



## Welcome to our schools

where dedicated educators assist all children in reaching their full and unique potential, while working in partnership with their families and the community. Our holistic approach seeks to educate every child with the understanding that each person must achieve a balance of intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual and social skills as a foundation for life.

This brochure outlines our Kindergarten through 2nd Grade Program of Study which plays a vital role in the academic and holistic development of every child. Research-based curriculum and programs that foster whole child development are purposefully selected and are aligned to the state standards, the needs of children, and the mission of the organization. In order to ensure our students reach their full potential, rigorous, engaging, interactive, and classical resources and texts are used for instruction. Our focus is on student mastery, and instruction is differentiated to meet the needs of all level of learners and to help every child succeed.



## Featured School-Wide Programs for Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

- Odyssey is committed to following the **Montessori Philosophy and Method**, which supports the holistic development of children.
- Odyssey is committed to developing a classroom community and an atmosphere of caring, kindness, dignity and mutual respect through implementation of **Positive Discipline in the Classroom**.
- Odyssey is committed to meeting the needs of all students, including its gifted and talented. Through the **GATEway** program, high-performing students are provided with acceleration opportunities through enrichment activities and research-based programs that include **Project Lead the Way**, **Renzulli® Learning**, **William and Mary Center for Gifted Education** science units, and other independent research projects based upon student interest.

*“Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future.”*  
~ Maria Montessori



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## Elementary Program of Studies Kindergarten – 2nd Grade



Committed to academic  
excellence and the education  
of the whole child



## English-Language Arts (ELA)

Using **Core Knowledge Language Arts® (CKLA)**, Odyssey provides a comprehensive Preschool–Grade 5 program for teaching reading, writing, listening, and speaking while building students’ knowledge and vocabulary in literature, history, geography, and science. Students study topics including American Symbols and Presidents, Early World Civilizations, The War of 1812, Ancient Greek Civilization, and Westward Expansion. Students are exposed to high-quality classical literature including the study of Aesop’s Fables, nursery rhymes, fairy tales, tall tales, Greek myths and other selections that work to build each student’s cultural literacy. Science topics studied in CKLA include Animals and Habitats, Astronomy, The Human Body, Cycles in Nature, and Seasons and Weather.

Odyssey uses **Fundations®**, a structured literacy program for reading instruction, that provides multi-sensory and systematic instruction in phonics, spelling, and handwriting. The program systematically and comprehensively instructs students in phonemic awareness and word study which helps to develop competent readers and contributes to increased reading fluency, vocabulary development, and application of strategies for understanding text. **Fundations®** also provides scaffolded support in reading and spelling instruction for struggling readers.

Students in grades K-2 use **Writing Studio**, the companion writing program to CKLA, which builds on the content knowledge developed in CKLA primary instruction. Writing Studio is used as a springboard for students to strengthen and practice their writing skills. Students are able to apply the skills and knowledge they have gained in the core program while focusing deeply on the three text types—opinion, informative/explanatory, and narrative writing. Writing Studio extends CKLA core instruction with meaningful writing assignments, standards-driven instruction with thorough scaffolding, and extensive models to help students grasp each step of the writing process. Authentic writing projects spark creativity by calling on students to engage deeply with rich topics and sources. Lessons implement careful design and provide rubrics so that students’ growth in writing skills can be visibly tracked throughout the year and their elementary school careers.

## Math

Students in grades K-2 use **enVision® Florida’s B.E.S.T. Mathematics**, a program that embraces research-based and classroom-proven curriculum and instruction principles shown to promote the depth of mathematical understanding needed for student success and higher achievement. The lesson framework is built on a prob-

lem-based model where students make connections with previously learned material. Each lesson consists of two steps. In Step 1, concepts and procedures are introduced through a problem-solving experience. In Step 2, the lesson moves into explicit, direct instruction of the important mathematics concepts connected to the learning experience from Step 1. In addition to the core curriculum, students are also provided with opportunities to use Montessori math materials to supplement instruction and experience math through hands-on activities.

## Science

Using the **elevateScience® Florida Edition** curriculum, students are taught to think critically, problem-solve, and make real-world connections through inquiry-based lessons and investigations. The curriculum teaches content as well as essential process skills that aids in the development of science literacy. Highly engaging supplemental science activities such as environmental education field trips, school-wide gardening projects, and the nationally-recognized **Project Lead the Way** program or **Foss Science™** kits, allow students to fully engage in hands-on learning to help them apply their science skills in real-world situations.

## Social Studies

Using the **Core Knowledge History and Geography™** program, a richly illustrated and engaging student text, Odyssey helps students acquire in-depth knowledge of world civilization, American history, and geography. Some of the topics that are covered in this comprehensive curriculum include Native Americans, Geography of the Americas, the Civil War, Early Explorers and Settlers, and Ancient Greece. Odyssey uses **Studies Weekly®** as a supplementary resource to enrich the social studies program. This resource provides students with an opportunity to learn about relevant topics and current events that shape our world.

## Nutrition Education

Odyssey’s physical education teachers, classroom teachers, and cafe staff collaborate to ensure that students receive a comprehensive nutrition and wellness education. Through hands-on activities that include gardening and food tastings, students learn about nutritional foods and how they help keep our bodies healthy and strong. In

response to Odyssey’s commitment to health and wellness, the school has adopted the **Big Ideas: Linking Food, Culture, Health, and the Environment** program, developed by the Center for Coliteracy in partnership with National Geographic.

## Special Areas of Study

**The Arts** – Odyssey uses the **Core Knowledge Music™** Program and the **Core Knowledge Visual Arts™** Program as the foundation for providing students with essential knowledge in the arts that all children should learn in the early grades. Students are given opportunities to sing, dance, listen to and play music, read and write poetry, draw, paint, and make objects. Equally important, students are exposed to fine paintings, great music, and other inspiring examples of art. In accordance with the principles of the Core Knowledge Arts programs, Odyssey believes that a study of the arts should embrace at least three modes of knowledge: **creative** (i.e., directly making artworks), **historical**, and **analytical**. Early study of the arts should embrace all three modes with special emphasis on creativity and active participation.

**Physical Education** – The Physical Education program at the early grades focuses on four major strands: movement, cognitive abilities, lifetime fitness, and responsible behaviors and values. The skills, knowledge, and behaviors learned in PE are designed to help students establish and maintain active and healthy lifestyles.

**Spanish** – The school may offer Spanish as one of its special programs of study. The Spanish course provides instruction in different modes of communication, such as listening, reading, speaking and writing. The teacher uses such activities as singing, dancing, acting and playing games to immerse students in the Spanish language. Additionally, students learn about countries and cultures in which Spanish is spoken.

**Media/Technology** – Students at Odyssey have access to a media center, which houses a large and diverse body of literary materials that encompass all genres. Additionally, students are provided with opportunities to utilize online media resources and are taught beginning computer literacy skills.