



Odyssey Preparatory Academy

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

SUMMER 2021 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
- Ms. Wendi Nolder**, Site Administrator/Principal
- Ms. Pat Carvil**, Associate Principal
- Mr. Mike Davis**, Assistant Principal
- Ms. Kim Cappelen**, Behavior Tech
- Ms. Marie Cimirro**, Instructional Coach
- Ms. Leslie Guevara**, Instructional Coach
- Ms. Jill Clausen**, Registrar
- Ms. Amy White**, Director, Preschool/VPK and Before & After School Care

CALENDAR

- 5/20 PasP Meeting - Data review & family survey to help us prepare for 2021-2022
- 5/21 Early Release
- 5/25 5th and 6th grade Stepping Up Ceremony at The Constance Ortiz Wellness & Performing Arts Centre (Wyoming campus)
- 5/26 OCS Inc. Board of Directors Meeting 4:30pm
- 5/28 Dress Out of Uniform/Early Release
- 5/31 Memorial Day/Holiday for All
- 6/1 – 6/3 Final Exams & Early Release Days
- 6/3 Last Day of School/Report Cards Issued
- 6/7 Summer School begins

From the Desk of the Principal, Ms. Nolder

Odyssey Prep Academy is in full swing this spring and are excited about how committed our teachers and staff have been to educate and prepare our students for success. Look for some exciting, hands-on projects and activities to round out the year!

It is wonderful to see most of our students face to face as we all move toward a more natural learning environment. Presently, almost 75% of our students are back in our schools and we have been educating them well and safely. Our eLearning teachers are digging in and ensuring our online students are also progressing well. Please know that eLearning will continue throughout this semester but will not continue at our schools for the next school year.

We are pleased that despite the pandemic, we have been able to achieve some normalcy within our schools, and our students have been able to safely take part in and enjoy a variety of clubs, an in-person book fair, field days, celebrations, and field trips to Brevard Zoo. We look forward to this trend continuing in the future!

Wendi Nolder, Principal

Associate Principal Pat Carvil

I'm excited as we excel through another great year! We want to rejoice in all the hard work and commitment of the students, teachers, and families, as we all push through the struggles of this school year. We have much to look forward to, including our 5th and 6th Grade Stepping Up Ceremonies, Brevard Zoo field trips and much more. Teachers, parents and students' thanks for an amazing year of pure resilience and determination to ensure students are receiving rigorous instruction daily.

COVID update – Mr. Davis

We are very happy to say that very few of our students have been ill with COVID this year and the cases we have had appear to have had their start outside of our school. Looking through the data for almost the entire school year, we have experienced 0 cases of Covid in areas of our school that have been mask free or mask optional, including our cafeteria, PE classes, and recess. We thank our families for your honest communication with us this year and for your understanding when we called to quarantine your child. We do not take these calls lightly and our staff is taking caution every day to ensure these calls are few and far between!

Discipline Notes – Mr. Davis

With the end of the school year coming, our OPA team would like to say thank you for your support this year. This has been a great year, and your encouragement, patience, and flexibility has been invaluable. As we near the end of this year, please keep these few things in mind:

- The behavior interventions administered to students will continue to be supportive but will be more focused on deterring non-school behaviors and parents will be notified if this occurs.
- Students are to be in dress code uniforms every day, except for dress down days.
- Due to the fact that we are at the last quarter of the year, students are expected to understand and adhere to classroom and school-wide behavioral expectations.
- We will offer appropriate consequences followed by constructive conversations/counseling as needed.

Again, thank you for being awesome olive branches from our school to your homes and we look forward to a strong finish of this school year.

Coaches Corner

Summer Reading

Summer Reading books and choice boards are here! We will begin distributing books to our eLearning students as they come into the building to take their FSA. For our Brick and Mortar students, we will distribute books the week of May 24th. Students will be required to read their books independently or with a family member then complete THREE activities from the choice board. When school starts, please bring in your completed activities for extra credit as well as a chance to share with your teacher and class!

Reflex and i-Ready accounts will be active until July 15th. Please encourage your child to sign on daily and utilize the lessons.

Summer School

Summer School will begin on June 8th and run through June 30th, Monday-Thursday. Students may arrive at 8:30 for breakfast. Class will begin at 8:45 and end at 11:45. Summer school will be held at the Eldron campus. This campus is also a sponsored community lunch site, you are more than welcome to come sign in and have lunch with your child at 12:00. Bus transportation will be provided for those outside of the 2-mile zone. If interested, please notify your teacher.

STEAM and Science Update

At OPA, the STEM Lab is an integral part of Science Education for all grade levels. Kindergarten through 6th graders work through hands-on learning experiences with a natural inquiry process in order to understand scientific concepts and problem solving. Some notable Science programs include: Science Fair, Outreach programs, Garden Education, Environmental Club and Little Bits.



Counseling Corner

As we approach the end of our school year for Odyssey Preparatory Academy, our students will soon be heading into their summer break. At that time, it will be essential to encourage the emotional wellbeing of your children as it is just as important as their physical health, and overall wellbeing in general. Maintaining good mental health allows children and young individuals to develop the resilience to cope with any kinds of challenges that they may encounter in life. Sustaining good mental health also permits young individuals to grow into mature, healthy adults. Below are a few tips that will be helpful towards maintaining good mental health for children:

- To ensure that you promote children's mental health during the summer you can try a few things such as having open dialogue, and modeling positive sharing regarding emotions and challenges.
- It is ok to ask your children questions even when things appear to be well at times.
- Focus on building positive relationships.
- Also, be mindful of your tones as your approach towards your children should be calm and neutral.
- Displaying a calm, safe and positive approach will influence your children to open up more to you and feel secure.
- Stay focused and always be your best! Be safe, and have a wonderful summer!

Required Final Registration

Odyssey families, please mark your calendars for final registration, which will be held on July 15th from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM and is required for ALL Odyssey families. This includes new students to our school as well as returning OPA students. Without completion of the final registration documents, we will not be able to finalize your child's enrollment at our school for the 2021-2022 school year.

If you are not able to attend the event on July 15th, we welcome you to complete registration paperwork in the office (Monday through Friday) between the hours of 8:00AM and 3:00PM, from July 6th to July 15th.

FSA Update

Odyssey Prep's Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) update:

Our teachers and staff have worked very hard this year to ensure our students are ready and will be relaxed for the FSA assessment. We understand any test can be scary, so please know that we worked hard to ensure your children understood the strategies to use so they would feel confident going into these tests.

Keep in mind, we will be testing eLearning students on different days than we test our brick & mortar students. eLearning students all received their actual dates for each assessment weeks ago and your teachers will send you reminders prior to the dates.

eLearning

Thank you to the parents, teachers, and family members for their dedication to ensure that eLearning was a success. As we come to the end of the school year, we are coming up with a plan to ensure all technology is safely returned to the school. If you borrowed a laptop or hotspot from the school, we will be scheduling a couple of days for families to return them during the week of June 1st. Stay tuned for specific days and times. Please be advised that eLearning will not be continued into the new school year.



Summer Camp is Coming!

Join us for Odyssey's Habitat Nature Camp! Camp kicks off on our OCS Elementary Eldron campus June 7th with fun and exploration through July 23rd. Each week, campers ages 3-12, will discover a new habitat: Salt Water Ocean, Fresh Water Lagoon, Tropical Rain Forest, Deciduous Forest, Desert, Savanna and the

Arctic Tundra. Campers will enjoy fun, hands-on learning in their grade level groups, arts & crafts, and sports with PE Instructor, Coach Badrak. Community partners such as the UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension Family Nutrition Program and FL Animal & Wildlife provide on-site interactive lessons. Campers in rising Kindergarten and up will enjoy field trips to the Brevard Zoo, Palm Bay Aquatic Center, Turkey Creek Sanctuary (K-2), Environmental Learning Center (3rd & 4th), Indialantic Beach Clean Up (5th and Up), and more! Camp activities are 8:00am – 3:30pm, however, the camp day includes Before & After Care option with our Monday-Friday hours being 6:30am-6:00pm for your convenience. Summer meals of breakfast and lunch will continue to be made from scratch with a focus on healthy, organic sourced components that meet or exceed USDA nutritional standards. Odyssey's Habitat Nature Camp will continue to follow health precautions for Summer 2021, although masks for our summer camp children will be optional. For more information, email Ms. White at WhiteA@odysseycharterschool.com or stop by our Front Office for a registration form. Summer fun awaits!

Important Weblinks

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires for schools to provide parents with an annual school status report each school year.

The Odyssey Prep Academy 2019-2020 Report Card can be accessed here: <https://edudata.fldoe.org/ReportCards/Schools.html?school=6541&district=05>

The Odyssey Parent/Student Handbook, School Improvement Plan, and Parent and Family Engagement Plan can be found on the school's website at <http://odysseyprepacademy.com/OPA-PFEP.pdf>

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

**Ms. Cindy Gilmore 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. Gilmore can be reached at cgilmore@greenappleschools.com or 321-676-8737.

National Honors Society

Odyssey's National Honors Society is a group of gifted individuals within the Odyssey Preparatory Academy School student body. Members are required to maintain an exceptional GPA, study a rigorous curriculum, and remain involved in the community to maintain membership. Within the group are top performing students that maintain the organization's pillars of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. This year's class was the largest in OPA's history. Congratulations to all of this year's inductees!



We are growing and hiring!

We are looking for talented and community-minded men and women who care for and value children to join our Odyssey family.

TEACHERS:

Elementary and Secondary Certified Teachers
Those interested, please email Ms. Janee Campbell at jcampbell@greenappleschools.com and/or employment@odysseycharterschool.com

BEHAVIOR TECH:

Jr/Sr High (Full Time)
Those interested, please email Mr. Mike Geuvara at guevaram@odysseycharterschool.com and/or employment@odysseycharterschool.com

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS:

Elementary and Secondary Substitute Teachers
Those interested, please email Ms. Wendi Nolder (OCS/OPA) at nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com and Dr. Monica Knight (JrSr) at knightm@odysseycharterschool.com

CAFÉ:

Cashiers, Serving Line, Food Prep, and Line Cooks (Part-time)
Those interested, please email ChapmanC@odysseycharterschool.com and/or employment@odysseycharterschool.com

TRANSPORTATION:

Bus Drivers (Full-time 37.5 hours a week)
Those interested, please email Ms. Rosie Greer at GreerR@odysseycharterschool.com and employment@odysseycharterschool.com

FRONT DESK:

Customer-Service Representative (Full-time)
Those interested please email HR at GreenK@odysseycharterschool.com and/or employment@odysseycharterschool.com

CUSTODIAL:

School custodial staff (Full-time)
Those interested, please email grantc@odysseycharterschool.com and/or employment@odysseycharterschool.com

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