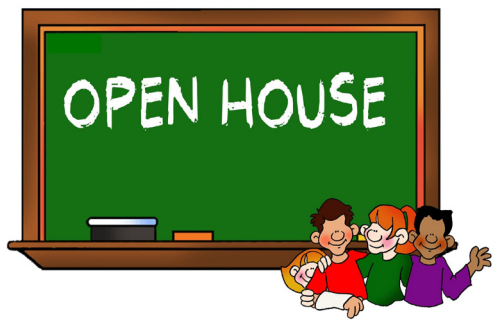
Uniforms

Odyssey has expanded our uniform policy to allow navy blue or black sweat jackets, with or without a hood, with or without a zipper, with or without a logo. The jackets are not required to be purchased at our uniform store, and if you would like a logo or personalization, All Uniform Wear will embroider it for \$7. Reminder – hoods are not to be worn in school or on school property, including the school bus.

Love Kids? Substitutes Needed

As a new school, Odyssey Prep is looking to build our substitute teacher pool. If you enjoy working with children, are available during the school day, and are interested in substituting in the classroom, please contact the school at 321-345-4117, or email me at nolderw@odysseyprepacademy.com. Substitute teachers must be fingerprinted and background screened through Brevard Public Schools.





Join Us for Open House

We invite you to come to our Open House and see what your child has been working on in the classroom. Open House date will be October 1 @ 6 p.m.

Car Loop

Just a few reminders about our morning and afternoon car loop:

Morning

Students who are arriving for breakfast may arrive beginning at 7:45 a.m. They should be dropped at the southwest corner of the building, near the back of the building closest to the cafeteria.

Students who are NOT having breakfast should be dropped in the car loop beginning at 7:55 a.m.

Students are dismissed from the cafeteria at 8:10 a.m. in order to be seated and ready to learn by 8:15 a.m.

Afternoon

Please plan on picking your children up in the car loop, beginning at 3:10 with our kindergarteners. If you have older children, please come a few minutes later to allow for the pick up of our littlest learners first.

Students not picked up by 3:30 p.m. will be placed in our After School Care Enrichment Program for a fee. Parents will be contacted.

Preschool

Our preschool students must be dropped off and picked up at the northeast door by a parent/caregiver. If you need to drop a preschool student off before 8:20 a.m., please sign up for our Before School Care Enrichment Program. You can contact our Director, Ms. Santos, at santosn@odysseycharterschool.com, or call her at 321-345-4117 for additional information.

Student Insurance

Brevard County Schools are not responsible for paying medical expenses due to accidents or injuries that occur during school, sports, or other activities. If your child is not covered under a healthcare policy, you may be interested in the low cost Student Accident Insurance Plan. The plan can provide supplemental coverage if you already have a plan, or provide basic coverage if you have no insurance. Plan options are also available if you choose to add other benefits such as extended 24 hour coverage and dental coverage. Rates are designed to be affordable and start at \$10 for elementary students for coverage at school for a 9 month term. Forms were sent home with your child this week, or are available in the front office and should be returned to the insurance agency office. You can also enroll or find out more at www.schoolinsuranceofflorida.com.

Want to Get Involved?

OPA is looking for a few parents to participate in our School Advisory Council (SAC). The SAC will meet monthly to discuss the needs and goals of the school and support administration with the development of the School Improvement Plan. SAC volunteers will earn 1 volunteer hour per month at our meetings. If you are interested, please contact Ms. Nolder at 321-345-4117 or via email at nolderw@odysseyprepacademy.com.

Wanted: Odyssey Prep Academy Parent for Board of Directors

The Odyssey Charter School Board is looking for a talented parent to serve on its Board. The volunteer commitment will take approximately 2 hours per month. Must be reliable. The Odyssey Board meets on both campuses. Must be able to attend board meetings in Orlando on occasion and be willing to attend the State Charter School conference in Orlando annually. For more information, please call Ms. Constance Ortiz/School Founder at 321 216-7525;

Early Release Dates:

Odyssey Prep will have 10 Early Release Days during the school year for the purpose of professional development, planning and teacher collaboration. Students will be released at 1:45pm on the following days:

August 28, 2013
September 11, 2013
September 25, 2013
October 16, 2013
October 30, 2013
November 20, 2013
January 15, 2014
January 29, 2014
February 12, 2014
February 26, 2014

In addition, the school will have Early Dismissal (1:45pm) due to semester exams on the following 6 days: December 18, 19, 20 & May 27, 28, 29

Dress Down Days

Odyssey offers students the opportunity to dress out of uniform if they choose on the following dates:

Friday, August 30
Friday, September 28
Friday, October 25
Friday, November 22
Friday, December 20
Friday, January 31
Friday, February 28
Friday, March 21
Friday, April 25
Friday, May 23

On Dress Down Days, students must dress in accordance with the Brevard County Public Schools dress code.

Grievance Procedures

Step 1: Request Teacher conference to clarify issue
Step 2: Contact Principal if unresolved with the teacher
Step 3: **Contact Cindy Gilmore at Green Apple School 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
**Cindy Gilmore, Compliance Manager, 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. Cindy Gilmore can be reached at cgilmore@greenapplesm.org, or 321-676-8737.