



# Odyssey Preparatory Academy

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

## SUMMER 2024 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  
 Ms. Marie Cimirro, Assistant Principal  
 Ms. Kim Cappelén, Behavior Technician  
 Mrs. Carol Coppola, Instructional Coach  
 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 School

### CALENDAR

#### July

7/4 – School Holiday – Office is closed  
 7/9 – Online Student Open Enrollment via the Focus portal  
 7/16 (10 a.m. – 6 p.m.) – Final Registration  
 7/24 Board Meeting @ 4:30

#### August

8/1 – 8/9 – Preplanning for Teachers  
 8/7 - 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. - Meet the teacher  
 8/12 – First day of school (1st – 5th grades)  
 8/15 – First day of school for Kindergarten  
 8/28 – Board of Directors Meeting @ 4:30 p.m.

#### September

9/2 – Labor Day – Holiday

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

### Happy Summer from our Principal, Ms. Miedona

I hope the summer finds you rested, relaxed, and enjoying all of the wonderful things that summer brings while spending time with friends and family. One of my favorite things to do with my children during the summer months when they were in school was to read with them. We had a set time each day where we all sat down and read our books. It is imperative that you encourage your child to read throughout the summer. This not only builds reading skills, it opens up their imaginations as they travel to new places or learn new ideas from their book.

The mission of Odyssey Charter Schools is to educate the whole child intellectually, emotionally, physically and spiritually as a foundation for life. My goal for this year is for each one of us to see this in action for all stakeholders. What are some things we will see? We will see resilience, independent thinkers, problem solvers, self-directed learning, autonomy, intrinsic motivation and everyone having a growth mindset. I have included a chart below that describes holistic education. As the year progresses, please ask your child how they are demonstrating some of the characteristics I mentioned above.

I would like to thank the amazing teachers and staff of Odyssey Prep for their hard work and dedication this past school year! They worked diligently supporting your students by helping them to learn and grow. Many of them continued this work in June teaching summer school. We have an amazing group of dedicated professionals and I feel blessed to work side by side with them each and every day. I'd also like to thank the incredible parents, grandparents and guardians of our Olympians. It truly takes a village as we work each and every day to ensure the students of Odyssey Prep are learning and growing in all areas of life. Our preliminary school grade for the 2023-2024 school year is a B. There were some great areas of growth and achievement as you can see in the chart below. There are definitely areas to celebrate and areas that need improvement. Leadership has already begun the work of digging into the data to problem solve areas that need additional support and growth. We are dedicated to Odyssey's mission to work with the families and community as partners to help each child grow in all areas of life.

Odyssey Preparatory Academy Percentage of Students Achieving Passing Scores

Grade Level	English Language Arts Achievement			Mathematics Achievement			Science Achievement		
	Odyssey Prep Academy	Brevard School District	State of Florida	Odyssey Prep Academy	Brevard School District	State of Florida	Odyssey Prep Academy	Brevard School District	State of Florida
3	69%	59%	61%	79%	59%	61%			
4	57%	57%	53%	67%	60%	58%			
5	58%	57%	55%	43%	56%	56%	55%	58%	54%

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(Principal's letter continued from previous page)

One of those areas is with Positive Discipline in the Classroom. The teachers and I will be sharing with families throughout the year how we implement the curriculum and ask that you try some of these strategies at home this school year. During our family events this year we will provide opportunities for families to learn Positive Discipline strategies and how we are living the holistic mission of the school.

As you can see below we have welcomed several new members to our OPA family. Those who left us at the end of the school year will always be Olympians and it is sad to see them leave. However, life is ever changing and we wish them well and all the best as they begin their new adventure or chapter in life.

I am excited to announce that Ms. Marie Cimirro, formerly our academic coach for the past 5 years, will be our new Assistant Principal this coming year! Ms. Cimirro has a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction. Her certifications are in Elementary Education, Exceptional Student Education, ESOL, Reading Endorsed and has been a curriculum reviewer for the state of Florida. She has 12 years of experience as a classroom teacher and academic coach. Many of you know and love Ms. Cimirro and we are excited for her as she steps into this leadership position. You will continue to see Mr. Svendsen on campus! He has decided his love is teaching math to 4th graders and will be doing just that this upcoming school year.

As a reminder, our final registration takes place on Tuesday, July 16, from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. 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](mailto:miedonas@odysseyprepacademy.com) or at 321-408-9549. It is an honor and privilege to serve your family. Working collaboratively, I am confident the 2024-2025 school year will be one of growth and success!

Shelly Miedona

## New OPA Team Members

**We are thrilled to welcome our NEW Olympian staff members for the 2024-2025 school year!!**

- Mary Miller – Front Desk Receptionist and Attendance Clerk
- Carol Coppola – Academic Coach
- Annalise Poco – Kindergarten
- Patricia Ragin & Robert Shaida – 1st Grade
- Colleen Bruckner & Sarah Decker – 2nd Grade
- Lisa Spencer & Lauren Fenton – 3rd Grade
- Wilhelmina Vickers – 4th Grade
- Sheena Haddan – 5th Grade
- Madelyn Stencel – Music
- Beatriz Singh – ESE teacher

## Student Placement

As a reminder, a great deal of time, effort and thought has gone into the process of student class assignments for the 2024-2025 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.

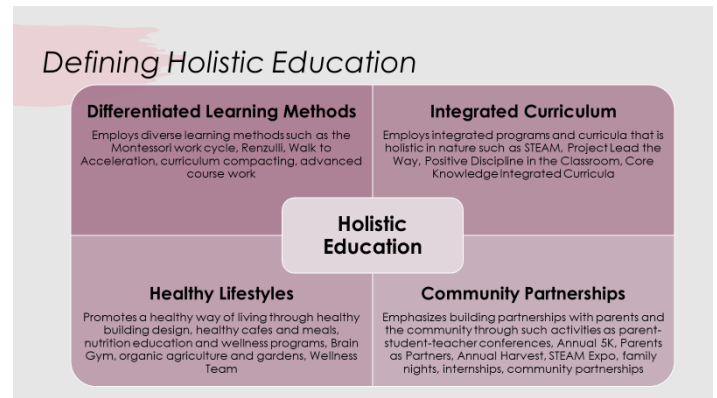
## Positive Discipline in the Classroom

At Odyssey Preparatory Academy, we are committed to a Positive Discipline model that focuses on building compassionate, resilient students who possess great communication skills. This model works miracles in helping students develop the self-discipline needed to become successful academically, socially and emotionally. A Positive Discipline technique is participating in class meetings to promote classroom community, help students feel a sense of belonging, and develop problem solving skills.

The topic for our first morning meeting will be, "Beginning the Almost Perfect School Year." We will be asking each student, "What do you want to do to make this the best school year ever?"

We are looking forward to a great school year as we continue to implement Positive Discipline throughout the school. We have great lessons and activities planned so be sure to ask your child what they are discussing in their morning meetings! We want the Positive Discipline model to be a school and family partnership!

### Odyssey's Holistic Education Model at a Glance



## 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 below dates:

- 8/30, 9/27, 10/25, 11/22, 12/20, 1/31, 2/27, 3/28, 4/25, 5/23



### Required for All Odyssey Prep Families July 16 (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 2024-2025 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. Student Fees include:
  - \$2 Student Writing Journal/Folders
  - \$2 Interactive Notebook
  - \$6 Technology
  - \$5 Student ID & Lanyard

### The following documents must be provided in order to successfully complete the registration process for the 2024-2025 school year, which begins August 12, 2024:

- Birth certificate (All new students)
- Current immunization form (Grade K)
- IEPs, EPs, Behavioral Plans, 504 Plans (All new students - as applicable)

## 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.

## Electronic Devices

To keep the focus on academics and to reduce unnecessary distractions, the school enforces the following regarding personal cell phone use on school campus:

- Cell phones and all mobile devices shall be TURNED OFF when entering school campus.
- Cell phones and all mobile devices shall be kept in a student's backpack – not in clothing pockets.
- Cell phones and all mobile devices are not allowed to be used in a classroom, library, common areas, or restrooms.
- Cell phones and all mobile devices are not allowed to be used during transition times or between classes.

## 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 (Address: 4335 W New Haven Ave, West Melbourne, FL 32904).** (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 on our website. <http://odysseyprepacademy.com/OPA-Uniform-Policy.pdf>



## Supply Lists

Odyssey Prep grade supply lists were sent home with the final report card. In addition they will be available during registration on 7/16. The list can also be found on our website, <http://odysseyprepacademy.com/supplies.html>.



## 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. Odyssey Prep Academy students all qualify for free breakfast and lunch. 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>.

Some students choose to bring their own lunch from home and most bring a snack to school each day. Please ensure all items sent are healthy choices like fresh fruit and veggies. Notes will be going home this year to remind families of the Wellness Policy if students bring in items other than healthy food choices.



## Bus Transportation

Odyssey Charter Schools provides bus transportation to students who live between two and four miles from the school – more miles might be allotted as per established bus routes. Bus registration is online year and computers will be available during summer registration.

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 new registration form.

Here is a snapshot of the enhanced Transportation Services for the 2024-2025 school year:

### 1) Student Grade-Level Identification badge (ID badges) -

Each Odyssey student will receive one ID card at the start of the school year. Students are required to always wear their IDs at all times

### 2) Online Student Transportation Registration (EZRouting) -

eZRouting is an online registration tool to help families sign up for bus transportation annually. This means that you will not have to fill out forms at school to apply for transportation.

### 3) \*NEW\* Student Tracker System (Here Comes the Bus "HCTB") -

This system will give you a "real-time" notification when your student's bus within 100 yards of the stop. The system will send "real-time" notification to your phone or computer when your student scans his/her ID upon entry to or exit from the bus.



If you have additional questions or concerns, please call Ms. Rosie Greer, Fleet Coordinator, below.

Rosie Greer, Fleet Coordinator  
[rgreer@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:rgreer@odysseycharterschool.com)  
321-345-4117 option 3  
321-338-5187 cell

## 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>. Students will share their novels and the project they completed the first week of school.

## 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 2024-2025. 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

- Odyssey of the Mind
- Computer Coding
- Culinary Club
- Art Club
- Basketball
- Odyssey of the Minds
- Environmental Club
- Future Problem Solvers
- Lego Club
- Environmental Club
- Soccer
- Dance
- Math Club

## 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 16th registration or you can reach out to Megan by email at [megreggo25@gmail.com](mailto:megreggo25@gmail.com).

## Volunteering at OPA

Please go to the Brevard County Schools web page:

[www.brevardschools.org](http://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 volunteer 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: Monday through Thursday 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.

## 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>

## 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](mailto:gervaisn@odysseyprepacademy.com).



## 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 \$75.00 for two or more children. Before and After-Care payments are due every Monday (via ProCare 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](mailto:HartwickA@Odysseycharterschool.com).

### School Age Before-Care

Before-Care begins at 6:00am. 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 \$40.00.

### 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 art projects, fun with movement, nature trail, digital learning, and homework support. The weekly rate for After-Care is \$75.00.

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

Full time Before/After-Care is available from 6:00am-7:30am and after school through 6:30pm daily. The weekly rate for Before/After-Care is \$85.00.

### 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](mailto: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 2024-2025 school year.

## Highlights from the 2023-2024 school year.

