



Odyssey Preparatory Academy

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

WINTER 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. Shelly Miedona, Principal
Mr. Mike Davis, Assistant Principal
Mr. Sean Antonio, Guidance
Ms. Kim Cappelen, Behavior Tech
Ms. Marie Cimirro, Instructional Coach
Ms. Leslie Guevara, Instructional Coach
Ms. Emily Dent, STEAM Coordinator
Ms. Nancy Gervais, Registrar

CALENDAR

December

12/13 – Santa Visits OPA
12/14 – Parents as Partners Meeting @ 5pm-6pm
12/16 – Family Winter Dance
12/17 – Early Dismissal @ 1:45
12/17 – Dress Down Day
12/20 – Early Dismissal @ 1:45
12/21 – Early Dismissal @ 1:45
12/22 – 1/6 Winter Break

January

1/1 – Registration for 2022-2023 School Year Begins
1/6 – Students Return to School
1/7 – Classroom Spelling Bee
1/12 – Report Cards Home
1/13 – School Spelling Bee
1/17 – No School Martin Luther King Jr. Day
1/18 – New Family Information Night @5:30
1/21 – Dad's Bring Students to School Breakfast
1/28 – Dress Down Day

Casual Dress Days – Last Friday of each month
(12/17, 1/28, 2/25, 3/25, 4/29, 5/27)

From the Desk of the Principal, Ms. Miedona

As I fly home from Michigan visiting my parents for Thanksgiving, I write this thinking about all I have to be grateful for this holiday season. I am thinking of my new Odyssey Preparatory Family who has welcomed me and made me feel at home. I am so thankful to be part of such a wonderful community. I have never worked with such a committed faculty or families than those at Odyssey Preparatory Academy. This is a very special school and I feel so blessed to be a member of the OPA school family. I hope that each of you have a wonderful holiday season with your friends and families.

Moving forward, administration and teachers will be digging into the mid-year i-Ready assessment data. We are working hard to meet the needs of all children, including the gifted and talented, to find and deliver interventions and acceleration. Students are enjoying working with the Core Knowledge Language Arts and History curriculum, hands on STEAM activities and solving real-world problems in mathematics. We are working hard to provide the most innovative instruction to your student not only ensure they are prepared and ready to move on to the next grade level but to grow their love of learning. My personal mission is to ensure every student at Odyssey Preparatory Academy receives an excellent education, understands the Florida Standards and is ready and prepared for middle school. My goal is for every child to be working toward his/her high school graduation today in elementary school.

This goal cannot be achieved without the support of each and every family at OPA. Please continue to reach out to your child's teacher as well as the administration team. Research states that students are more successful when they are supported by a school/family partnership. I truly appreciate all you do to support your child with his/her education. I cannot thank you enough for all you do to help your child grow and achieve his/her goals. Please like and follow us on Face Book! Check us out every weekend as we post new OPA happenings. If you missed some of the first semester events, I have included pictures in this newsletter.

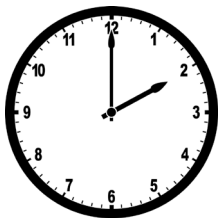
I wish you all a wonderful, safe, and happy holiday season. I am looking forward to 2022. I just told my dad this past week that I feel 2022 is going to be the start of our "normalcy". We have all been through a very difficult year and a half. I know that things are on the upward swing and we can achieve anything when we are working toward the same goal. That goal is the success of your child. Thank you again for your support and here's to a VERY Happy and Successful New Year for us all!!

As always, I am available at any time via telephone or email at miedonas@odysseyprepacademy.com or at 321-372-7263 (OPA) or 321-408-9549 (cell). I am here to serve you and your students. Thank you for the opportunity.

Shelly Miedona Ed.S., Principal

Early Check-out for Students

Parents, we are asking that if you need to checkout your elementary student early, that you do so by 2:00 p.m. on a regular dismissal day and by 12:45 on an early release day. It can become a safety concern when students are checked out too close to the dismissal time. Please remember that we do not take dismissal changes over the phone. All changes made to your child's normal means of transportation home are required in writing. We would also like to encourage you to make appointments for your child outside of our school hours in order to maximize your child's learning time and minimize classroom disruptions for all students. We thank you for your partnership!



Tardy Policy

Elementary students are expected to be in their seats and ready to learn by 8:00 a.m. If a student arrives at 8:00 or later, parents must park and walk their child to the front office, sign them in, and have a tardy slip issued for admittance to class. Parents, please do not park in the fire lane – this is a safety concern. We thank you for making the effort to have your student to class on time each and every day.

Breakfast and Student Arrival

Students arriving prior to 7:30 are to report to our Before Care Program. Students can be dropped off for breakfast beginning at 7:30. Please ensure your child is dropped off in time to eat a healthy breakfast.

Fall Happenings

Each student participates in our STEAM program learning the scientific process through discovery and questioning!



First grade researched American Heroes and dressed for our character parade in October!

Look for new pictures on Facebook as we Watch Our Garden Grow!



Students wrote thankful messages on these leaves. We have so much to be thankful for this year!

Our first family Science night was a huge event! We had over 50 families attend and 23 family members joined our Parents as Partners! If you are interested in joining, please contact Angela Tudor at tudora@odysseyprepacademy.com. We'd love to have you join us!!



Kindergarten participated in a science experiment outside as they observed the changes in states of matter!!



Walk to School Day!



NHS students helping to keep our campus beautiful!

Title I Corner

Odyssey Prep Academy is a Title I school holding the highest academic expectations for your student. Title I documents are available now online for review and are accessible at odysseyprepacademy.com under the "about us" section under school reports:

- School Report Card
- PFEP (Parent and Family Engagement Plan)
- SIP (School Improvement Plan)

If you have any feedback or suggestions on the documents for the upcoming year, please contact Mike Davis at davism@odysseyprepacademy.com.

Odyssey Prep Academy es una escuela de Título I que tiene las expectativas académicas más altas para su estudiante. Los documentos del Título I están disponibles en línea para su revisión y son accesibles en odysseyprepacademy.com en la sección "acerca de nosotros" en los informes escolares:

- School Report Card
- PFEP (Parent and Family Engagement Plan)
- SIP (School Improvement Plan)

Si tiene algún comentario o sugerencia sobre los documentos para el próximo año, comuníquese con Mike Davis en davism@odysseyprepacademy.com.



Clubs/Extra-Curricular**

Our Before and After School Enrichment Program offers a variety of afterschool club opportunities

to our students. Look for information to come out in October and January on our available clubs for 2021-2022.

***Prospective / Tentative (based on interest)*

Winter- 2021	Spring- 2022
• Math Club	• Soccer
• Environmental Club	• Zumba
• Taekwondo	• Spirit Squad

Volunteering at OPA

We are beginning to plan and share information about field trips this year. Please ensure you follow the steps below for volunteering and chaperoning.

Please go to the Brevard County Schools web page: www.brevard-schools.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.

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. Angela Tudor and Mrs. Alison Mosquera are the cochair persons of the this very important partnership. Please join us at our first meeting on December 14, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m. in the Media Center. If you have any questions please contact Angela Tudor at tudora@odysseyprepacademy.com. Future events we are planning:

- 5K Committee
- Teacher Appreciation
- Fundraising Committee

Volunteer Hours

Please visit the following link to register for volunteer hours. <http://odysseyprepacademy.com/Volunteer.html> We appreciate all the help our volunteers provide our teachers and students. You can also earn volunteer hours by participating in our Read Aloud Program.

Read Aloud Program

The Read Aloud Program is a wonderful way for parents to fulfill their volunteer hours while supporting students academically, socially, and emotionally. In 1983, the U.S. Department of Education report "Becoming a Nation of Readers" found that, "the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children." To participate in the Read Aloud program, parents should spend at least 15 minutes reading aloud literature to their child that is about two grades above their independent reading level. For more information about the importance of reading aloud to your child, please visit Jim Trelease's web site at: <http://www.trelease-on-reading.com/> or you can visit our website at <http://odysseyprepacademy.com/read-aloud.html>.

Parents are invited to check out books from our Media Center for their Read Alouds. Please feel free to contact Kyleigh Gross at grossk@odysseyprepacademy.com if you have any questions or concerns

Substitutes

We are always looking for parents or community members to join our OPA family. We are in need of great, positive, & driven individuals looking to make an impact in our Olympians daily scholastic goals. If you are interested in joining our team as a substitute, please contact Nancy Gervais at gervaisn@odysseyprepacademy.com. Training is provided.

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.

From our Instructional Coaches

Elementary students have access to iReady, Reflex Math and Study Island/Discovery Science online programs to support instruction in the Florida State Standards. iReady provides individualized online instruction that targets each student's individual needs in reading and math.

- Students are encouraged to utilize iReady for 45 minutes per week on both reading and math to progress toward their expected annual growth.
- Students are encouraged to use Reflex Math which is an online program that provides students with practice with math fluency in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.
- Study Island (5th grade) and Discovery Science (all grades) provide practice for students in science concepts and supports science instruction taking place in the classroom.

Be on the lookout for our Winter Break Challenge. Students will be encouraged to utilize the above programs over Winter Break. Students who participate can earn a Dress Down Day and a certificate for their hard work and dedication over the break. The paper will go home to all students K-5 the week of December 13th.

After-School tutoring will continue into the new year. More information, enrollment forms and dates will be sent out in January.

Finally, the link below will bring you to the Parent Guides for the Florida B.E.S.T. English Language Arts standards.

<https://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/parent-guides-for-english-language-arts.html>

If you need support with any of the programs, contact your child's teachers or our instructional coaches, Ms. Cimirro, cimirrom@odyssey-prepacademy.com; or Mrs. Guevara, guevaral@odysseyprepacademy.com