

*"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.

### 2016-2017 School Year Registration



It's time to register your student for the 2016-2017 school year. Please plan on attending one of the mandatory registration dates for your student's grade level. You will be given a registration packet to complete and return while at registration. Elementary campus registration will take place in the multipurpose room for returning students and in the café for new students. Please make certain to bring with you any of the required documents listed below. All parents will be notified of our final registration dates via a newsletter this summer. Finalized papers such as transportation form, health form, lunch form, bus registration and class assignments will be completed during final registration. Please remember that attending our summer final registration is mandatory.

Please gather the following required documents in preparation for registration.

- Birth Certificate (all NEW students)
- For Kindergarteners or 1st time in Brevard County Public school system ONLY:
- Physical- dated within one year of registration
- Physical used for VPK registration will not qualify if dated more than one year from registration.
- Current shot records
- Legal Guardianship documents (if applicable)

### CALENDAR



#### MARCH

- 3/16 OCS Inc. Board Meeting
- 3/17 Elementary Report Cards Issued
- 3/21-3/25 Spring Break
- 3/30 Early Release Day
- 3/30 FSA Testing Begins

#### APRIL

- 4/6 Early Release Day
- 4/14 Parents as Partners meeting
- 4/13 Early Release Day
- 4/20 Early Release Day
- 4/20 OCS Inc. Board Meeting
- 4/23 Founder's 5k
- 4/27 Early Release Day
- 4/28 Fourth Grade Field Trip to St. Augustine

5/2-5/6 Teacher Appreciation Week

### Leadership Team

#### Founder/Head of Schools

Ms. Constance Ortiz

#### Leadership & Teacher Development

Mr. Gregory Turner

#### Site Administrator, OPA

Ms. Rachel Roberts

#### Discipline Dean

Mr. Mike Davis

#### Literacy Coach

Ms. Charlotte Foreman

#### Math Coach

Ms. Paulette B

#### Science Coach

Dr. Jane Martin

# Ways Parents Can Support Reading and Writing at Home

## From Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

1. Let your children see you read for pleasure. Share vocabulary, quotes, characters, and the story with them. Compare similarities and differences between your book and the books your children are reading.
2. Talk to your children about how your parents read to you or told you stories.
3. Let your children see you write for pleasure. Send family letters to relatives or friends. Let everyone in the family contribute a part or an illustration.
4. When you're riding in the car, tell your children a story about when you were little or tell them a story about something that happened at work that day. Leave off the ending and let them provide an ending.
5. Have your children select three things they want to include in a story. Make up a story that includes those three things. For example, the selections might be a princess, a race car, and an ice cream cone. The children will love helping you find clever ways to include three things in the story.
6. When you look up at the sun/moon or pass a landmark/building, take turns making up a story to go with them. At night, point out the face in the moon and make up a story about the "man in the moon". Follow up these storytelling events with a trip to the library to explore legends about people and places from our own country and others countries.
7. Try different ambiances for reading a story aloud or storytelling. If it's a scary story, tell it in the dark or read it with flashlights. If it's a story about when your child was little, bring out an old toy and hold it as you tell the story. Try themes in your family literacy events. This works naturally with holidays. Find books about the First Thanksgiving and read them aloud. Find pictures of the Thanksgiving holiday and make a collage. Explore foods that go with the Thanksgiving holiday. Make some of these foods and let everyone help read the recipe and prepare the foods. Trade stories about Thanksgiving.
8. Make a family book that is a collection of stories: favorite stories retold generation after generation or stories of family events (first visit by the tooth fairy). Any time that stories are recorded, younger children can dictate to an older family member.
9. Help your child find a place in your home that is his/her favorite reading spot. A place where he/she can read comfortably with little distraction. Put a basket of books near the spot. Include pens, crayons, pencils, erasers and paper in the basket to encourage writing too. Every now and then, put a "literacy gift" in their basket to discover and explore.
10. Read aloud daily to your child. Talk about the pictures. Make predictions about a story and see if they come true. Read aloud a chapter-book before bed.
11. Help your child notice people reading and the writing all around them. Watch other people read. Count all the people on a bus, in a library or café reading. Read signs posted all around you.
12. Visit bookstores and libraries with your child. Window shop as you

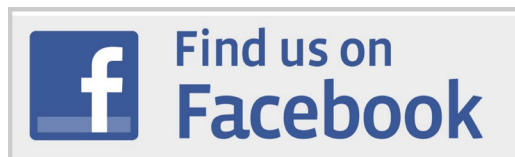
pass a bookstore, look at the books and imagine the storylines inside them. Then go in and see if your predictions came true.

13. Take books on trips with you. Read to your child on vacation or during a long wait at the doctor's office. Encourage the people you are visiting to read to your child aloud.
14. Leave notes for your child in his lunch box or school bag. Leave notes for him/her around the house. Ask your child to leave notes for you. Have your child create a to-do list. Have him/her turn it into a checklist to encourage self-monitoring.
15. Encourage friends and relatives to give books to your child as gifts. Markers, colored pencils, pads of paper make excellent birthday or holiday gifts.
16. Subscribe to a children's magazine and have the magazine sent directly to your child. Show interest when it arrives. "Show me your favorite article." "I love that picture of \_\_\_\_." Popular magazines include: Highlights, Click, Ranger Rick, Sports Illustrated for Students, and National Geographic Junior. Large bookstores have many magazines to choose from. Find your favorite magazine and take one of the subscription cards located inside it.
17. Play word games such as Scrabble Junior, Boggle, ABC Bingo, Word Concentration, etc. Tell jokes, riddles and limericks. See how many words rhyme with \_\_\_\_\_.
18. Encourage your child to read aloud to younger siblings, cousins, neighbors, even stuffed animals.
19. Talk about your own childhood memories. Share your own favorite children's books and authors. Share your successes and struggles in school.
20. Encourage your child to imagine or share stories from pictures in magazines, newspapers or family photographs.
21. Listen to your child's retellings and expand them. Encourage them to add more detail. Say, "That would make an amazing story." Then, imagine the story together. Say, "You should write about that." Say, "The way you said that sounds like a poem." Then, encourage him/her to write it down as a poem.
22. Tell lots of family stories. Ask lots of questions when your child tells you a story. Ask them to identify the beginning, middle, and end or climax of the story.
23. Look back over your child's writings with them. Notice and praise the growth your child is making as a writer.
24. Encourage your child to bring their writer's notebook whenever they go on family outings. Whether it's to grandma's house, a soccer game or restaurant, there will be plenty to notice, wonder and write about.



## OPA Facebook Page

Please “like” our Facebook page as we will be keeping it updated throughout the school year with events that we have going on and it is a great way to keep up with what we have going on. Visit our website at [www.odysseyprepacademy.com](http://www.odysseyprepacademy.com) and look for the Facebook links.



## Technology in Every Classroom

Did you know that our students at OPA use technology daily? We have included both technology as a special activity (all students have computer lab time each week) as well as an integral part of the classroom. Our classrooms are equipped with brand new desktop computers along with portable devices such as Lenovo Yoga and Surface Tablets. These all students to access web-based instructional materials, such as MyOn and Prodigy. Additionally, we are instructing students in typing skills—as these are much needed skills for 21st Century learning. Go Olympians!

## Keep the Flu Away!

### Student Health Tips from the OPA Clinic

As you know it is flu season in Brevard County. To prevent the spread of the flu and other illnesses we encourage you to have a conversation with your children to let them know when it is appropriate to ask the teacher to go to the clinic. Here are some tips to help your family stay healthy this season:

Students should only come to the clinic if they feel sick or are injured in order to minimize their exposure to students who are ill. Each time your child visits the clinic a form is sent home describing their visit. Proper hand washing is the most basic tip – but also one of the most effective in keeping germs away. Wash hands with warm soapy water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the bathroom or before you eat. In the classroom, we teach children to cough appropriately and wash their hands well. If your student has had a fever or is vomiting, they need to be kept out of school until they are symptom-free for 24 hours. Our front office staff are trained to assist injured students and administer medications. The clinic is available to take temperatures, give out ice packs and Band-Aids. We do not diagnose illnesses. If you have a concern that your child is sick or running a fever please keep them home and seek medical attention. We have a strict medication policy for the safety of our students on campus. Some reminders are listed below and the full policy is available in the front office.



## Kindergarten Celebrates 101 Day of School

Ms. Badurek and Ms. Geier's students recently celebrated the 101 Day of School!! They have counted each day, diligently, and prepared for a school-wide puppy parade. Each student created their own “float” and dressed in black and white to go with the 101 theme. This celebration has become a yearly tradition for our littlest ones, and a great way to get the school community engaged. Go Kindergarten!!



## Second Grade News

Second grade has really stepped up their efforts to get ready for 3rd grade. We started our second semester with a field trip to the Barrier Island Center. Despite getting soaked by rain, we learned several interesting facts about sea turtles and what we can do to protect them. After that, we really dug deep and have started doing more project-based learning. While learning about immigration, our students went back in time and researched their heritage. The results were fantastic! We saw just how diverse our class is. We even got to taste some yummy native foods! When learning about the economy, our students also got to do some shopping of their very own. They stocked up on school supplies and learned how to figure out what they could buy and how much change they would get back. We are looking forward to our next field trip to the bowling alley to learn about forces and motion. 2nd grade is working hard to finish off the year strong.





## Third to Sixth Grade News

On March 15, our Honor Roll, Science Fair and Spelling Bee scholars were honored at a Cookout Luncheon on our back patio. We were pleased to honor 55 students for their hard work, dedication and academic success. We are proud of their accomplishments and all of the efforts each student puts into their studies. Keep up the good work!



## Florida Standards Assessments

Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) will be taking place this spring. A few reminders: a good night sleep before a testing day is always encouraged; please also make sure your student has a healthy breakfast with protein; and please make sure your students arrive on time. The FSA website is a great place to get lots of information about testing, dates, rubrics and practice tests. Visit <http://www.fsassessments.org/>. Click on Students and Parents for information.

## FSA Testing Windows

March 28th- April 8th, 2016	April 11th- May 6th, 2016
ELA 3rd	ELA 4th/5th/6th
Math 3rd/4th	Math 4th/5th/6th

## Fourth Grade Mathematics

Over the last nine weeks, geometry has been a favorite math unit for our fourth grade scholars. As part of their study, students have learned how to use protractors!! Protractors are used to measure acute, obtuse, and right angles and are an important skill for later mathematical learning. Way to go Fourth Grade!



## Mission and Vision Month

April 2016 is the time of year where the Odyssey Schools Family will celebrate the essential elements and mission of our schools. Our mission reads:

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On Wednesday, April 6th our school will honor Ms. Constance Ortiz, our Founder and Head of Schools, during our annual "Founders Day Celebration." Our students will take this opportunity to reflect on holistic education and all of the aspects that set Odyssey apart from other schools. Please take a moment to chat with your child about all that they love about being an Odyssey Prep student!

### 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](mailto:perezj@odysseyschool.com) or 321-345-4117.

