



Green Apple
School Management

inspired learning in "green" and healthy schools

Fall Newsletter

Sept-Oct 2025

Our Mission for Every Child

Odyssey's mission is to work in partnership families and our community with the aim of helping each child reach their own unique and wonderful potential—spiritually, academically, emotionally, socially, and physically. Our child-centered programs are selected so that children have multiple opportunities to find and develop their passions.

*Fall into Learning
at Odyssey*

Dear Odyssey Families,

As cooler breezes arrive and October ushers in a new season, our Odyssey community is embracing fresh beginnings, exciting initiatives, and continued growth. Whether your family joined us this year or has been part of our journey for a while, I warmly welcome you to this vibrant chapter of the school year.

This Fall Family Newsletter highlights what's ahead at Odyssey Charter School, Inc.—from new initiatives and leadership introductions to upcoming opportunities to partner with us in your child's academic success. Each section reflects our ongoing commitment to transparency, unity, and excellence in education.

One Team, One Mission

At Odyssey, we strive to create one united team: teachers, staff, board members, leadership, parents, students, and our broader community. Together, we support the growth and success of your children—the most precious gift in the world.



Thank you for being part of Odyssey. Let's make this fall a season of excellence, collaboration, and joy!



With gratitude,

Ms. Constance

CEO, Green Apple School Management
Founder, Odyssey Charter School, Inc.



Staying Informed = Volunteering!

Did you know? Each time you read a school newsletter—whether it's from your principal, our wellness team, or this one (The Green Apple News)—you earn 30 minutes of volunteer service time. Staying informed keeps our community strong, and your engagement is deeply appreciated.

NEW THIS SEASON!

Please take a moment to complete our newsletter survey after reading this newsletter. The school with the highest parent participation will win our friendly "Most Engaged School" competition! Let's see which campus shows the most school spirit this fall!

Use this QR code or click this link [HERE](#) to earn your volunteer service time and participate in our school engagement competition.



Why Partnerships Matter

Our mission at Odyssey emphasizes working in partnership with parents and the community. We know that we cannot educate children alone. You are your child's first and most important teacher, and we honor your primary role in their development and success.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

We encourage open, respectful, and timely communication. Here's what you can expect:

- All staff members are required to respond to phone calls and emails within 24 hours (on school days).
- If you haven't received a response within that time, please contact your school's principal directly.
- If further support is needed, reach out to Mr. Tim Wilson, Director of School Operations at Green Apple School Management, at twilson@greenappleschools.com.

Odyssey is on the Move: Becoming a National Model for Healthy Schools—Naturally!

At Odyssey, there's never a dull moment—we're constantly moving, innovating, and reimagining what education can be. From coordinating transportation for our Dual Enrollment students to crafting trail-blazing Advanced Placement courses and refining our dynamic curriculum, we thrive on progress.

Now, we're thrilled to launch one of our most exciting initiatives yet: **our journey to become a National Model for Healthy Schools with a Focus on Natural Health.**

This bold, transformative initiative centers around four powerful pillars:

Building a Healthy School Campus

Developing School Culture and the Well-Being of Students

Physical Fitness: Fitness for Life

A Wise Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles Program

4 Elements National Model for Healthy School with a Focus on Natural Health

Building a Healthy School Campus

Fostering an environment where nature, learning, and wellness thrive side-by-side.

Nurturing School Culture and Student Well-Being

Creating a supportive, inspiring atmosphere where every student feels seen, valued, and empowered.

Fitness for Life

Promoting movement, mindfulness, and lifelong physical wellness through engaging, accessible programs.

Wise Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles

Expanding our already strong foundation with smart, sustainable nutrition choices and wellness habits.

Odyssey is not just a place of learning—it's becoming a beacon of health, vitality, and visionary thinking for schools nationwide. Join us as we lead the way, naturally!



School of Lunch Team

Project Updates

Fit for Life: Building Lifelong Wellness at Odyssey

At Odyssey Charter School, wellness is more than movement—it's a foundation for health, resilience, and academic success. Inspired by Dr. John Ratey's Spark, our Fit for Life Initiative empowers students to build habits that strengthen both body and mind. PE teachers, trained as fitness coaches, mentor students through dynamic, research-informed programs—from structured cardio recess and rotating activity stations in elementary grades to TRX strength training and differentiated fitness pathways in junior/senior high.

This year, we expanded our efforts with wellness expert Leslie Maloney, national PE leaders, and SHAPE Florida Conference strategies. Students also enjoy before-school walking clubs, our annual 5K run, and updated Presidential Fitness benchmarks. Looking ahead, we'll partner with HealthCorps to bring wellness interns and health programming to campus. Fit for Life ensures our Titans and Olympians grow strong academically, socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually—ready to thrive in every area of life.

Florida Students Are Resilient

Odyssey Charter Schools are sharing monthly the Resiliency Florida program, the state's Character Education program. This first-in-the-nation initiative helps students persevere and overcome life's challenges. Each month, principals will share resources for parents, while classrooms and morning announcements highlight the Resiliency Characteristic of the Month.



October: Honesty – encouraging truthfulness, integrity, and trust.

Parents can support these lessons at home with grade-level activities: buildresiliency.org. Together, we help our students grow into their strongest, most capable selves.

School of Lunch: Fueling Our Students for Success

Odyssey Charter Schools are moving forward with the School of Lunch Initiative, focusing on nutrient-dense, whole foods. A team of ten—including our school founder and key staff, mainly from the Café Team—traveled to Los Angeles for training with Hilary Boynton, founder of the School of Lunch (*pictured left*).

While full transformation of our café programs isn't immediate, we've already made meaningful improvements. With new dietary guidelines coming in January 2026 and several strategies underway, we're steadily working toward a healthier, more vibrant lunch experience. Stay tuned!

Fun Fact: School of Lunch has been recognized by The Nutrition Coalition for serving the most nutrient-dense school lunches in the nation. They've chosen Odyssey Charter Schools to help launch a groundbreaking meal program, aiming to make our kids the healthiest students in the country.

Hurricane Preparations

As we continue through hurricane season, we want to keep you informed about how we handle storm-related closures.

We follow Brevard Public Schools' decisions regarding school closings and reopen when they do. Our top priority is always the safety and well-being of our students and staff.

Before and after a storm, our team is here to provide calm, comfort, and encouragement to our students. Please know that our staff returns one day before students to ensure everything is safe, welcoming, and ready. This allows us time to check in on one another and prepare our space for your children. Thank you for your continued support and trust.

Stronger Together

Our school community shines when challenges arise! During the recent water main break and boil water alert, faculty, staff, parents, and the City of Palm Bay came together seamlessly. Aftercare was safely relocated, cafeteria menus were adjusted, and everyone contributed to keeping our students safe and cared for.

Keep Your Contact Info Current!

Emergencies are easier to manage when we work together. Please make sure your contact information is up to date so we can reach you quickly.

CONTACTS FOR UPDATES:

Jr/Sr High:

Amanda Nemeth – nemetha@odysseycharterschool.com

OPA:

Brooke Councill – councellb@odysseyprepacademy.com

OCS Elementary:

Nancy Herasme – herasmen@odysseycharterschool.com

MVG:

Update via Procure or contact Alia Hartwick – hartwicka@odysseycharterschool.com

Before & After Care:

Update via Procure or contact Claudia Agosto – agostoc@odysseycharterschool.com

Exciting New Growth & Development Updates!

Big things are happening at Odyssey!

Wyoming Campus: 85 new parking spots and an improved exit coming Summer 2026.

Montessori Village Green: New Early Childhood Center for infants–VPK, opening Summer 2027

K–8 Odyssey Preparatory Building: Plans underway for a brand-new facility to serve more students opening for the 2027-28 school year.

We're building a brighter future together—thank you for your patience and support as these projects take shape!



Introducing Our Assistant Principals and Deans

During the summer, we introduced you to our school principals (link to the [Summer Green Apple News](#)).

This month, we're excited to introduce—or reintroduce—you to the outstanding Assistant Principals and Deans supporting each of our campuses. These leaders play a critical role in fostering safe, engaging, and academically excellent environments for all students.

Odyssey Charter School Elementary



Deb Berg, Assistant Principal

Ms. Deb Berg joined Odyssey as Assistant Principal in 2018 and brings over 35 years of experience across multiple school districts, including teaching all K–5 grade levels in general and exceptional education. She previously served 8 years as an Assistant Principal and 3 years as Director of Elementary Education. Passionate about supporting children, Ms. Berg values teamwork and enjoys working closely with Odyssey's staff, students, and families.



Mike Senick, Assistant Principal

Mr. Mike Senick has been teaching and coaching since 2009, with most of his experience in the primary grades. He holds a Master's in Teaching English as a Second Language and is passionate about helping students learn to read, regularly sharing the latest research on reading instruction with colleagues. Mr. Senick values curiosity, believes in asking questions, and looks forward to collaborating with staff, students, and families in his new role this school year.



Benjamin Horsley, Dean of Students

Mr. Ben Horsley, of Korean, German, and Irish descent, was born in Seoul, South Korea, and is an Army Iraq Combat Veteran who served as a Recon Scout. He holds a Bachelor's in Elementary Education from UCF and has taught at Odyssey for several years. Passionate about building relationships and fostering a positive culture, Mr. Horsley is committed to guiding students to become respectful, responsible, and productive members of society.

*Assistant Principals & Deans
Continued on next page >*

Introducing Our Assistant Principals and Deans *(Continued from previous page)*

Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High School



**Ms. Laura Lane,
Assistant Principal**

We're excited to welcome Ms. Laura Lane to OCS Jr/Sr High School as Assistant Principal. With over 20 years of experience in teaching, curriculum development, and instructional leadership, she brings a strong background in education. Holding a Master's in Educational Technology and a Bachelor's in Elementary Education, Ms. Lane is known for her collaborative leadership style and dedication to creating environments where both students and teachers thrive.



**Mr. Mike Guevara,
Assistant Principal**

Mr. Mike Guevara enters his 7th year with Odyssey and continues as Assistant Principal at OCS Jr/Sr High. Since 2018, he has supported academics, student guidance, and CTE programming, bringing versatile experience as a guidance counselor and former Assistant Principal of Discipline. Mr. Guevara is student-focused and enjoys spending time with his family, proudly supporting breast cancer awareness.



**Ms. Rebecca Irving,
Assistant Principal**

We're thrilled to welcome Ms. Rebecca Irving back as Assistant Principal of Student Services. With over 30 years in education and six years at Odyssey, she has served as a math teacher, ESE Coordinator, and Assistant Principal, making a lasting impact on students and families. Known for her compassion and dedication, Ms. Irving also enjoys family time, exploring the outdoors, and crafting jewelry.



**Mr. Ryan Weston,
Discipline Dean & Athletic Director**

We're excited to welcome Mr. Ryan Weston to Odyssey as our new Discipline Dean and Athletic Director. Holding a Bachelor's in Psychology and Master's degrees in Community Psychology and Educational Leadership, he brings a thoughtful, student-focused approach to leadership. Mr. Weston is passionate about building relationships, fostering academic and social success, and bringing energy to our athletic programs.

Odyssey Preparatory Academy (OPA)



**John Haddan,
Assistant Principal**

We're excited to welcome Mr. John Haddan back to Odyssey Preparatory Academy as Assistant Principal! With nearly 30 years in public education—including roles as Principal and Superintendent—he brings extensive experience and a student-centered approach. Holding advanced degrees in Curriculum & Instruction and Technology Integration, Mr. Haddan is passionate about building strong relationships, maintaining integrity, and fostering a positive school culture for all.



**Mr. Jose Padilla,
Dean of Students**

We're proud to welcome Mr. Jose Padilla back to OPA as our new Dean of Students! With over 15 years at Odyssey Charter Schools in roles including PE teacher, Dean, and Safety Officer, he brings extensive experience and dedication. Holding a Bachelor's in Education and two Master's degrees, Mr. Padilla is known for his warm, approachable style and commitment to creating safe, supportive, and motivating environments for students.

Supporting Your Student's Best Year Yet: Key School Policies

To help your student have a safe, successful, and rewarding school year, we've outlined the most important policies and procedures. These guidelines are designed to keep our learning environment positive, focused, and fair—while helping you and your student navigate the year with confidence.

Dress Code and Personal Presentation

At Odyssey in Palm Bay, we believe that how our students present themselves reflects their respect for themselves and our school community. Following the dress code not only ensures a neat and professional appearance but also fosters a positive and focused learning environment. Proper grooming and appropriate attire help students feel confident and ready to engage, while representing the values and spirit of Odyssey. Please know that the following may not be worn as part of our uniform: Leggings, Jeans (including black jeans), basketball shorts, or logos on jackets. Please also make certain there are heel straps worn on all shoes and that your student has athletic shoes for PE.

We kindly ask parents to support us by encouraging their children to adhere to the dress code daily, helping maintain the high standards that make our school special. For more details on our dress code policy, please visit our website at www.odysseyschools.com.



Supporting Your Student's Best Year Yet: Key School Policies *(Continued from previous page)*

Wellness Policy

As part of our mission to help each child reach their full potential in every area of life, Odyssey partners with parents to nurture students' health and wellness as well as their academic and personal growth. This is a friendly reminder to please speak with your children about following our school's Wellness Policy.

To support healthy habits and a positive learning environment, students are not permitted to bring candy, junk food, or other non-nutritious snacks onto any of our campuses.

We deeply appreciate your support in reinforcing these guidelines at home as we work together to promote the well-being and success of every student.

Cell Phones and Mobile Devices Policy

As we journey through the school year, please review our expectations for cell phone and mobile device use on campus. These rules align with Florida Statute 1006.07 and Odyssey Charter School, Inc. Board Policy 7021 and are designed to keep our learning environment engaging and respectful.

During the school day, students may not use cell phones or other mobile devices unless specifically authorized by administration. This includes instructional time, class transitions, breakfast, and lunch. Devices must be powered off and stored in backpacks—out of sight—from arrival until dismissal.

Mobile devices include: Cell phones & smartphones, smartwatches, E-readers, Earbuds or headphones, and gaming devices

Key Expectations:

- Devices must be turned off when entering campus and kept in backpacks (not clothing pockets).
- Devices may not be used in classrooms, libraries, cafeterias, common areas, restrooms, or during transitions.
- Devices may be turned back on after the last bell for dismissal communication.
- Emergency calls during the day require teacher permission and a pass to the administrative office.
- Exceptions are granted only with prior administrative approval or documented health needs (IEPs, Section 504 Plans, Health Care Plans, medically necessary devices).

Consequences for Violations:

- 1st Offense: Staff keeps phone for the class period.
- 2nd Offense: Phone sent to Dean; held until end of day.
- 3rd Offense: Phone sent to Dean; parent called for pickup. If not picked up, phone held for 3 days.

Odyssey Charter School, Inc. is not responsible for theft, loss, or damage of personal devices on school property.

A Note to Parents:

We recognize that many families provide phones for safety and after-school communication. However, frequent checking of devices during the day creates significant classroom disruptions. By following this policy together, we can maintain safety, ensure after-school communication, and keep classrooms focused on academics and distraction-free. Thank you for your partnership.

Fostering a Positive and Safe Learning Environment

We're sharing our behavior and discipline policies for grades 6–12, designed to foster a safe, supportive environment where every student can grow and succeed.

What We Expect (Grades 6–12)

Odyssey believes structure plus support leads to success. Our rules guide students toward positive choices rooted in respect, responsibility, and growth. Every student plays a role in keeping our school safe and focused on learning.

When expectations aren't met, we apply clear, consistent consequences to ensure fairness and accountability.

Discipline Levels and Consequences

Our framework escalates responses based on severity and frequency:

Level 1 – Minor issues (horseplay, tardiness, missed detentions): redirection and preventive strategies.

Level 2–3 – Disruptive, disobedient, or repeated behaviors: increased interventions; ongoing patterns may result in consideration for permanent dismissal.

Level 4 – Serious infractions (fighting, drug possession/use): evaluated for permanent dismissal under our zero-tolerance stance for safety threats.

Level 5 – Most severe (weapons, drug distribution): recommendation for expulsion from all Brevard Public Schools.

Repeated lower-level issues can also lead to stronger consequences.

Required Counseling After Suspension

For any suspension of three days or more, you, your student, and school administration must meet for a counseling session. Together, we create an individualized behavior plan focused on helping your student succeed and return to school ready to make positive choices.

Why This Matters

Clear expectations help students focus, learn, and grow while protecting their peers' right to do the same. Our approach is proactive—teaching reflection, resilience, and self-discipline rather than punishment alone.

How Parents Can Help

Talk with your student about our policies and their role in a positive school culture. These conversations at home reinforce accountability and support your child's success. Together, we create the environment our students deserve to give them the best education possible. Thank you for helping us make this a safe, focused, and academically rewarding year for every child. Contact your student's Dean, Mr. Ryan Weston, at westonr@odysseycharterschool.com with any questions. We are here to partner with you!

Memorable moments so far this year at Odyssey Schools:

Montessori Village Green



Working with Kandinsky shapes



Celebrating Maria Montessori's birthday



Painting fun!



Preparing the mathematical brain



Grandparent's Day at MVG!

Odyssey Preparatory Academy



2nd graders using their Nature of Science skills to make observations during a science lab!



Kindergarten LOVES using manipulatives while learning numbers!

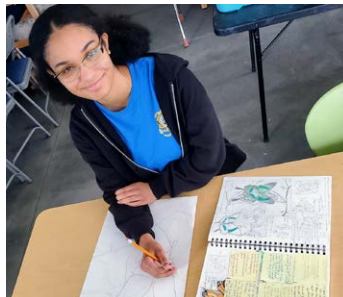


GateWay students enjoying the pollination garden planted by the Environmental Club last year! They saw bees, butterflies and dragon flies!

Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High School



AP environmental science students are learning about stem structure.



This AP Art student is exploring themes of growth and metamorphosis.



Farm students are preparing the soil while learning the foundational steps of sustainable agriculture.



Commercial art students are working on yearbook and enjoying our new Mac computer lab!

Odyssey Charter Elementary



2nd graders are using their math manipulative to help build conceptual understandings of math.



4th grade students are using I-Ready to practice their multiplication math facts.



Titan students enjoy having their fathers and father figures come for "Breakfast with Dads"!



Students are excited to learn about music and what it means to them.