

"Committed to academic excellence and the education of the whole child"

Our Mission For Every Child

The mission of Odyssey Preparatory Academy 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.

CALENDAR

3/12	End of the 3rd Interim
3/13	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
3/18	Elementary Report Cards Issued
3/18	OCS Board of Directors Meeting
3/20	Dress Down/Care of the Environment Day
3/23-27	Spring Break
3/30	Secondary Report Cards Issued
4/3	Teacher/Student Holiday
4/22	OCS Board of Directors Meeting
4/24	End of the 4th Interim
4/24	Dress Down/ Care of the Environment Day
4/30	Interims Issued
5/25	Memorial Day – Holiday for All
6/1	Last Day of School

OPA Leadership Team

Founder/Head of Schools
Ms. Constance Ortiz

Site Administrator
Dr. Reggie Revis

AP, Technology, Scheduling, Testing
Mr. Jon Chace

Discipline Dean
Mr. Mike Davis

Curriculum Coach
Mrs. Paulette Brancaccio

Literacy Coach
Ms. Alexis Rotstein

Guidance Counselor
Ms. Bonnie Moravecky

ESE Teacher
Kimberly Gary



FSA

Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) will be taking place this spring. A few reminders: a good night sleep before a testing day is always encouraged; please also make sure your student has a healthy breakfast with protein; and please make sure your students arrive on time. The FSA website is a great place to get lots of information about testing, dates, rubrics and practice tests. Visit <http://www.fsassessments.org/>. Click on Students and Parents for information.

FSA Dates:

- FSA ELA 3rd and 4th grades: April 1st and April 2nd
- FSA Math 3rd and 4th grades: April 7th and 8th
- FCAT Grade 5 Science: April 13 and 14th
- FSA Grades 5/6: ELA: Week of April 20th
- FSA Grades 5/6 Math: Week of April 27th

Fluency

What is it? Reading fluency is the ability to read

- with accuracy – reading words correctly
- at an appropriate pace - not too fast, not too slow
- with expression – reading with feeling, not sounding monotone or robotic
- punctuation – reading with expression based on given punctuation



Fluency practice is an essential component that allows students to bridge the gap between word recognition and comprehension. It allows the reader to focus on understanding of text over struggling to decode what is being read. Parents can support reading fluency at home by:

- make reading a priority in your home - as you build a reading life at home your child will come to value the love of reading for themselves
- model – reading to and with your child enables them to hear what good reading sounds like
- building your home reading library – make available a variety of reading texts for your child including literature and non-fiction texts, magazines, on-line reading resources, etc.
- Visit your local library/book store on a regular basis – make visiting your local library or book store a weekly event.
- Read, read, and read some more – the very best steps to take to build fluency is read, read, and read some more.
- Make Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) part of your nightly homework routine – SSR is a tried and true way to have students engage in reading as part of their nightly homework. As children see the value of reading they are more apt to look forward to uninterrupted reading time rather than seeing it as another homework assignment or dreaded chore to complete.
- Encourage your child to read with a buddy/friend – have your child read to younger siblings, family members, or friends.

Exceptional Student Education Survey

Each year the Florida Department of Education (DOE) conducts a Parent Survey designed to provide the DOE as well as the United States Department of Education, with information on how well Florida's schools are supporting parents' involvement in their disabled child's special education and related services program(s). If you have a child with an Individual Education Plan (IEP), we ask that you complete the survey. The window to complete the survey will be open until May 31, 2015.

The survey is located online at www.esesurvey.com. The DOE maintains a secure website for the survey. The website provides assurance that information provided by the parents is kept confidential and will not be linked in any individually identifiable way to the parent or child. Parents who have more than one child with an IEP are asked to complete a survey for each child.

If you have any questions, or you do not have access to a computer, please contact Odyssey's ESE Coordinator, Felicia Aldridge and she will be happy to assist you. Ms. Aldridge can be reached at 321-733-0442 ext. 128 or by email at aldridgef@odysseycharterschool.com

Positive Discipline - The Message of Caring

Positive Discipline was developed by Dr. Jane Nelson, and Lynn Lott. Positive Discipline's "Message of Caring" states that respect and encouragement are two basic ingredients of caring. It also states that there are five common behaviors (barriers), which adults use with young people who are seen as disrespectful and discouraging and five behaviors (builders), which are respectful and encouraging to students. The first two barriers and builders are provided below:

Barrier 1: Assuming. It is easy to assume we know what students think and feel; therefore you may deal with them according to your assumptions, preventing you from discovering their unique perceptions and capabilities.

Builder 1: Checking. When you check instead of assume, you discover how students are maturing in their ability to deal with problems and issues that affect them.

Barrier 2: Rescuing/Explaining. You may feel you are being caring and helpful when you do things for your student rather than allow them to learn from their own experiences or all them to discover how to explain things for themselves.

Builder 2: Exploring. We explain and rescue when we say things such as, "It's cold outside, so don't forget your jackets". We can explore when we say, "As you look outside, what do you need to think about before you go to recess? What do you need to do to take care of yourselves?" This allows the student to learn to make choices as well as understand themselves, others, and situations through their own experiences.

Please consider taking some time at home and practicing these first two builders with your student and take note if you notice any changes in your student's behaviors. If you would like more information on Positive Discipline we have books available for parent check out through our media center.



Parenting for a Better World

Car Loop Reminders

During arrival and dismissal it is important that you keep the inner lane of the car loop directly in front of the school clear. These routes have been designated for the safety of all children and for the efficient movement of automobiles and school buses. For the safety of our children, Please remember:

- No cell phone use in the carloop
- Follow the posted 5mph speed limit.
- Watch for families in the cross walks.
- Unless you are walking your child into the school, please use the car loop drop off to safely deliver your child to the building entrance. NO drop-off or pick-up in the parking lot or from community sidewalks.

National Honor Society Induction

This year's new National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS), and Tri-M Music Honor Society students participated in an induction ceremony on February 26th. This was a formal ceremony where families were invited to watch their student's induction into the prestigious Honor Society. Students who are inducted must meet high standards of conduct and must maintain a 3.0 GPA.

Congratulations to the following students who are now official members of Odyssey's Honor Societies:

NJHS: Andrea Mantilla, Miggy Pineda, Marques Rivera, Jacob Smith
NEHS Odyssey Charter School Chapter: David Alves, Jayna Blanks, Ariana Brickhouse, Lilliana Cearra, Brandon Desmarais, Soreina Fleming, Rhea Garza, Veronica Gonzalez-Bonne, Chloe Harmon, Layla Harmon, Aliyah Harvey, Edea Kassner, Kristin Liebhaber, Taborlee Montefu, Isabel Rather, Karla Reyes, Rebecca St. John, Sean Stanton, Jada Taylor, Jocelyn Taylor, Ashley Zavodny

NEHS Odyssey Preparatory Academy Chapter: Kaelynn Back, Hayden Berry, Nazliyan Duman, Nasean Hall, Ella Held, William Held, Saige Robertson, Dana Snead, Ronald Snow, Leitizia Jean, Tannahil Jean Elysia Williams

Tri-M Music Honor Society: Sebastian Bonne, Eva Burgoon, Mary Farrugia, Madison Thomas-Bransky

Preschool Applications for 2015-16 School Year

Montessori Village Green at Odyssey's Wyoming campus offers a Classical Early Childhood Education Program for children 3 years old through Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK). Our program is staffed by supportive degreed Early Childhood teachers. Our traditional program is supplemented with Montessori learning materials and the Core Knowledge Reading program, which is a rich literature based program.

Our preschool program also offers a tuition based morning and full day program for 3 year olds and non-VPK four year olds and a free VPK program. Please visit the following website <http://www.elcbrevard.org/p/232/registration-information> to learn if your child qualifies for VPK and steps to receiving your voucher. We accept School Readiness vouchers from the Early Learning Coalition to help parents who have a financial need with tuition. To learn more about School Readiness, please visit the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard's Website: <http://www.elcbrevard.org/p/218/school-readiness-subsidized-child-care-program>

Students that attend Odyssey for VPK may receive priority preference for enrollment into Odyssey's Kindergarten Program. Applications for the 2015-16 preschool program are available at the school's front office. To learn more about our preschool program and to set up a tour, please contact Amy White at 321-733-0442 Ext 126, or email her at whitea@odysseycharterschool.com.

Music Notes



Grades 4-6 have been studying music from the Baroque and Classical era as well as improving their note reading skills. In addition they have learned to play variations on the D major scale on the violin. K-3 have been playing Rhythm and Orff instruments as well as all grades singing a variety of folk and partner songs. Additionally, K-3 is singing solfeggio syllables by using Kodaly hand signs.

Mathematics

Below are some useful tips and resources that all students and parents can incorporate into their daily routine, whether your student is completing a primary grade level or preparing for the Mathematics-Florida Standards Assessment (3rd-6th Grade).

Fact Fluency: Even though students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade do not take the Florida Standards Assessment, all students (K-6) should be practicing grade-appropriate addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts on a regular basis.

Standards: Odyssey Charter School Students in Kindergarten through 6th grade have spent all year learning and practicing the Mathematics Florida Standards (MAFS) with the ultimate goal of achieving mastery. The following link, <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/>, is a great website to better understand the level in which students are taught Mathematics and to help your student achieve a firm mathematical foundation.

Homework: Math homework does not only teach students responsibility, but it is a very useful tool for classroom teachers to check for understanding on different mathematical concepts being taught on a regular basis.

Websites: Below is a list of content-appropriate Mathematical Websites that students can use at home.

A Math Dictionary for Kids - <http://www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com>
Cool Math 4 Kids - <http://www.coolmath4kids.com>
A Plus Math - <http://www.aplusmath.com>

Science Fair

March 10, 2015 Jadyn Small, Judah Knight, Avery Held, Teriana Graham, Hans Bianco, Nazliyan Duman, Lorie Youte, Saige Robertson and Ronald Snow represented OPA at the 34th Annual Brevard County Schools Science Fair. Congratulations to our representatives.



CLASSROOM NEWS

Kindergarten

This month kindergarten learned all about colonial towns and townspeople. We learned about the different important jobs that people help within the towns. One of the jobs we learned about was that of the baker. We put what we learned into action and made bread in the crockpot. We also churned our own butter for our bread! Colonial America sure is tasty!



1st Grade

Mrs. Back's class celebrated the 100th day! The children enjoyed working through several stations including the hundreds chart puzzles, name patterns on the hundred boards, even and odd numbers, and making groups with 100 objects. We also counted to hundred by ones, tens, and fives. The students also had fun wearing their 100 day glasses and bracelets. What a fun, educational afternoon!



3rd Grade

We are in the home stretch! We have approximately five weeks until the window opens for the Florida Standards Assessment. Please remember that one of those weeks will be for Spring Break! I believe the OPA third graders are ready for this opportunity to showcase their talents. I encourage the parents of OPA third graders to continue building their student's confidence. I truly believe that all OPA third graders can pass this test; they just have to believe in themselves.

Since we returned to school from our holiday break, I have been working on third grade student portfolios. In my weekly emails, I have continued to inform OPA parents of the importance of these portfolios. We have been focusing on groups of Florida State Standards in ELA. We learned how to master these standards and we test on each standard. These test count as evidence for your third grader's portfolio. I have also been using these grades for my reading comprehension grades because of the amount of time spent on these tasks. I encourage you to ask your student about their portfolios.

We are about to enter into the very last section of third grade math standards. The students will learn about the attributes of two-dimensional shapes. After we test in FSA math, we will begin working on a program called "Step-Up to fourth grade math." I am very excited to see how our OPA third grade does on the FSA math section.

We are learning much in the areas of science and social studies as well. We have been working on the states of water and why they transform from one state to another. We also worked on matter, mass, gravity, weight, and measurement of these items. We learned about the geography of our planet. We learned about the different types of maps. We will move into the different types of resources our planet has as well as how we can conserve them.

(Third Grade Continued)

As we get closer to testing time, I encourage you to be positive and uplifting to your student. I know that the OPA third graders are worried about this FSA. I would imagine that most people are worried about this test. I truly believe that this FSA is just a small snapshot of what the OPA third grade can accomplish. This test does not measure who your student is and what they can become. Remember, this is just a test. There have been tests before and there will be tests after this one. The important thing is the overall well-being of our students. True education can never be taken away.

4th Grade

Last week, our fourth-graders took the Florida State Assessment of Writing, and we feel confident they were fully prepared. Students have been working hard since winter break to learn how to compare and contrast nonfiction texts. Students even learned how to properly quote and cite information from these texts in their own writing. Since the test, we have been hard at work gearing up for the upcoming Math and Reading Florida State Assessments. In English Language Arts (ELA), we recently wrapped up our unit on poetry, drama, and prose. Our focus has been comparing how these three types of literature can communicate the same stories or information in a different way. We have also been reviewing how to determine the theme in a work of fiction. For our purposes, the theme of a story is the moral or lesson we can learn.

In math, we have completed our study of fractions and decimals. Our unit on multiplication and division is well underway. Ask your student how to use the "area model" to solve multiplication and division problems by relating them to the area of a rectangle. Up next will be measurement and geometry. We will be measuring, adding and subtracting angles. This month, students also completed some amazing science fair projects, and their efforts definitely showed. We had students who studied the amount of iron in cereal, the density of different liquids, the reaction of mentos and soda, and many other excellent experiments. Look for the date of our upcoming parent night in which we will showcase all projects from our school.

5th Grade

When the 5th grade classes from OPA and Odyssey Charter ventured out to the King Center early this month, they certainly didn't expect to hear about Superheroes. But that is exactly what the Brevard Symphony Orchestra gave them, sound bites, TV themes and movie soundtracks for some of the most famous characters. Brevard County's fifth grade students filled the auditorium and proved present when asked to sing along to one of the popular tunes. Before the show, the Odysseys had lunch by the lake at Wickham Park. Thanks to Mr. Hoffman and his supporting class, it was a wonderful day.

Mechiah Kirton, a fifth grader from OPA represented the school at the District Spelling Bee Feb. 15

OPA 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
- 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

**Mr. Jon Chace 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. Mr. Chace can be reached at chacej@odysseycharter-school.com or 321-345-4117.