



Odyssey Preparatory Academy

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

FALL 2022 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
Ms. Doreen Coryell, Assistant Principal
Mr. Mike Davis, Assistant Principal
Mr. Sean Antonio, Guidance
Ms. Kim Cappelen, Behavior Tech
Ms. Marie Cimirro, Instructional Coach
Ms. Leslie Guevara, ESE Coordinator
Ms. Megan Bigwood, STEAM Coordinator
Ms. Emily Dent, Gifted/GATEway Teacher
Ms. Nancy Gervais, Registrar
Ms. Alia Hartwick, Early Childhood & After Care Director

From the Desk of the Principal, Ms. Miedona

I'd like to begin by congratulating Odyssey Prep students, faculty and staff for their hard work and perseverance last school year. As you know, OPA earned a school grade of an A for the first time AND we were the only elementary school in Palm Bay to earn an A. Job well done! Thank you, parents and guardians, for your support at home with homework and at home reading, ensuring students get a good night's sleep each evening, and getting your students to school on time each day. It is a team effort and we need your support.

As you know, the state of Florida has a new progress monitoring assessment to measure student growth and achievement. This assessment is taken three times a year and your student took the first test in September. It will be given again in January and then in May. Administration and teachers have already begun to dig into this data to provide support to students needing interventions and remediation. It is also used to deliver acceleration to those who are already showing proficiency in state standards. As a school, we have come a long way in closing the learning gaps due to the pandemic. We are working hard to keep moving all students toward grade level proficiency.

This year, we are focusing on the important partnership between the school and your family, and on effective communication. As we collaborate together to educate your child, please know we value and welcome your feedback. Your input on what we have done well or where we need to improve helps us to make any adjustments needed in order to serve our students better. We ask that lines of communication be two-way between families and the school, and that we work to make all interactions respectful, friendly and optimistic. Working together, we can offer your child a wonderful educational experience and have the best year yet.

Please take note of the family events we have planned for the first semester. We had an amazing turnout for Open House and Dads Take Your Child to School Day. Please continue to support your student by participating in the activities planned this year. We love seeing our family participation! 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 321-408-9549 (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!



CALENDAR

Friday Early Release Days –
K-5th dismiss at 1:45p.m.

Casual Dress Days – last Friday of each month (September 30, October 28, November 18, December 16, January 27, February 24, March 31, April 28, May 26).

October

10/5 – National Walk to School Day
10/7 – End of First Nine Weeks
10/10 – Teacher Workday / Student HOLIDAY
10/13 – Picture Day / Students must be in uniform
10/14 – Elementary Report Cards Issued
10/20 – 10/28 – Scholastic Book Fair
10/20 – Elementary Student-Parent-Teacher Conference Night (by appointment)

November

11/1 – Science Night and Parents as Partners meeting
11/2 – Harvest Luncheon Grades 3-5
11/10 – Veterans' Day Event
11/10 – Second Interim Ends
11/11 – Veterans' Day Holiday for All
11/16 – Harvest Luncheon – Grades K-2
11/16 – OCS Inc. Board of Directors Meeting
11/17 – Picture retakes
11/21-11/25 – Thanksgiving Holiday for all

December

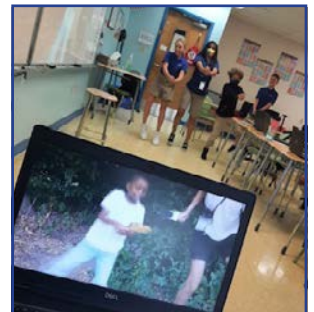
12/9 – Winter Dance
12/15 – Winter Music Program
12/21 – End of 2nd Quarter
12/22-12/31 – Winter Break

January

1/1-1/4 – Winter Break
1/5 – Students Return
1/9 – SRO Appreciation Day
1/10 – Progress Monitoring 2 Assessment begins
1/12 – Report Cards issued



Kindergarteners completing hands on activities in the STEAM lab



Rainy Day Recess fun dancing to the Corn Song



2nd Grade experimenting with air in the STEAM lab



Students using open number lines



Dads Take Your Child to School Day Breakfast



National Children's Theater production of Energy Endgame sponsored by Florida Power and Light



Kentrell Martin, author of Shelly's Adventure Series came to OPA to read his book and teach children American Sign Language



Read Aloud Program – for Volunteer Hours!

The Read Aloud program is a wonderful way for parents to fulfill their required annual volunteer hours while supporting their student's academic growth. 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."

We make it easy for parents to volunteer at our school by spending your time in the comfort of your own home with your child. To participate in the Read Aloud program, parents spend 15 minutes reading aloud quality literature to their child. Find a book that both you and your child will enjoy. Then log your time on the Read Aloud log which can be provided by your classroom teacher, or through the front office, or from the school's website. Next turn in your log at the end of each month to your classroom teacher or to the front office and you will receive volunteer hours for the time spent reading aloud to your child.

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 <https://odysseyprepacademy.com/read-aloud.html>.

Our media center has many books recommended by Jim Trelease. Parents are invited to check out books from our Media Center for their Read Aloud. Please feel free to contact Ms. Carol Hedrick at hedrick@odysseyprepacademy.com if you would like to come a check out a book or have any additional questions.

School Events - OCTOBER

October 5 - National Walk to School Day

National Walk to School Day is coming on Wednesday, October 5, 2021.



Our students, teachers, and staff (and parents!) are encouraged to join us for a lovely walk to school. Walk to school day is a great way to get some exercise, fresh air, and to reduce our carbon footprint.

October 20-28 – Scholastic Book Fair

Come celebrate a love for reading at our Scholastic book fair which will take place from October 20th until October 28th. Each classroom will have an opportunity to visit the book fair during this time. The book fair will be open the evening of October 20th from 3:00-6:30. If you can't make it to the Fair, then shop at our school's Online Book Fair. All orders ship directly to your home, and shipping is free for book orders over \$25. Your online orders will also benefit our school. This year, say goodbye to cash and hello to eWallet—your child's digital payment account. Before the Fair, set up eWallet for worry-free, cash-free purchases. Anyone can contribute! Share each child's eWallet so friends and family can add funds and give your kids more books to enjoy.

Please visit <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/odysseyprepacademy> for additional information. If you would like to volunteer at the book fair, please contact Carol Hedrick at hedrickc@odysseyprepacademy.com.

October 20 – Student-Parent-Teacher Conference Night

Teachers will be sharing information on how to sign up for a conference appointment to talk with you and your child about their progress thus far. Students will share their successes as well as goals they have set for the year and their plans to meet their goals.

School Events – NOVEMBER

November 1 – Parents as Partners

5:00 in the café

November 1 – Family Science Night

5:30 – 7:00 in the café

November 2 and 16 – Harvest Lunches

We welcome you to come join your child for our annual Harvest Celebration Lunch and Wellness Expo at our Odyssey Prep Academy Healthy Café. Our menu includes roasted chicken thigh (or tofu), roasted potato medley, fresh baked whole grain roll, garden fresh salad bar, fresh fruit choice, and fall dessert.

- November 2 – Grades 3, 4 & 5
- November 16 – Grades K, 1 & 2

November 10 – Veteran's Day Ceremony and Breakfast

Starts at 8:30 am. Ms. Constance Ortiz, School Founder, and our Leadership team welcome all veterans to be honored and celebrated! Our students may bring their Veteran Father, Mother, Uncle, Aunt, Grandfather or Grandmother to school to enjoy breakfast. This important event acknowledges the bravery and courage of our military men and women and increases respect for their service and sacrifice.

November 16 – Odyssey Charter School, Inc., Board of Directors Meeting

You are welcome to attend. Our board meetings are held several times annually at the historic 1900 Building, Suite 120, 1900 S. Harbor City Boulevard, Melbourne, FL 32901 or you are welcome to attend via zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81749678859>

ClassLink – Odyssey Launchpad

Online Instructional Support



Family support of each child's education is critical to student success. Research shows that when parents are more involved, students do better! We are happy to share that elementary students (and parents) will have digital access to Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA), Savvas EasyBridge (enVision®), i-Ready, Studies Weekly, Study Island, Discovery Science, and Renzulli online programs to support instruction in the Florida Benchmarks through their single sign on through the Odyssey ClassLink Launchpad at <https://launchpad.classlink.com/odysseyfl>. Their username is their 7-digit student ID number (i.e. 1234567) and their password includes their birth date (i.e. OdyM-MDDYY).

- **CKLA** is our core Language Arts program that is rich in literature, history, geography and science. Your child has access to the CKLA content via the Launchpad and can read (or re-read) stories at home that they have learned at school.
- Our newly adopted math curriculum is **enVision® Florida B.E.S.T. Mathematics**. The curriculum is designed to help children gain a deeper understanding of mathematics through problem-based teaching and learning. Lessons are designed for students to explore each topic with hands-on materials, then two-dimensional pictures, and finish by connecting their thinking to symbols, numbers, and procedures.
- **i-Ready** provides individualized online instruction that targets each student's specific needs in both reading and math. Students take a diagnostic at the beginning of the school year to set their learning path and they work their path all year to fill in any gaps in learning or to advance themselves beyond their current level. Students are encouraged to utilize i-Ready for 45 minutes per week in each subject to progress toward their expected annual growth.
- **Studies Weekly** is a newspaper-based and online program supporting Social Studies instruction.
- **Discovery Education Science** provides science videos, articles and activities for students in science concepts and supports science instruction taking place in the classroom.
- **Renzulli** is an online program that all students have access to. Students take an interest inventory upon first using Renzulli, then engage in self-directed learning specifically matched to their individual profile. Renzulli places a strong emphasis on problem-solving, creativity and critical thinking skills to help ensure learners are developing thinking and reasoning skills that will prepare them for college and careers.

We encourage parents to take an active role monitoring students' progress on these programs, and to remind students to utilize these programs weekly. If you need support with any of the programs, contact your child's teacher or our instructional coach Ms. Cimirro at cimirro@odysseyprepacademy.com.

FOCUS

FOCUS for Parents – if you have not received your FOCUS log in (new students/parents) please email Ms. Coryell at coryell@odysseyprepacademy.com. FOCUS for students who returned to OPA is the same for both students and parents from last year. If you have questions, please email Ms. Coryell. FOCUS App – there is a new FOCUS app. You can download it to your smartphone and get easy access to grades and communication with your child's teachers.

Parents as Partners

We welcome all parents to join our Parents as Partners (PasP) organization. We need your support to be the best we can be. The PasP organization supports the school by working on annual goals that will directly impact your student and their success. This year we are eager to provide enriching field trip experiences for all our students to help round out their education. Our fundraising committees this year will be raising funds to prepare for our Students Award Ceremonies, Annual 5k, Field Trips, and Teacher Appreciation.

Note that ALL Parents are our Partners. To become an active member, please join us at the meetings held in person. Mark your calendar for our next upcoming PasP meeting on November 1st @ 5:00 prior to Family Science Night.

Please contact Ms. Shelly Miedona for more information at miedonas@odysseyprepacademy.com.

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 a.m. or later, parents must park and walk their child to the front office, sign him/her 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.

Transportation

We would like to thank all the Odyssey families that have signed up for transportation.

Just a reminder few reminders:

- 1) If you would like to sign up for one of our bus routes, and live 2 miles or more away from your child's campus, please contact our transportation department and they will be happy to assist you.
- 2) We would like to kindly remind all parents that Transportation changes may not be made over the phone. You may, however, submit these requests in writing to your child's teacher or to the front office.

To request bus transportation, visit www.EZrouting.com/Odysseyfl. Please feel free to contact our transportation department with any questions at:

Transportation office 321-345-4117 Opt. 3 or
Email greerr@odysseycharterschool.com.



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.

Title I Corner

Odyssey Charter School has been designated a high performing charter school by the Florida Department of Education. Our school is also accredited for kindergarten -12th grades by COGNIA, the largest accrediting agency for K-12 schools.

As a Title I school, we continue to hold the highest academic expectations for your child. Title I documents are available online for your review and are accessible at www.odysseyprepacademy.com under the "about us" section under school reports: <http://odysseyprepacademy.com/reports.html>.

Odyssey Preparatory 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 www.odysseyprepacademy.com en la sección "acerca de nosotros" en los informes escolares: <http://odysseyprepacademy.com/reports.html>.

Water Bottles and Water Refilling Stations

We have replaced all of our water fountains with water refilling stations. Please make sure you are sending your child with a refillable water bottle each day in order to stay hydrated throughout the day. Water bottles should be labeled with your child's name.

Student ID Badges

Odyssey student ID Badges are now considered a part of the everyday uniform. Please ensure your child has their ID badge daily. Badges have a variety of uses at our school. Students wear their badges for safety purposes, as well as for entry on our school buses, purchase of school breakfast/lunch, and book checkout in our media center. We are happy to report we have about 95% of our students following our school uniform policy and wearing their Student ID Badge daily.

If your child loses their ID, replacements are \$5. Please send ID replacement money with your child's name and the name of their homeroom teacher. Please send a check or money order made out to Odyssey Preparatory Academy with your child's name, grade. Families, we ask that you help your child develop a system where they remember to wear their ID badge every day. We encourage students to put the ID badge in the backpack each evening. We appreciate your support!

Substitutes

We are always looking for parents or community members to join our OPA family. We need 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.

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