



Odyssey Preparatory Academy

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

FALL 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

October

10/6 – Picture Day (info will be sent home)
10/6 – Walk to School Day
10/11 – No School (Teacher work day)
10/15 – Report Cards home

November

11/7 – Daylight savings time (back 1 hr)
11/11 – No School Veteran's Day
11/15 – 19 Book Fair
11/17 – Science Gross Out Family Night
5:30 – 6:30 and Book Fair 5:00 – 7:00
11/19 – Quarter 2 interims go home
Title I Presentation – Link on website
Parent Canvas Training – Link on website
Casual Dress Days – Last Friday of each month
(10/29, 11/19, 12/17, 1/28, 2/25, 3/25, 4/29, 5/27)

From the Desk of the Principal, Ms. Miedona

I cannot believe we are approaching the end of the first quarter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience and understanding with the start of this school year. Odyssey Preparatory Academy pulled together as a family to weather the beginning year storm. We could not have done this without your continued support. Things are finally settling down into a relative normalcy. We are working hard to put things in place to once again invite families back onto the campus. I am looking forward to that day. I enjoy each morning greeting children and their families at drop off. However, I look forward to when we can be together face to face. I have had the opportunity to speak with some families via phone and in person on the sidewalk. Thank you all for welcoming me to the OPA family.

Moving forward, administration and teachers have been digging into the first i-Ready assessment data. We are working hard to find and deliver the interventions needed for individual students. We have held data chats with your children helping them to understand where they are in mastering grade level standards. Our goal is to close the achievement gap due to the pandemic and have more students performing on or above grade level. We continue to need your support in any way possible to help with this process. Be looking for more information pertaining to afternoon tutoring and Saturday school. This time will be used to close the learning gaps students have to ensure they are more successful with grade level standards mastery. One thing you could do to help is to ensure your child is at school ready to begin instruction at 8:00 a.m. Breakfast begins at 7:30 and teachers are in their classrooms ready to welcome your child at 7:30 a.m. Thank you for your help. Also, please be sure to read the section below entitled "Safety Concern". I want to ensure all students and families are safe at all times. Be sure to follow us on FaceBook! We have been posting weekly pictures and descriptions of the hard work your children are putting in to their learning. I love visiting the classrooms seeing their smiling, hardworking faces! You can get a glimpse of what I see via FaceBook!

As always, I am available at any time via the telephone or email at miedonas@odysseyprepacademy.com or by phone at 321-372-7263 (OPA) or 321-372-7263 (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 you arrive 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 plenty of time to eat a healthy breakfast.

Car Loop

Students can be dropped off at the car loop beginning at 7:30. If your child needs to be dropped off earlier, please check them into our Before Care Program. When driving up to drop off your student, please remain in your car and have your child exit the car on the side of the school.

We are still having a problem with some students being dropped off in the parking lot and crossing the traffic designated for student drop off. We are working hard to get students unloaded and into school for breakfast prior to 8:00 a.m. when instruction begins. When the traffic has to be stopped, this backs up the drop off line. In addition, it is not safe for our students and families. If you are walking your child to the cafeteria door, please park your car at the front end of the parking lot and use the crosswalk. Coach Badrak is there every morning stopping traffic to ensure safety when crossing. Thank you so much for your help with this matter.

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>.



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>.

Please remember to send healthy snacks to school with your children.

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, FL
32904

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>.

- 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.
- 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, crocs, 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.
- All students are required to have their ID badges

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
• Coding	• Art
• Legos	• Soccer
• Running Club	• Running
• Yoga	• Environmental Club
• Environmental Club	• 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. We are looking for someone to chair this committee. If you are interested, please contact Shelly Miedona at miedonas@odysseyprepacademy.com Some events we would need to begin planning for are:

- 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.

Before and After-School Enrichment Programs School Age Before-Care

Before-Care begins at 7:00 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. Registration forms are available in the front offices of Odyssey Charter Elementary School and Odyssey Preparatory Academy.



There is a one-time registration fee of \$25.00 per family. The weekly rate for Before-Care is \$15.00 per week and the daily drop-in rate is \$4.00 per day.

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 with a certified Odyssey Teacher. Registration forms are available in the front offices of Odyssey Charter Elementary School and Odyssey Preparatory Academy.

There is a one-time registration fee of \$25.00 per family. The weekly rate for After-Care is \$55.00 per week and the daily drop-in rate is \$12.00 per day. Before and After-Care payments are due every Monday (via check or money order payable to OPA). Please hand in payments at the OPA Front Office.

For more information about Before and After-Care Enrichment at Odyssey Charter Elementary School, please contact: Amy White WhiteA@odysseycharterschool.com

Substitutes

We are always looking for parents or community members to join our OPA family. We are in need of great, positive, and 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.

Counseling Connection: Mr. Antonio

As we approach the fall season, there are a few things to be considered in regard to having a successful parent/child/teacher relationship. Exemplifying a good two-way communication amongst families and schools is needed and essential for your child's success. The more parents and teachers share appropriate and pertinent information with each other about their child/student, the better prepared both will be in supporting the student's academic goals, and promote their overall well-being as the scholars strive to be their best! Below are a few tips that will be beneficial towards strengthening relationships between children and the parents/guardians:

- Display devotion and tell your children that you love them every day.
- Show sincere kindness and compassion for your children.
- Spend quality time with your children and have fun with them.
- Teach them how to manage their time properly, especially as they get ready for school in the mornings.
- Model calmness and encourage your children to be solution focused.
- Eat meals together as a family. Share positive goals and ideas as you open good communication.
- Ask your children questions. Allow them to feel free to open up to you.
- Always remind your children that they can accomplish anything they put their mind's to with true dedication.

Title I Corner- Mike Davis

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: <http://odysseyprepacademy.com/reports.html>

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: <http://odysseyprepacademy.com/reports.html>

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 this year and computers 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 new registration form is completed by a parent/guardian with proper ID completes a new registration form.

Here is a snapshot of the enhanced Transportation Services for the 2021-2022 school year:

- For the safety of our bus drivers and all students, students are highly encouraged to wear a mask during bus routes
- Any students with an elevated temperature will be seated in the designated area in the front, parents will be contacted, and students will be picked up from the school.
- Siblings will sit together during all routes
- Please be mindful and practice good hygiene and manners.



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.

How to Help Your Student Prepare for Success at School (Or at Home)

We know that children function best when they maintain routines as closely as possible. When we talk about schedules and routines, we aren't just talking about one part of the day, we are talking about the whole day. While children are more successful with routines it is important that they have ownership in the routine. Requiring your child to be an active participant in the routine will help the child and family. Give younger students a picture check-list to help them know what needs to be accomplished in what order. Set alarms for older children. Remember to keep directions simple and clear, especially for younger children. Below are some routines to consider adding to your daily schedules.



Bedtime Routine

Bedtime routines can be an enjoyable time for a family. The key to this, is organization and consistency. Maintaining a routine for bedtime procedures not only helps the student's mind and body prepare for sleep, it also supports a calm, morning transition. Below are some bedtime routine suggestions:

- Place completed homework (or notes to the teacher) in backpack
- Lay-out uniform for next school day (don't forget shoes and socks!)
- Shower, brush teeth
- Pack lunch, snack



Morning Routine

Mornings don't always have to be stressful! Children function best if they main routine as closely as possible. Below are some morning routine suggestions:

- Set alarms for various times in the morning like, when to wake up, eat breakfast, brush teeth and leave for the bus stop
- School starts promptly at 8:00 so alarms are helpful to be on time

i-Ready

Students have been working hard to complete their Beginning of the Year diagnostic assessment. i-Ready is a computerized program to help your student in reading and math instruction. Be on the lookout for your student's score report going home with the first report card. It is imperative that all students K-5 complete 45 minutes a week in both Reading and Math. This will help strengthen their skills in both academic areas.



Tutoring

After school tutoring will be beginning soon. Tutoring will be offered for students in grades 2nd-5th. Tutoring will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15-4:30. Transportation will not be provided. Be on the lookout for an invitation which will be going home within the next few weeks.

