



Odyssey Preparatory Academy

1350 Wyoming Drive S.E. • Palm Bay, Florida 32909 • 321-372-7263

SUMMER 2023 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.

Founder

Ms. Constance Ortiz

School Leadership Team

Ms. Shelly Miedona, Principal
 Mr. Bill Svendsen, Assistant Principal
 Ms. Kim Cappelen, Behavior Technician
 Ms. Marie Cimirro & Mrs. Courtney Goodenow, Instructional Coaches
 Ms. Megan Bigwood, STEAM Coordinator
 Ms. Emily Dent, Gifted/GATEway Teacher
 Ms. Leslie Guevara, ESE coordinator
 Ms. Nancy Gervais, Registrar
 Ms. Hartwick, Director, Before & After Care

CALENDAR

July

7/4 – School Holiday – Office is closed
 7/18 (10 a.m. – 6 p.m.) – Final Registration

August

8/1 – 8/9 – Preplanning for Teachers
 8/10 – First day of school (1st – 5th grades)
 8/15 – First day of school for Kindergarten
 8/24 – Board of Directors Meeting @ 4:30 p.m.

September

9/5 – Labor Day – Holiday

The school calendar is available at <https://odysseyprepacademy.com/Calendar.pdf>

Welcome Back from our Principal, Ms. Miedona

I hope you are enjoying a restful, fun-filled summer with families and friends. When I was a classroom teacher and my children were young, I looked forward to spending the summer months with them. The busyness of life really slowed down for us and we had more time to enjoy one another, whether it was at the beach, visiting a museum, spending time in Michigan with their grandparents and especially lounging around together reading a good book. When your children see you enjoying down time reading, it helps them to realize the importance of reading. Encouraging your children to read during the summer is the best way to help them continue the growth they made during the school year. A 2016 research study looked at how reading for pleasure impacted academic performance. The authors concluded that students who read for pleasure performed better in English, Mathematics, Science and History. Please consider helping your children find a good book or two to read this summer!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible staff who worked hard on a daily basis to help each student meet his/her fullest potential this past school year! The faculty and staff at Odyssey Prep are the most dedicated, caring, qualified staff I have ever had the privilege to work beside. This year was a challenge with the new state testing and state benchmarks. The teachers worked diligently to learn, grow, and do everything possible to ensure the students of Odyssey Prep were prepared for the next grade level. As you can see in the chart below, Odyssey Prep scored above the state and district in many areas. We are awaiting the Science scores later this summer. We feel confident that Odyssey Preparatory will continue to be Palm Bay's best kept secret and we will continue to be a high performing charter school. We are so proud of the students and their achievements this past school year! I would also like to express my heartfelt appreciation for all your support and involvement throughout the past year. Your dedication and commitment to your child's education and well-being has been truly inspiring. It is through collaboration with the parents, families, school, and community that we have the greatest impact on Odyssey Prep's students' social, emotional, physical, and academic success.

I am excited to announce that Mr. Bill Svendsen, formerly our 4th grade math teacher, will be our new Assistant Principal this coming year! Mr. Svendsen has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in educational leadership. He has over 27 years of experience as a classroom teacher and 10 years of experience as an assistant principal. For those of you who do not know Mr. Svendsen, I am confident you will appreciate his sincerity, warmth, and jovial sense of humor. Mr. Svendsen is an excellent teacher and we look forward to his continued support and guidance of our teacher teams.

As a reminder, our final registration takes place on Tuesday, July 18, from 10am-6:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there. I cannot thank you enough for choosing Odyssey Preparatory Academy and entrusting us with your child(ren). We are working diligently this summer in preparation for your return in August. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at miedonas@odysseyprepacademy.com or at 321-408-9549. It is an honor and privilege to serve your family. Working collaboratively, I am confident the 2023-2024 school year will be one of growth and success!

Shelly Miedona

Odyssey Preparatory Academy – Percentage of Students Achieving Passing Scores

Grade Level	English Language Arts Achievement			Mathematics Achievement		
	Odyssey Prep Academy	Brevard School District	State of Florida	Odyssey Prep Academy	Brevard School District	State of Florida
3	54%	56%	50%	65%	56%	50%
4	65%	62%	57%	67%	62%	57%
5	51%	58%	55%	59%	58%	55%

New OPA Team Members

We are thrilled to welcome our NEW Olympian staff members for the 2023-2024 school year!!

Lesa Thompson – 1st Grade
Kavel Green – 2nd Grade
Leor Mercader – 4th Grade
Claire Kerr – 4th Grade
Haley Tan – 5th Grade



Required for All Odyssey Prep Families July 18 (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.) - OPA Summer Registration in the Café

Please be prepared to complete the following for your student(s):

- Income Verification Form
- Questions Regarding Bus Assignment
- Final Class Placement
- Before and After-Care Registration
- Health Card
- All 'Dress for Success', school conduct, cell phone, technology, and bus behavior agreements
- Odyssey Preparatory Academy Fees 2022-2023 School Year. Student Fees for Kindergarten through 5th grade will be \$15. Please bring a check to registration made out to Odyssey Preparatory Academy and include Student Fees in the tagline. Students Fees include: \$2 Student Writing Journal/Folders; \$2 Interactive Notebook; \$6 Technology; \$5 Student ID & Lanyard

For Kindergarten and NEW students, the following documents must be provided in order to successfully complete the registration process for the 2023-2024 school year, which begins August 10, 2023:

- Original birth certificate (All NEW students) – we will make a photocopy
- Current immunization form (NEW Grade K)
- Physical- dated within one year of first day of school (All NEW students)
- IEPs, EPs, Behavioral Plans, 504 Plans (All NEW students - as applicable)

School Hours

Monday through Friday the school day begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. Students are considered tardy if they are not in class ready to begin their day at 8:00 a.m. The school day ends at 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, students will be released at 1:45 for early dismissal.

As a reminder...Odyssey Charter Schools (Elementary and Jr. / Sr. High) and Odyssey Preparatory Academy (OPA) follow the Brevard County School calendar. <https://odysseyprepacademy.com/Calendar.pdf>

Early Release Days

We will continue early release days on Fridays throughout the school year which is consistent Brevard County School District's schedule. Students will be dismissed at 1:45 p.m.

Dress Out of Uniform Days

Students have an opportunity to dress out of uniform on the last Friday of each month. Reminder, please ensure that your student follows the Brevard Public Schools dress code for out of uniform days. This year, our Dress Out of Uniform Days will be on the following dates: 8/25, 9/29, 10/20, 11/17, 12/22, 1/26, 2/23, 3/22, 4/26, 5/24

Student Placement

As a reminder, a great deal of time, effort and thought has gone into the process of student class assignments for the 2023-2024 school year, beginning with input from our teaching staff. Careful consideration was given to student placement and learning styles. Classrooms have been balanced academically and socially. Our class lists are structured to provide equitable class sizes at each grade level. Moving students is difficult without causing imbalances and inequities.

Parent/Student Handbook

Please take a moment to review our Parent/Student Handbook. It is full of important information for you and your student and is available on our website at <http://odysseyprepacademy.com/OCS-Inc-Parent-Student-Handbook.pdf>.

Odyssey Prep Academy –Supply Lists

Odyssey Prep grade supply list will be available during registration on 7/18. The list can also be found on our website, <http://odysseyprepacademy.com/supplies.html>.

Moment of Silence (Florida House Bill 529)

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2021/529>

This bill requires a moment of silence to be set aside for public school students during each school day. We will set aside 1-2 minutes daily for a moment of silence during morning announcement following The Pledge of Allegiance. The bill does not allow teachers to make suggestions about the nature of a student's reflection during these moments. Parent should discuss the moment of silence with their children and make suggestions to their children about how they should use this time. Students may not interfere with each other's participation in the moment of silence.

Healthy Café and Wellness

We believe that fresh, seasonal, local, sustainably grown foods are a primary and recommended source of nutrition for growing, high-achieving children and we offer these **FREE** daily in our healthy café at breakfast and lunch times. **YES, WE SAID FREE.** This year, Odyssey Prep Academy students all qualify for free breakfast and lunch. So please help your child take advantage of our great food. We believe it enhances our students' academic and behavioral development. You can find our wellness policy and menus on our website at <http://odysseyprepacademy.com/cafe.html>



Uniform Policy (Grades K-5)

All Odyssey Prep students are required to wear a school uniform. Our uniforms can be purchased from our uniform provider:

All Uniform Wear - 4335 W New Haven Ave, West Melbourne
Discount coupons will expire on July 15th and are available at:
<https://www.odysseycharterschool.com/Uniform-Coupon-23.pdf>

(Note: Please be certain you select Odyssey Preparatory Academy uniforms and not Odyssey Charter School uniforms).

You can find our uniform policy on our website at
<http://odysseyprepacademy.com/OPA-Uniform-Policy.pdf>.

- As part of our uniform requirement, students must wear their issued ID badge/lanyard at all times while on campus.
- All students are required to wear full-length solid-colored pants, shorts, skirts or skorts. Inappropriately rolling or altering the pants in any way is in direct violation of the dress code. Shorts, skirts and skorts length must be at least mid-thigh.
- Pants, shorts, skirts and skorts that are too big or too tight, as determined by Administration, are not acceptable and will be deemed in violation of the uniform code. Joggers are allowed. Jeans, stretch pants, and athletic wear are not allowed. Students may wear solid-color leggings under uniform shorts or skorts, but leggings worn alone as pants are not permitted.
- Students must wear an approved t-shirt, collared polo shirt, or dress shirt. Student shirts must be a solid color and in accordance with the individual schools' uniform guide below. All shirts must bear the School logo.
- Any attire, including backpacks, displaying gang related paraphernalia or symbols, profanity or any inappropriate logos or displays are strictly prohibited.
- All headgear (hats, scarves, bandanas etc.) are prohibited on school property.
- Shoes must be closed or be strapped in the back. Flip-flops, slippers, or high heel shoes are prohibited.
- If a student chooses or needs to wear a jacket or sweatshirt due to cold weather, it must be a solid color of blue, black, or grey and in accordance with the individual schools' uniform guide.

We Need You for our Clubs/ Extra-Curricular

Do you have a special talent you can share with our students for nine (9) weeks out of the school year after school? Our Before and After School Enrichment Program offers a variety of afterschool club opportunities to our students. Look for information to come out in September and December on our available clubs for 2023-2024. Parents with a special talent or skill may volunteer to lead one of the clubs listed below or may suggest a club. Please help us enrich our deserving students' education. At our summer registration, parents will have an opportunity to sign up to sponsor a club.

Possible Club Offerings

- Computer Coding
- Guitar Lessons
- Environmental Club
- Art Club
- Basketball
- Dance
- Lego Club
- Culinary Club
- Tae kwon Do
- Soccer
- Musical/Theatre

Bus Transportation

Odyssey Charter Schools provide bus transportation to students who live between two and four miles from the school. Students living more than 4 miles will be assigned a pick up and drop off location as per established bus routes, space permitting.

Each student is allowed one designated bus stop. Changes to assigned routes or bus transportation needs will not be permitted until a parent/guardian with proper ID completes a change of address form with the front office and then contact the Transportation Coordinator, Ms. Rosie Greer. Please allow 72 hours for all changes. During the start of the school year it may take longer.

Here is a snapshot of the enhanced Transportation Services for the 2023-2024 school year:

1) Student Grade-Level Identification badge (ID badges) - Each Odyssey student will receive one ID badge at the start of the school year. Students are required to wear their ID badge at all times as part of their school uniform. This is to support safety and issuing of school lunches. The replacement cost for an ID badge is \$5.

2) Online Student Transportation Registration (EZRouting) - EZRouting is the online registration tool for families applying for bus transportation. Computers will be available for families to use during summer registration on July 18. We recommend that families register for transportation for the 2023-2024 school year in advance from home (using Google Chrome - must use a computer - will not work on a phone) at the following link www.ezrouting.com/odysseyfl. To ensure we can get all students routed, ensure you have registered by the 07/30/2023.

3) Student Tracker System (Here Comes the Bus "HCTB") - This system will give you a "real-time" notification when your student's bus is within 100 yards of the bus stop. The system will send "real-time" notification to your phone or computer when your student scans his/her ID upon entering the bus. If you have not already signed your student up for HCTB, you will be able to as of August 7th 2023. Our District Code 29456.

Here Some of the School bus expectations.

- Treat each other with respect.
- Follow the bus driver's directions.
- Speak in a conversational voice.

Rosie Greer, Fleet Coordinator
greerr@odysseycharterschool.com
321-345-4117 option 3
321-338-5187 cell



Substitutes

We are always looking for parents or community members to join our OPA family. We need positive, driven individuals looking to make an impact in our Olympians' daily scholastic goals. Training is provided. Substitute teaching rates are as follows: HS Diploma (\$100/day; \$50/half day); Bachelor's Degree (\$120/day; \$60/half day); Certified Teacher Substitute (\$160/day; \$80/half day). If you are interested in joining our team as a substitute, please contact Ms. Nancy Gervais at gervaisn@odysseyprepacademy.com.

Summer At-Home Readings

All Odyssey Charter School students are required to read the grade-specific novels(s). The reading list and accompanying assignment is available in the front office and is on our website:

<http://odysseyprepacademy.com/summer-reading.html>.

Highlights from 2023



Grievance Procedures

- Step 1: Request Teacher conference to clarify issue
- Step 2: Contact the Principal if unresolved with the teacher
- Step 3: **Contact Board Designated Parent Representative – Laurie Young
- 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

Mrs. Laurie Young 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. Mrs. Laurie Young can be reached at YoungL@OdysseyCharterSchool.com or 321-446-3594.

** 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, will be determined by the OCS Board of Directors at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year.

Volunteering at OPA

Please go to the Brevard County Schools web page: www.brevardschools.org



- 1) Click the Parents & Students heading.
- 2) Scroll down to Volunteer Information and click on the link
- 3) On the left of the screen, click on the Fingerprint link (The application is at the bottom of the page)
- 4) Complete the Application (\$35 for the first year, \$8 for renewals)
- 5) After completing the Application and payment, please visit: District and School Security - 2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Viera, FL 32940
Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (No appointment necessary)

If you are planning to chaperone any field trip please complete this process as soon as possible so it is completed before any field trips might occur.

Before and After-School Enrichment Programs

We are delighted to offer our Before and After School Enrichment program to our families who need it. Registration forms are available in the front office of Odyssey Preparatory Academy. There is a one-time registration fee of \$50.00 for one child and \$75 for two or more children. Before and After-Care payments are due every Monday (via Procure App or by check or money order). Please pay online, or hand in a check to the front office. For more information about Before and After-Care Enrichment at Odyssey Preparatory Academy, please contact: Alia Hartwick at HartwickA@Odysseycharterschool.com.

School Age Before-Care

Before-Care begins at 6:00 am. Students participate in art, a variety of team-based games, and social fun. Every student enjoys a healthy breakfast in the café before the school day commences at 7:30am. The weekly rate for Before-Care is \$35.00.

School Age After-Care

After-Care is available to students until 6:30pm each day, and every student is provided a healthy snack. Students are grouped by grade levels and activities include Yoga, art projects, nature trails, digital learning, and homework support. The weekly rate for After-Care is \$65.00.

School Age Full Time School Age Before-/After-Care

Fulltime before and aftercare is available from 6:00 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. daily. The weekly rate is \$75.

Parents as Partners

Parents as Partners (PasP) is a collaborative effort between parents, teachers, and administrators. The committee develops ideas and plans programs to support student success. Mrs. Megan Rego is the chair person of this very important partnership. If you are interested in joining this very important organization, we will have a table at the July 18th registration or you can reach out to Megan by email at megreg25@gmail.com.