



# Odyssey Charter School

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

## 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

- Mr. Michael Davis, Site Administrator
- Mr. Mike Guevara, Assistant Principal
- Ms. Brandy Griswell, Assistant Principal
- Ms. Rebecca Irving, Assistant Principal
- Mr. Jose Padilla, Dean of Discipline and Odyssey Safe School's Supervisor
- Ms. Alexis Burke, Instructional Coach
- Ms. Laurie Young, Instructional Coach
- Ms. Megan Newell, Registrar
- Ms. Aimee Thompson, Office Manager

### CALENDAR

#### July

- 7/4 – School Holiday – Office is closed
- 7/11 (8 a.m. – 8 p.m.) – Final Registration
- 7/12 (8 a.m. - 12 p.m.)

#### August

- 8/1 – 8/9 – Preplanning for Teachers
- 8/10 – First day of school
- 8/24 – Board of Directors Meeting @ 4:30 p.m.

#### September

- 9/5 – Labor Day – Holiday

The school calendar is available at <https://www.odysseycharterjrjr.com/school-calendar>



### Welcome Back from our Site Administrator, Mr. Davis

I hope that you all have had restful and fun filled summer. As we gear up for the upcoming year, I am excited to welcome you all back, and work in partnership with you and our amazing team, to ensure your child's growth and success. It is through collaboration with the parents, families, school, and community that we have the greatest impact on our Titans social, emotional, physical, and academic success.

As we renew our focus this year on doing all we can to have every child "College Ready", we will be putting an emphasis on the programs that help set Odyssey apart from traditional public schools. Some of these programs and courses include, AVID, Accelerated Programs (AP), BioMed, Engineering, Science research, and are environmental science courses with our students working on our Farm and aquaponics facilities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who worked so hard on a daily basis to help our students meet his/her fullest potential this past school year! As we embark on this new year, our leadership team, teachers, support staff, and Green Apple Management team, led by our CEO/Founder Ms. Constance Ortiz, are committed to working together, to build a partnership, and to do everything we can to help make this year the best year yet. 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 Charter School were ready for their next grade level. See in the chart below, Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr scored above the state and district in many grade levels when it came to ELA and Math proficiency. We are awaiting the Science and EOC scores later this summer and the FLDOE will let us know how we performed based on the overall percent proficient in ELA, Math and Science. We feel confident that Odyssey Charter School Jr/Sr High will continue to be one of the highest performing Jr/Sr schools in Palm Bay. We are so proud of the students and their achievements this past school year!

OCS Jr./Sr. (Proficiency Only)			
ELA Data			
Grade	State	District	Jr/Sr
6	47%	61%	58%
7	47%	52%	57%
8	47%	52%	57%
9	47%	57%	59%
10	49%	55%	56%
Math Data			
6	52%	67%	66%
7	47%	58%	61%
8	54%	37%	62%
Algebra	50%	51%	69%
Geometry	48%	50%	67%

I am excited to announce this year's OCS Jr/Sr High Leadership Team:

- Mr. Mike Guevara, Assistant Principal
- Ms. Brandy Griswell, Assistant Principal
- Ms. Rebecca Irving, Assistant Principal
- Mr. Jose Padilla, Odyssey Safe School's Supervisor
- Ms. Alexis Burke, Instructional Coach
- Ms. Laurie Young, Instructional Coach

As a reminder, our final registrations takes place on Tuesday, July 11 and Wednesday July 12. We look forward to seeing you there. I cannot thank you enough for choosing Odyssey Charter School Jr/Sr High and entrusting us with your child(ren). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [davism@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:davism@odysseycharterschool.com) or at 321-243-0494. 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!

## School Hours

Monday through Friday the school day begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. Students are considered tardy if they are not in class ready to begin their day at 9:00 a.m. The school day ends at 4:08 p.m. Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, students will be released at 2:45 for early dismissal.

As a reminder...Odyssey Charter Schools (Elementary and Jr. / Sr. High) and Odyssey Prep, follow the Brevard County School calendar. <https://www.odysseycharterjrsr.com/school-calendar>

## 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 2:45 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: 8/25, 9/29, 10/20, 11/17, 12/22, 01/26, 02/23, 03/22, 04/26, & 05/24

## New OCS Team Members

We are thrilled to welcome our NEW Titan staff members for the 2023-2024 school year!! Please save the date of our upcoming Meet the Teacher event.

## Meet the Teacher Event

Date: August 8th Time: 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Location: Wyoming Campus

## 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 <https://www.odysseycharterjrsr.com/student-code-of-conduct>.

## Moment of Silence

Florida House Bill 529 <https://www.flsenate.gov/SessionBill/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.



## Registration Information

### Required for All Odyssey Jr. Sr. High Families

**July 11 (8 a.m. - 8 p.m.) & July 12 (8 a.m. - 12 p.m.)**

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

- Income Verification Form
- Questions Regarding Bus Assignment
- Final Class Placement
- Health Card
- All 'Dress for Success', school conduct, cell phone, technology, and bus behavior agreements

#### OCS Jr/Sr High Student Fees 23-24 School Year

6th - 12th grade - \$20, includes:  
\$5 Science or other Laboratory Fees  
\$10 Technology  
\$5 Student ID & lanyard

#### 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:

- Birth certificate (All new students)
- IEPs, EPs, Behavioral Plans, 504 Plans (All new students - as applicable)

## Wellness

#### Free Breakfast and Lunch:

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 Charter School Jr/Sr 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.



## OCS Jr/Sr High Farm



The FARM is BAAAAAAAAAAAAACK!!!!!!  
We want to thank Mr. Ian, Mr. Cooper and our IA for their hard work. They have been instrumental in getting the farm back up and running for our Titans. The farm has been the cornerstone of our green school initiative. Mr. Ian has collaborated with our instructor, Mr. Cooper who will be able to teach three sections of farm. Middle school and high school sections will be offered 3 times a day. For middle school the course will be called M/J Stem Environmental Science. For high school, the course will be called Environmental Science. This will allow us to have the farm all year long, taking into account weather, precipitation, heat, when to plant, when to harvest, etc. Our middle school and high school students have been asking for this opportunity and we have been able to deliver.

## Uniform Policy (Odyssey Jr/Sr High)

All Odyssey Charter School 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

*Note: Please be certain you select Odyssey Charter School uniforms.*

Discount coupons were emailed in June to all families. The coupon expires July 15th and can be found at <https://www.odysseycharter-school.com/Uniform-Coupon-23.pdf>

You can find our uniform policy on our website at <https://www.odysseycharterjrjr.com/uniform>. The expectation is that students will be in dress code beginning on day one.

\*\* Student will not be allowed to wear sweatshirts, hoodies, or jackets that are not in dress code.

\*\* Students will must wear appropriately sized pants, shorts, or skirts.

- 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 school uniform guide.

## Courses and Programs

Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High School offers engaging and challenging courses/programs/opportunities focused on the social, emotional, academic, physical, and spiritual development of the whole child. At Odyssey, we believe that Titans are more than just the number they earn on a standardized test. Odyssey is proud to provide students with rigorous academic programs, personalized and career-specific learning experiences and social and emotional skills that prepare them to be global citizens in an ever-changing world. The scores on standardized tests are one of many potential indicators that demonstrate readiness for life beyond high school. We are educating a generation of innovators – students who are driven by ideas and inspired by innovations. Students leave Odyssey with not only the academic skills that make them college and career ready, but also leave with the grit and perseverance to tackle and achieve their goals. They are trained to have a growth mindset that empowers them to approach their future with confidence, to dream big and to achieve big!



## College and Career Ready Skills

- **Self-Advocacy** – At Odyssey, we strive to help students learn how to identify their own needs and be able to explain them to others in order to ask for help, support, or assistance.
- **Responsibility** – At Odyssey, we help students to be personally accountable for their actions in their academic, personal, and social lives, as well as learn how to take responsibility for themselves and their actions.
- **Communication** – At Odyssey, students learn to sharpen their ability to listen attentively to others, as well as to communicate verbally and through writing so they can express themselves and communicate their desires and beliefs successfully with others.
- **Teamwork and Collaboration** – At Odyssey, students are trained to work effectively with others to plan, problem solve, create, and produce something, complete a task, and/or achieve a goal.
- **Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Innovation, and Creative Thinking** – At Odyssey, students are taught to think creatively, critically, and analytically, both in the classroom and in other aspects of life, to solve abstract and real-world problems.
- **Career Development** – At Odyssey, students are engaged in deep conversations and applicable experiences to help them investigate and decide their career interests and the appropriate schooling/training needed to pursue those interests.

## GATEway – Gifted and Talented Education - Honors Classes, Advanced Placement, and Dual Enrollment

Odyssey Charter School Jr/Sr High will continue to provide students the opportunity to participate in accelerated programs. Unlike other middle and high schools in our area, Odyssey offers honors programs in both elective classes like art and band, but we also offer honors course in all four content areas. In addition, high school students who meet the requirements have the opportunity to apply for dual enrollment at Eastern Florida State College (EFSC) and/or early college at Florida Tech and middle and high school students who have the aptitude will have the opportunity to prepare for and take the PSAT in preparation for National Merit Scholarships. Odyssey also offers our Titans, Accelerated Program (AP) classes as well. Odyssey offers the following AP courses: AP Art, AP Statistics, AP Environmental Science, AP Biology, AP World History, AP Psychology, AP Literature, and AP Seminar. For detailed information concerning these programs please Mr. Guevara at [guevaram@odysseycharter-school.com](mailto:guevaram@odysseycharter-school.com) or Ms. Griffith at [griffithm@odysseycharter-school.com](mailto:griffithm@odysseycharter-school.com).



## AVID comes to Odyssey Charter Jr./Sr. High School

Next school year, Odyssey will offer its very own AVID program. AVID boasts of decades of college dreams for students worldwide. AVID methods are synchronous with Odyssey's mission and vision and will complement the programs in place offering support for the college preparatory skills needed here. Beginning in August, AVID methods will be evident in classrooms all over campus using strategies for writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading. There will also be an AVID elective class for grades 7-10.

AVID elective students have the desire to attend college, are willing to work hard and choose to be in the AVID elective class each day. In the AVID class, students will learn and practice organizational and time management skills, take rigorous classes with support, and will learn about colleges and careers. AVID students will go on college visits to envision themselves as college students, allowing them to keep their futures in sight.

## Guidance Corner

Attention Juniors and Seniors! The time has come. You have been working hard and now is the time to strike! If you are mindful, we can help walk you through the maze of college and university preparedness. Your attendance is mandatory. Let us help you, please! Very important information coming at you! Let's start with test dates.

### SAT test dates:

8/26  
10/7  
11/4  
12/2  
3/9/24  
5/4/24  
6/1/24

### Registration date:

7/28  
9/8  
10/5  
11/2  
2/23/24  
4/19/24  
5/17/24

### ACT test dates:

9/9  
10/28  
12/9  
2/10/24  
4/13/24  
6/8/24  
7/13/24

### Registration dates deadline:

8/4  
9/22  
11/3  
1/5/24  
3/8/24  
5/3/24  
6/7/24

### In addition, Seniors & Juniors, Important school dates:

- Common App Night: 8/17
- Dual Enrollment Night for Fall: Early August
- FAFSA night: 9/21

**Note: FAFSA season begins October 1, 2023. All FAFSA activities need to be completed by October 1, 2023 by midnight in order to access the full amount of federal and state funds. The more you wait to complete, the more those federal and state dollars go to others. Get in early.**

- College Board Scholarship Night: 10/5
- College/Career/Military Night grades 6-12: 10/19
- Dual Enrollment Night for the spring: Oct/Nov 2023

We have a lot of experience in all of the above. Please allow us to walk you through these hurdles. Remember, we are here for you. Don't be afraid to reach out, ask questions and take an active role in your future.

## Courses and schedules

Students, your guidance counselors have been working diligently this summer on your schedules. They have taken your course elective forms and used those as the guide to place you into the courses you have requested. Progress is being made and it has gone swimmingly. Mrs. Mitchell will be working with middle school students, Mrs. Comegys, who has moved up from OPA, will be joining the team and she will be working with the middle schoolers as well, paying particular attention to her up and coming 6th graders. Mrs. Bernier will assist with her 9th and 10th graders and Mrs. Griffith will work closely with 11th and 12th as well as dual enrollment! Excellent work team! Schedules are close to be completed and we are hoping to have schedules completed by registration. More information to come. In the event, your schedule has too many courses, not enough courses or you require a schedule change, schedules can be amended via guidance. School begins August 10 and schedule changes will occur until August 17th by the close of business. For those changes, please see your guidance counselor.

## Guidance Team

Mrs. Comegys – grades 6-7M  
Mrs. Mitchell – grades 7N-8 (ESOL)  
Mrs. Bernier – grades 9-10 (504)  
Mrs. Griffith – grades 11, 12, Dual Enrollment.

## Focus Parent Portal Account

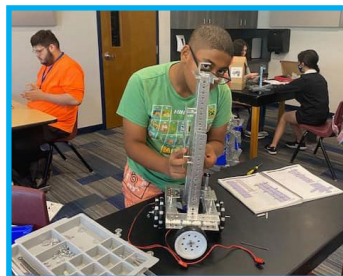
If you have not completed your online registration please do so prior to final registration. This will save you a lot of time at the registration event!

1. The preferred browser for accessing the FOCUS Parent Portal is Google Chrome.
2. Access the FOCUS Parent Portal registration screen at <https://Brevardk12.focusschoolsoftware.com>.
3. Under "ATTENTION PARENTS" select "Click here to create a FOCUS Parent Portal Account" After clicking the link, you will see the FOCUS Parent Portal registration page below:
4. Click the CREATE ACCOUNT link on the registration page. You will need a valid email address, your child's student ID number, birthdate and PIN. The email address used to create your FOCUS Parent Portal Account will become your portal username. If you do not have an email account, you can create one for free at [www.gmail.com](http://www.gmail.com). Enter all required information below and click "SUBMIT"
5. After entering your account registration information, you will have the opportunity to add a student to your account. Enter the 7-digit Student ID, birthdate and PIN for the student you want to add to your account and click "Add Student".

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out registrar, Megan Newell at [newellm@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:newellm@odysseycharterschool.com) or Aimee Thompson at [thompsona@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:thompsona@odysseycharterschool.com).

## Specialty Camps

This summer many of our Titans have been participating in wonderful specialty camps at the Wyoming campus. The students have participated in a variety of camp sessions. Make sure to check out the amazing murals are students are working on for our Wyoming café the next time you are on campus.



## 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)** - EZ-Routing 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](http://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](mailto:greerr@odysseycharterschool.com)  
321-345-4117 option 3 • 321-338-5187 cell

## Athletics

We are gearing up for the FY24 athletics. Go online to download this year's packet for your child here: <https://www.odysseycharterjrsr.com/athletic-packet-forms>

We will be offering the following Athletic Programs:

Varsity and JV Girls Volleyball, Varsity and Middle School Boys and Girls Basketball, Boys and Girls Varsity Cross Country, Varsity and Middle School Soccer, Middle School Flag Football, Boys and Girls Varsity and Middle School Track.



## Supply Lists

Supply list will be available during registration on 7/11 and 7/12. The list can also be found on our website at <https://www.odysseycharterjrsr.com/class-fees>.

## 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: [https://www.odysseycharterjrsr.com/files/ugd/0b641b\\_1b7f3c4f326f4155b35265376a149bf5.pdf](https://www.odysseycharterjrsr.com/files/ugd/0b641b_1b7f3c4f326f4155b35265376a149bf5.pdf)

## 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. Donna Salzman is the chairperson of this very important partnership. If you are interested in joining this very important organization, we will have a table at registration or you can reach out to Ms. Donna by email at [salzmand@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:salzmand@odysseycharterschool.com).

## Volunteering at OCS Jr/Sr

Please go to the Brevard County Schools web page: [www.brevard-schools.org](http://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.

## 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

### 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: Request issue at the next monthly Board Meeting if unresolved
  - Step 6: Seek mediation with the Sponsor
- Mrs. Amber Miller 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. Miller can be reached at [millera@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:millera@odysseycharterschool.com)
- \*\* 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.