Spring 2025 Newsletter

Committed to academic excellence and the education of the whole child

The Odyssey Mission

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.

OPA Leadership Team

Ms. Constance Ortiz, Founder
Ms. Shelly Miedema, Principal
Ms. Marie Cimino, Assistant Principal
Ms. Michelle Formoso, Guidance
Mr. John Hadden, Discipline Dean
Ms. Carol Cappiello, Instructional Coach
Ms. Trisha Jack, Instructional Coach
Ms. Morgan Bigwood, STEAM Coordinator
Mrs. Brooke Counceil, Registrar

Important Dates

APRIL

4/7 - 5th Grade Florida Writing Assessment
4/2 - 4th Grade Florida Writing Assessment
4/4 - Founder's Day
4/10 - Spring Pictures
4/16 - New Parent Information Night
5:30 – 7:00
4/17 - Purple Star Day: Dress Down Day Wear purple
4/18 - No School
4/22 - K, 1st and 2nd Grades take STAR FAST Reading Assessment
4/23 - K, 1st and 2nd Grades take STAR FAST Math Assessment

MAY

5/1 - 3rd Grade F.A.S.T. FAST Reading Assessment
5/2 - 3rd Grade - Ready FAST Reading Assessment for those needing the score
5/5 – 4th Grade F.A.S.T. FAST Reading Assessment
5/6 – 5th Grade F.A.S.T. FAST Math Assessment
5/7 – 3rd Grade F.A.S.T. FAST Reading Assessment
5/7 – End of Year Gifted and Talented Showcase
5/8 – 5th Grade F.A.S.T FAST Reading Assessment
5/12 – 4th Grade F.A.S.T FAST Math Assessment
5/15 – 5th Grade State Science Assessment
5/16 – Muffins for Moms
5/17 – Odyssey High School Graduation @ 10:00 a.m.
5/20 – OPA's 5th Grade Stepping Up Ceremony @ 5:30 p.m.
5/21 – Odyssey Board of Directors Meeting – 4:30 p.m.
5/22 – 1st and 2nd Grade End of Year Awards in cafe @ 9:00 a.m.
5/23 – 3rd and 4th Grade End of Year Awards in cafe @ 9:00 a.m.
5/26 – Memorial Day – Holiday for All
5/27 – Kindergarten Stepping Up Ceremony in cafe @ 9:00 a.m.
5/28 – Last Day of School for Students

SUMMER

6/5 – 6/26 Summer School Mon-Thurs (select students)
7/23 – Mandatory Registration for the 2025/2026 school year from 10-6 in cafeteria

Casual Dress Days – Last Friday of each month

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

Farmer Morgan Lambordo and OPA 3rd grades had a wonderful harvest this year!

2nd Grade Learning about money!

Students actively engaged in a STEAM lesson

4th graders in the Gifted and Talented Program attended the Renaissance Fair

Kindergarten Fun at Recess

From the Desk of the Principal, Ms. Miedona

As we move further into the spring, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your continued support of our school community. Together, we've made incredible strides this year, and your partnership has been invaluable in helping our students succeed. As we approach the final stretch of the school year, I'd like to encourage all of our students to attend school daily and stay focused on their goals. The end of the year is quickly approaching, and now is the time to finish strong! Our students have worked so hard, and it's essential that they remain engaged and committed to their learning as we prepare for upcoming assessments and year-end projects. Consistency in attendance and effort can make a big difference in how our students perform, not only on assessments but in building the confidence and skills that will carry them forward. We know that with continued hard work and determination, each student can reach their full potential. Thank you again for your unwavering support. Let's finish the year strong together!

As always, I am available at any time via telephone or email at miedonna@odysseyprepacademy.com or at 321-572-7263 (OPA) or 321-408-9549 (cell).

Shelly Miedema Ed.S., Principal

Looking for a few highly qualified teachers for the 2025-2026 school year

As we look ahead to the 2025-2026 school year, we are excited to announce that we are currently seeking a few highly qualified, passionate, and dedicated teachers to join our exceptional team. At Odyssey Prep, we believe that great teachers are the cornerstone of our students' success, and we are looking for educators who are mission focused and committed to fostering a positive, engaging, and inclusive learning environment for all. If you or someone you know has a deep passion for education, a commitment to student growth, and a desire to make a difference, we would love to hear from you. We are looking for teachers across various grade levels and subject areas who are eager to inspire and support our students in their academic journey. To apply or learn more about these opportunities, please reach out to the office or sending a resume. We encourage all interested candidates to apply as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to build a strong, dedicated team for the upcoming school year. Together, we can continue to provide an outstanding educational experience for our students!

South Brevard Elementary Science Fair Winners

Congratulations to all 12 of OPA's students whose science fair entries went to the South Regional competition March 15, 2025. Our amazing students took home 4 ribbons! Congratulations to Sheridan Conley, who won first place in the Chemical Category and Daniel Dugan, who won 1st place in the Plant Category. Congratulations, as well to Ahere Baichu, who won second place in Environmental Engineering, and Joshua DeMesa whose entry won third place in the Coding Category. Every one of our students worked hard to make their projects the best they could be, and they should all be congratulated. In addition to our 4 ribbon winners, students who participated in the regional competition are Nala Flores, Nico Galzerio, Ethan Gill, Paisley Kilcommons, Axel Krechten, Dillon Kurzawa, Aria Rodriguez, and Jordan Wallace.

Thanks, as well go to the amazing teachers who supported these students on their journey, including Mr. Svendsen, Mr. Owen, Ms. Mercado, Mrs. Hadden, and Ms. Bigwood.

Toys, Games, and Pokémon Cards

I'd like to kindly remind everyone that toys, games, and Pokémon cards are to remain at home. While we understand that these items can be fun and exciting, they can also become distractions during the school day. To ensure that all students are able to focus on their learning and school activities, we ask that these items be kept at home unless otherwise specified by the teacher for a special occasion or activity. Thank you for your understanding and support in helping maintain a focused and productive learning environment for all our students.

School Improvement Corner

As we finish up this school year, we would like your input on events for next year that OPA families think would be beneficial to helping support your Olympians. Any ideas or suggestions, please email Ms. Cimino at cimino@odysseyprepacademy.com. Don't forget that our PTO! (Parent and family Engagement and School Improvement Plan) are on our website and you can view at anytime. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Brooke Counceil @ counceil@odysseyprepacademy.com.

Volunteering at OPA

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 and would love your support for the remainder of the school year. Please contact Brooke Counceil by calling 321-572-7263 or emailing her at counceil@odysseyprepacademy.com. You must be background checked approved and fingerprinted. Consider doing this at the district office summer or in August so that you are approved for the 25-26 school year.

Looking for volunteers for Teacher appreciation week May 5th - 9th, please contact Mrs. Counceil via email at counceil@odysseyprepacademy.com to donate or volunteer for this week's events.

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 https://www.odysseyprepacademy.com/read-aloud.html.

Parents are invited to check out books from our Media Center for their Read Alouds during the 25-26 school. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Hedrick this fall at hedricks@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, 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 Mrs. Brooke Counceil at counceil@odysseyprepacademy.com. Training is provided.

Required Final Registration

Save the Date! Mandatory 25-26 Summer Registration for all new and returning OPA Students – Final Summer Registration Wednesday July 23, 2025 from 10 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. in our school cafeteria. During final summer registration you will be able to sign up for bussing, speak to staff about our aftercare program, sign up for Kindergarten pre-testing, pay your student fees and complete final paperwork. If you are unable to come to the registration due to a previous commitment please contact the front office to set up an appointment to come in during our summer hours (8-3) Monday – Thursday and pick up a registration packet to be completed and pay the student fees. Any questions please contact our registrar Mrs. Brooke Counceil at counceil@odysseyprepacademy.com. Training is provided.

Extended Care Services for the 2025-2026 School Year

We would like to inform you that for the 2025/2026 school year we will no longer be offering extended care services. However, we will continue to provide aftercare for all OPA families with children in grades K-5. Aftercare will be available from 2:45 PM to 6:30 PM Monday through Thursday and 1:45 PM to 6:30 PM each Friday. Please note that students enrolled in aftercare will not be permitted to ride the bus home with their Jr./Sr. High siblings. Children attending the OPA enrichment program must be signed out by a parent or guardian through Procare in the front office.

The cost of aftercare for the 2025-2026 school year will remain the same: $75 for aftercare only, and $85 for before and aftercare combined. Additionally, there will be a registration fee for all families. We now accept School Readiness financial assistance. To see if you qualify, please click on the link for more information. https://www.fldoe.org/schools/early-learning/parents/school-readiness.stml

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to Ria Hatnevick, Director of Montessori Village Green and Enrichment at rhartnevick@odysseyhartwichholt.com. You can also call her at 321-733-0442 ext. 214

Summer Camp is Coming!

Summer is just around the corner! This summer Odyssey Schools will be hosting **Odyssey's Expedition Camp**!

At camp, our purpose is to make a difference! This fun and interactive summer camp for rising 1st-6th grders combines community service, environmental conservation, and holistic child development into one amazing experience. Each day, campers will engage in exciting outdoor adventures while learning how to care for our earth, help others, and grow as a team. Check out all the exciting details on our summer camp flyer!

Seats for Odyssey's Expedition Camp are limited. To secure your spot, please complete this form https://forms.office.com/r/kUCYJ6RHc2 by **April 4th.** Priority will be given to families requiring full 7-week care. **Families will be notified of acceptance or waitlist status and sent the payment link via email by April 9th.**

Purple Star School of Distinction and District Designations

The Florida Purple Star School of Distinction Designation was established by the Florida legislature in 2021 and further defined in Rule 6A-1.0999, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). The Florida Purple Star School District Program was established by the Florida legislature in 2024. Once awarded, schools and districts will maintain their designation as a Purple Star School of Distinction or Purple Star School District for three school years.

The purpose of the Purple Star School of Distinction Designation and Purple Star School District Program is to recognize schools that support the unique needs of military families, help military connected students navigate critical challenges and provide resources for military-connected students when transitioning to a new school environment.

Odyssey Preparatory Academy is a Purple Star School and Brevard is a Purple Star District. Students are encouraged to wear purple on April 17th to celebrate this distinction.

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.
• Discovery Science (all grades) provides practice for students in science concepts and supports science instruction taking place in the classroom.

For all of our Olympians K-5, the Florida Standards Assessment will be taking place in April/May. Our teachers and staff have worked very hard this year to ensure our students are prepared and will feel confident for the STAR/Florida Standards Assessments (FSA). Here are some strategies for success when taking the test:

• Get a good night's rest
• Eat a healthy, protein rich breakfast in the morning
• Communicate in a positive manner the day of the test so students arrive to school calm and settled
• K-2 STAR Parent Portal https://fldoe.org/assessments k12.html this website has sample items similar to what students might see on the STAR test. Please review with your students so they feel comfortable navigating and answering these question types.
• 3rd- 5th FSA Parent Portal is a good resource for you and provides some practice tests and information that may help you and your child feel more at ease. https://flassessments.org/exam/students-and-families.stml

Testing Windows	Assessment	Subject	Grade
4/22	STAR Early Literacy	Reading	K
4/22	STAR Reading	Reading	1ST, 2ND
4/22	STAR Math	Math	K, 1ST, 2ND
5/1	FSA	Reading	3
5/7	FSA	Math	3
4/2	FSA	Writing	4
5/5	FSA	Reading	4
5/6	FSA	Math	4
4/1	FSA	Writing	5
5/8	FSA	Reading	5
5/12	FSA	Math	5
5/13	NGSSS	Science	5

Finally, the following link 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. Jack, jackt@odysseyprepacademy.com or Ms. Cappola, cappolac@odysseyprepacademy.com.

Counseling Corner – Ms. Formoso

As we approach the final semester of the school year, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the hard work, resilience, and growth that our students have shown throughout the year. The last semester is a time for reflection, continued progress, and focus as we finish strong. Your dedication to creating a supportive and enriching environment is truly appreciated. As we head into the final stretch, I encourage you to continue offering encouragement and creating opportunities for our students to succeed, both academically and emotionally. It's also a great time to check in with students who may be feeling the pressure of testing and final grades. A little extra support and guidance can go a long way. We're all in this together, and your involvement and encouragement make a world of difference.

If any students are struggling with or need additional resources, please remind them that I am here to support them. Whether it's providing coping strategies, helping with academic concerns, or simply offering a listening ear, I am available to assist in any way needed. Let's continue working together to ensure that every student finishes the year feeling proud of their achievements.

Grievance Procedures

Step 1: Request Teacher conference to clarify issue
Step 2: Contact the Site Administrator 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
****** 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 2025-2026 school year.

Odyssey Preparatory Academy
1550 Wyoming Drive • Palm Bay, FL 32909 • 321-572-7263 • **info@odysseyprepacademy.com**

Copyright © 2025 Odyssey Preparatory Academy. All rights reserved. • Website by **decographics**