

"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

July 16	Meet & Greet Ms. Rachel Roberts (9 a.m.-10 a.m.)
July 23	K-6 Evening Registration (5 p.m.-7 p.m.)
July 25	K-6 Saturday Registration (9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)
July 30	Meet & Greet Ms. Rachel Roberts (5 p.m.-6 p.m.)
Aug.12	First day of school (1st- 6th Grade Students)
Aug.12- 14	Kindergarten Appointments
Aug.17	First day of school of school for Kindergarten
Aug.19	Early Release (2:30 p.m.)
Aug.26	Early Release (2:30 p.m.)
Sept. 7	Labor Day- Holiday for all

School Hours: 8:15 a.m. – 3:55 p.m.

Office Hours: 7:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Summer Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs., 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Summer Registration

Mandatory Summer Registration for All Odyssey Families



We thank all of the Odyssey families who came in early to complete much of the registration process this Spring. Please know that all families are required to attend Summer Registration (see calendar above for dates and times) to complete the following:

- Lunch Application
- Bus Assignment & Authorization to Ride
- Teacher Assignments
- Before and After Care Registration
- Health Card
- Student Fees – check or money orders made payable to Odyssey Preparatory Academy
- K – 2nd \$7 (\$1.50 early elementary Spalding notebook; \$3.00 technology fee; \$2.50 field day)
- 3rd – 6th \$12.00 (\$2.00 intermediate Spalding notebook; \$2.50 science lab fee; \$2.00 planner fee; \$3.00 technology fee; \$2.50 field day)

Required Documents and Student Fees for Registration

OPA students must have the following documents on file before the first day of school.

- Birth certificate (K and new students)
- Current Immunization form (K and new students)
- Current Physical Exam (K and new students)
- IEPs, EPs, Behavioral Plans, or 504 Plans (All new students to Odyssey)

Registration Support

Parent Volunteers Needed

Start the school year off with a head start on your required volunteer hours. Remember the requirement for volunteer hours is 18 hours per year for families with one child and 25 hours per year for families with more than one child. We need friendly faces to welcome our new and returning families during July 23rd and July 25th registration. If you are interested, please call 321-345-4117, and ask for Ms. Wright.

State Assessment News

The state of Florida has released some state assessment scores. English/Language Arts and Math results from the new state test called the FSA are not expected to be available until late September. Please note that individual student score reports for 5th grade Science will be available from the school's front office beginning July 13th.



DID YOU KNOW?

Odyssey Prep 3rd grade students had an 89% pass rate on the new Florida Standards Assessment for English Language Arts! This tied them for the third highest pass rate amongst the 15 Palm Bay elementary schools.

Welcome!

Welcome, Ms. Rachel Roberts – New Site Administrator!

Dear Odyssey Preparatory Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to say I am honored and very excited to join the Odyssey Preparatory School family. The Odyssey mission to work in partnership with the family and community, with the aim of helping each child reach full potential in all areas of life, has proven results and I am looking forward to serving this mission alongside you and your child.

Here's a little bit about me; for the past 6 years I have worked in Washington, DC, first as a National Teacher Fellow and then as an Assistant Principal and a district administrator. Prior to my service in the nation's capital, I taught early childhood in various schools in Northern Michigan and have two master's degrees in curriculum and instruction and educational leadership. I also love the outdoors and am looking forward to trading in my city life for long walks on the beach and paddles on the Indian River.

It is Odyssey's holistic educational approach and understanding of the whole child that has drawn me to the Odyssey family and it is the Head of Schools, Ms. Constance's vision of healthy schools and children that will continue to drive the work at Odyssey Preparatory Academy. As I transition to the role of school administrator, it is important to recognize the work of Dr. Reggie Revis and the strong sense of school culture he has developed over the past year.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you very soon and will be hosting two Meet & Greets in July (see calendar above). Please stop by and say "hello"! I also look forward to seeing you all at our Summer Registration!

Warmly,
Rachel Roberts

Volunteer News

Please take a moment to register as a volunteer in KeepNTrack. It is important to get registered because your volunteer hours are tracked in the KeepNTrack system. You can find the link to sign up to be a volunteer on Odyssey's website, located under the "Parent Tab." Look for the Volunteer Opportunities listing or you can register at the Brevard County School website under the Parents and Students tab. The price to register does vary depending on which level you register under.

Bus Transportation

If needed and requested, free bus transportation is provided to children who live 2 to 4 miles from the school or more as defined by established bus routes. A bus slip must be completed for families who wish to sign up for bus service. Bus slips will be available at registration.



Farewell from Dr. Revis

Dear OPA families:

At Odyssey Preparatory Academy in our second year, we have continued Mrs. Nolder's culture of support, respect and academic excellence. The Odyssey Preparatory Academy staff has worked tirelessly and deserves much thanks from all of us. Did you know that our third grade proficiency is one of the highest in the area? Unofficially, 89% of our children are proficient on the ELA section of the new FSA! We are proud of all our staff, our children, our families and the environment we have established. Official results for all sections of FSA will come in from the state as they are determined.

You may already know that I am moving west to be with my new wife, three step-children and a large extended western family. I love them and look forward to being with them in my new role. I am proud of the work of our OPA staff towards the vision and mission of Odyssey Schools. I am proud to have worked with the Odyssey Leadership Team, representing leadership from all Odyssey campuses. I am very proud of having been able to work with Ms. Constance again. She is truly a visionary with a heart for this community. Palm Bay is lucky to have her. I am blessed to call her mentor and friend.

OPA is in very good hands next year. Ms. Roberts brings many great ideas to support OPA's third year of work towards the vision and mission of Odyssey Schools.

Bye y'all,
Dr. Revis

Athletics



This year, we will continue to offer a wide variety of sports for our students through the Christian Athletic League, including volleyball, flag football, basketball, cheerleading, soccer, and track. Last year, we had our largest number of students yet that participated in athletics and we hope to continue to grow our programs.

Summer Food Program

Free for ALL Students

Students, ages 18 and under residing in Brevard County, can join us this summer for a free, delicious and nutritious breakfast and lunch at Odyssey's Flagship Elementary Campus. Breakfast is served from 8:00-9:00 AM and lunch is served from 11:30-12:30 PM. Adults meals are \$2.00 for breakfast and \$3.50 for lunch.



Green Ribbon Award

2015 US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Award

This past June, Founder & Head of Schools, Ms. Constance Ortiz, traveled to Washington D.C., along with two Odyssey Administrators, Ms. Wendi Nolder and Dr. Jane Martin, and Odyssey alumni and Senior Energy Consultant, Galen Macpherson, to receive the US Department of Education's Green Ribbon School Award. This award recognizes schools that are national leaders in health and wellness, sustainability, STEM, and environmental education. Congratulations to the entire Odyssey family for receiving this prestigious award. We thank Ms. Constance, and everyone in supporting Odyssey now and in the past for creating an innovative and beautiful "green and healthy" learning environment with the aim of helping children reach full potential.



Preschool Applications for 2015-16 School Year

Montessori Village Green offers a beautiful Montessori Early Childhood Education Program for children ages 3-5 (or preschool through Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)). Our certified Early Childhood educator trained in Montessori, truly supports the development of the whole child.

Our preschool program is supplemented with the Core Knowledge Reading program which is a rich literature-based program. Our preschool program also offers a tuition-based morning and full day program for 3 year olds and non-VPK four year olds and a free VPK program. Please visit the following website <http://www.elcbrevard.org/p/232/registration-information> to learn if your child qualifies for VPK and steps to receiving your voucher. We accept School Readiness vouchers from the Early Learning Coalition to help parents who have a financial need with tuition. To learn more about School Readiness, please visit the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard's Website: <http://www.elcbrevard.org/p/218/school-readiness-subsidized-child-care-program>.

Applications for the 2015-16 preschool program are available at the school's front office. To learn more about our preschool program and to set up a tour, please contact Director, Ms. Amy White, at 321-733-0442 ext. 126 or email her at whitea@odysseycharterschool.com.

School Uniforms

All Odyssey Students are required to wear a school uniform. Our uniforms can be purchased through our uniform provider, All Uniform Wear (321-608-3845) at 2585 W. New Haven Ave. (Rte. 192), West Melbourne, 32904, or online at www.alluniformwear.com.

School uniform reminders:

- Students will wear kelly green or royal blue polo's or t-shirts with proper logo.
- Students may wear khaki shorts, skirts, shorts, or pants.
- Belts should be black or brown.
- Shirts should be tucked in at all times.
- Jackets and undershirts should be solid school colors.
- All shoes must have backs or straps. (NO Flip Flops or sandals!)

OPA Before and After Care

Our Before and After care program is on the rise and enrollment has increased dramatically thanks to the talent and organization of Certified 16 year educator / Before and After School Director, Ms. Amy White. We hope to expand our extracurricular activities this coming school year. In addition, we plan to offer an afterschool homework club guided by certified teachers. Registration forms for Before and After Care will be available during registration or in the OPA front office. For more details, contact Amy White at 321-733-0442 Ext 126, or email her at whitea@odysseycharterschool.com.

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten

A table will be set up at registration for any families still needing to submit required VPK enrollment information (birth certificate, voucher, registration form, and physical/immunization form). For more details, contact Amy White at 321-733-0442 Ext 126, or email her at whitea@odysseycharterschool.com.

WANTED: Substitute Teachers!



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. Debi Wright at (321) 345-4117 x 125.

School Supply Lists

School Supply Lists are available for K - 6th grade students from your campus front office or on our website at odysseypreacademy.com.



Summer Reading Requirements

Summer reading assignments for Kindergarten through 6th grade are due during the first few weeks of school. Summer reading assignments are available on our website at www.odysseyprepacademy.com and at the office.



The Joy of Summer Reading

By TIME for Kids Reporter Liliana Scott

<http://www.timeforkids.com/news/joy-summer-reading/244226>

TIME for Kids chats with author Kate DiCamillo (National Ambassador or Young People's Literature) about the fun of reading over the summer, and the future of libraries,

TFK: Why are summer reading programs at the public library so important?

There are all these statistics about how sometimes when kids are out of school their reading level can drop because they are not reading during the summer break. That's one reason, but the reason that I like to talk about is just because libraries matter. The library is such a fabulous place because it can remind kids that reading is a joy. With summer reading, no one tells you what to read so you can read whatever you want that interests you. The summer reading programs at the public library are free, there are prizes to make it even more fun and it's just a great place to go.

TFK: In addition to summer reading programs, what are some other ways families can encourage kids to read more?

I am really fond of recommending that families read together, either a parent reading to a kid or a kid reading to the parent. That makes a big difference.

TFK: Why is reading important for kids?

Well, do you know what empathy is? So there is sympathy, which is when someone tells you a story and you think, oh, that makes me feel bad for you. Empathy is when you can imagine somebody else's pain. You don't just feel sorry for them; you can feel their pain, too. There have been studies about how when you read a really good book it makes you more empathetic as a person. It makes you able to relate more to the people around you and to empathize.

TFK: In your opinion what are some of the other things reading helps develop?

If you can read, you can do anything you want to do in this world. It opens the door to everything. You can teach yourself anything. It is also interactive. When you are reading a book and the character picks up a pencil and moves it on the desk, all the synapses in your brain that would fire if you are actually picking up the pencil yourself, fire so even though you are reading about it, it's interactive. There is just so much to gain from reading. There is not only the educational part — it's the emotional part too. You can learn about yourself and other people.

Family Literacy Resources

How is your family focusing on learning during the summer? Consider some of the following:

- Make a chart to keep track of all the books you and your family members read this summer. Talk to each other about your books during meals or long drives.
- Start a summer scrapbook with your family members. Include souvenirs of any trips you take, photos, ticket stubs, and projects you work on during the summer.
- Take a walk as a family. Write about or draw the things you see.
- Pick wildflowers and press them between the pages of a heavy book.
- Plan a family 'booknic' at your favorite outdoor spot, such as the beach, a park, or the woods. Pack lunch and plenty to read.

For more tips and ideas, visit the 10 weeks of Summer Reading Adventure website at <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/391>, Summer Time Reading Resources website at http://www.rif.org/documents/us/summer_reading.pdf, or the For Teens, By Teens Reading site at <http://www.justreadflorida.com/recommend/PublicDisplay.asp>

Do you have a Special Skill or Expertise Area?

We are looking for parents, grandparents, and community members with special skills to help us enhance our learning community. If you are a photographer, speaker of another language, artist, gardener, musician, scientist, cook, elected official, or if you have some other special skill or talent that you can share with our students, please email info@odysseyprepacademy.com.

Title I and Summer Learning

Our ThinkStretch program is coming along very nicely. We have close to 115 students enrolled in the program! Tremendous thanks to our parents that are working with their children at home to ensure their academic success. Just as a reminder, all of our students are able to log onto www.myon.com to work on reading skills at home. The free summer math program is still available at www.tenmarks.com.

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.