

*"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 3rd	Parents as Partners @ 10 AM
Oct 7th	Walk to School Day and Fire Safety Awareness
Oct 9th	End of First Marking Period
Oct 13th	Early Release Day
Oct 16th	No School; Professional Development Day
Oct 19th	Report Cards Sent Home
Oct 21st	OCS Board Meeting



## Welcome!



### Odyssey Preparatory Academy Welcomes New Site Administrator!

School is well under way, and most of you have met our new leader, Ms. Rachel. For those who have not, Ms. Rachel Roberts has joined the Odyssey family after living and working in the nation's capital for the last 6 years. She most recently led a large, urban elementary school in SE Washington DC, where she spearheaded rigorous instruction and raised school test scores.

This year, Odyssey Preparatory Academy will continue to focus on academic excellence and the education of the whole child. Building on Odyssey Charter School's recent National Green Ribbon Award for Green Schools, OPA will expand its environmental education and STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) programs. We will also continue to provide rigorous instruction through our rich curriculum and open a new library this fall.

Ms. Rachel also hopes to engage OPA families through a re-vamped Parents as Partners (PASP) program and invites you all to attend our kickoff event on October 3rd.

## Casual Dress Days

Casual dress days are on the last Friday of each month. Scholars 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. Dress down days for the first semester are September 25, October 30, November 27 and December 18.

## Early Release Days

This year, in accordance to the Brevard Public School calendar, Odyssey Preparatory Academy will have weekly early release Wednesdays. These days are designed for faculty to engage in ongoing professional development. Each Wednesday, starting on August 19th, OPA scholars will dismiss at 2:30 PM. Our wonderful Aftercare Program offers opportunities for families childcare needs. Please contact Aftercare Director, Diane MacGilvary at [macgilvaryd@odysseyprepacademy.com](mailto:macgilvaryd@odysseyprepacademy.com).

## 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 one-day event. Over time, this event has become part of a movement for year-round safe routes to school and a celebration.

Please join us for our 3rd celebration of this wonderful event. We will meet between 7:30 AM and 7:45 AM at the Fire Department and walk along the South Sidewalk towards school. Our busses will drop our scholars at the Fire Department and we hope car riders will join us as well. We look forward to everyone's attendance!!!

## Core Knowledge Language Arts, Guided Reading and Small Group Instruction

Did you know that Odyssey Preparatory Academy has embarked on a new teaching strategy this year? In response to research-based reading practices, OPA, Odyssey Charter School, and our partner school Oasis Preparatory Academy in Orlando, participated in a two-day training on guided reading and standards-based workstations. During the two days, we engaged in a thorough exploration of small group instruction, which is recommended from the National Literacy Panel as an exemplary method for teaching reading and comprehension.

OPA also utilizes the Core Knowledge Language Arts, which is a comprehensive core curriculum that provides our scholars with rigorous content and challenging domains of instruction that include Contemporary Literature, Global and American History and the Sciences.

When you visit our classrooms, you will see highly engaged scholars, reading independently at their own level, working in collaborative learning groups or with their teacher at the teaching table in a targeted reading group. We enthusiastically encourage you to contact the main office to set up a time to visit!!

## Substitute Teachers



for Elementary and Secondary -- 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. Odyssey needs you! Won't you please take a moment to apply to become an Odyssey substitute by contacting Ms. Kathy Cicala or Ms. Julie Chapman (321) 345-4117. All substitutes must undergo and pass the Brevard County Fingerprinting and Background Checks.

## Spanish and Expanded Gifted and Talented Programming

Hola! We are thrilled to offer a Spanish program for scholars in Kindergarten through 6th grade this year. Ms. Kim Jafrate has joined our team for two days each week. Ms. Jafrate will teach Spanish to grades K through 6 as a specials class. Additionally, she will work with our academically gifted scholars in our new gifted offering; Gifted and Talented Education (GATEway). Ms. Jafrate comes to us with many years experience working with gifted and talented youth.

### 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@odysseyschool.com or 321-345-4117.

## School Advisory Council

The School Advisory Council (SAC) works with our leadership team to support the Mission and Vision of Odyssey Preparatory Academy and to make improvements to our school. This team is made up of parents, teachers and community members who come together to support the leadership team by lending their expertise and support. If you are interested in partnering with our school by serving as a member of our SAC committee, please email the Lead Administrator, Ms. Rachel Roberts at robertsr@odysseyprepacademy.com, with a brief statement of interest and a short biography.

Members must be able to commit to meeting 4 to 6 times each year. Meetings usually take place during the school day at one of the Odyssey Schools' Campuses and run for about one hour.

## New School Resource Library and State of the Art Science Lab



We are proud to announce that Odyssey Preparatory Academy was the recipient of the Florida Department of Education Implementation Grant, which has allowed us to expand our resources at school. Two new additions to our school include a School Resource Library and a new Science Lab. Our library will have over 10,000 new titles! We expect a library opening celebration, with a ribbon cutting ceremony, in mid-fall.

Our science lab will support our challenging, inquiry based science instruction. It will be fully supplied for scholars PK through 6th grade and all of our OPA scholars have weekly science lab times. Additionally, our teachers will work with our science coach, Dr. Jane Martin to develop challenging, standards-based science lessons for our Olympians.

## Volunteer Hours - The Read Aloud Club



The Read Aloud Club is a great way for parents to fulfill their volunteer hours. All that is required is for parents to read to their child every night for 15 minutes, log the time, and turn in your reading log! Reading aloud helps in the building of attention span and listening skills, the development of vocabulary and reading comprehension. Most importantly, reading to your child creates a strong bond between parent and child. Here's how the program works: Each month your child receives a Read Aloud Recording Form from their Homeroom teacher. The parent may select read aloud books from the Read Aloud List of literature. The parent then spends a minimum of 15 minutes per evening reading literature that is above the child's independent reading level. The forms are collected and parent volunteer hours are logged in. A maximum credit of one volunteer hour per week (4 hours per month) will be given per child. It's a great way to earn your required volunteer hours (18 hours per year for one child; 25 hours for 2 or more children).