

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.

Message from our Founder

Dear Parents and Families,

As we welcome the vibrant and fresh energy of spring, we're excited to see our school community bloom with new growth, opportunities, and achievements. We welcome the longer days and the chance to celebrate your children's growth, both in and out of the classroom.

We also want to take some time to share with you some whole-school updates, introduce you to a new board member, administrator, and leadership members that have joined our team, and share with you new initiatives and elements of our strategic plan. Thank you for your support and the honor to serve your children and family. Here's to a season of growth, connection, and joy to our entire community.

Warm regards,



Ms. Constance Ortiz

Odyssey School Founder
CEO, Green Apple School
Management

New Odyssey Charter School Inc. Board of Directors:

We had the privilege of meeting 9 talented, dedicated, and wonderful candidates for the Odyssey Charter School Board. It was a true pleasure speaking with the parent members of our community. We are fortunate to have such a wealth of talent and capable individuals among us. Thank you to everyone for your interest and for applying.



The Board is pleased to announce the selection of Dr. Haig John to join the Odyssey Charter School Board. Dr. Haig is a passionate advocate for natural health and a Chiropractor with over 20 years of experience, specializing in pediatric and prenatal care at his private practice in Melbourne. He is dedicated to supporting the holistic well-being of families and communities. Dr. Haig has earned several accolades, including Chiropractor of the Year by the Florida Chiropractic Society and the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Conscious Living Partnership. He has also served on a variety of boards, including the March of Dimes, Florida Chiropractic Society, Florida Chiropractic Political Action Committee, and the Melbourne Board of Adjustments, among others. We are excited to warmly welcome him to our Board of Directors.

Ms. Wendi Nolder Moves to a New Role in Our Organization!



After 26 wonderful years at Odyssey Charter School, Ms. Wendi Nolder will be assuming a new and exciting role in our organization beginning the 2025-26 school year! Ms. Nolder will continue to serve our schools in the capacity of Director of Professional Learning, Teacher Development, and Mission-Focused Schools. Ms. Nolder's new leadership role will allow her to support the organization and educational community in new and innovative ways. Ms. Nolder's journey as a member of the Odyssey Charter School family began when the school opened in 1999. She has been an integral part of the incredible growth and expansion of our schools, from 112 students in a small church building, to the over 2400 students on two campuses. For the first 11 years of her tenure at Odyssey Charter School, Ms. Nolder served as a teacher in the school, and for the past 15 years, has served as the school's principal. Ms. Nolder is deeply devoted to Odyssey Charter School's mission and believes in the transformative power of education. She has made immense contributions to the growth and development of the schools and has been an instrumental part of the excellence that has been achieved by the Odyssey Charter School Family. Ms. Nolder expects to support the school during its transition weekly for the first year. Thank you, Ms. Nolder for your excellent service!



Introducing Tim Wilson, Director of District Operations at Green Apple School Management:



Mr. Tim Wilson is a highly experienced, strategic leader with an excellent track record in leading and managing educational organizations. As the Director of District Operations for Green Apple School Management, Mr. Tim Wilson works closely with the Odyssey Charter Schools, Inc., Director of School Operations to ensure the smooth operations of system-wide departments including facilities, transportation, safety, human resources, technology, and food services. Mr. Wilson is also responsible for working with Green Apple School Management's CEO in the development of long-term infrastructure plans and capital improvement projects, compliance with health and safety procedures, management of operational budgets, and oversight of contracts and procurement for system-wide operational needs. Mr. Wilson's collaborative leadership style, balanced judgement, and ability to steer a team toward completion of a complex project makes him an invaluable member of the Green Apple Executive Leadership Team.

Introducing Marvin Harden, Director of School Operations at Odyssey Charter School, Inc.:



Mr. Marvin Harden brings extensive expertise in strategic planning, leading work teams, and overseeing finance, technology, facilities, and regulatory compliance to enhance organizational efficiency. Over his decade-long tenure in working with charter schools, Mr. Harden has played a key role in expanding operational capacity, managing budgets, and driving capital improvement projects. Mr. Harden has held leadership roles in finance and operations across multiple mission-driven organizations, demonstrating a strong ability to manage budgets, develop high-performing teams, and ensure regulatory compliance. He has successfully guided organizations through financial restructuring, and spearheaded innovative technology solutions to support operational excellence. Mr. Harden's hands-on approach and strategic vision make him a driving force in our organization.

Introducing Mr. John Haddan, Dean of Students at Odyssey Preparatory Academy



The newest member of Odyssey Preparatory Academy's Leadership Team is Mr. John Haddan, Discipline Dean. With over 10 years of dedicated experience in administration, and nearly 30 years in public education, Mr. Haddan's service-oriented approach and problem-solving skills have allowed him to build strong relationships with faculty, staff, students, and parents based on trust and respect. He possesses a deep understanding of the impact of school culture student achievement. His mission is to work in partnership with the school and community to foster a welcoming and nurturing school environment where everyone feels valued and heard. Mr. Haddan believes in leading through example and hopes to inspire others to reach their full potential in a school that encourages excellence and continuous improvement.

Cell Phone Policy Update:

Over the past year, we've implemented a cell phone policy requiring phones to be turned off and stored in backpacks during school hours, except for emergency use. Unfortunately, we've observed a troubling trend, impacting a concerning number of students but particularly some of our female students, who are using the brief moments between classes to enter bathrooms and use their phones. This not only goes against our policy but also causes them to be late for class.

Our main priority is to ensure a strong educational experience for all students. We ask for your support in reinforcing this policy by discussing it with your child and emphasizing the importance of creating a respectful learning environment. Together, as partners, we can address this issue effectively.

As a reminder, using cell phones in the bathroom will result in the phone being confiscated until the end of the school day. Repeated violations will lead to detention.

Recent research highlights the potential risks of excessive cell phone use among teens, with studies linking it to increased anxiety, depression, and sleep deprivation, particularly in young teen girls. Many teens report feeling addicted to their devices, checking their phones hourly, or feeling compelled to respond to notifications immediately. This behavior has been shown to negatively affect mental health, academic performance, and social interactions, emphasizing the need for proactive support from both parents and schools.

We kindly ask for your support (and partnership) in speaking with your children to ensure they keep their phones stowed away during school hours.

**The research on teen cell phone use and addiction comes from various studies conducted by institutions like King's College London, the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), and other academic sources. These studies have been published in reputable journals and online platforms, providing insights into the correlation between smartphone use and mental health issues among adolescents.

Project Updates: New Growth and Development:

- **Wyoming Campus Parking Lot:** Plans are to add +90 parking spaces. Begin construction summer 2026. Completion August 2026.
- **Montessori Village Green:** Ages 3 months through VPK. Begin construction of a 12,000 square foot Early Childhood Center on the Eldron campus, summer 2025. Opening June 2026.
- **Odyssey Preparatory Academy:** Kindergarten – 8th grade new building featuring Cambridge program for 6-8th grades. Begin construction summer 2026. Open June 2027. Development delays.

Strategic Plan – Becoming a National Model for Healthy Schools:

Odyssey Charter School, Inc.: Building a National Model for Healthy Schools with a Focus on Natural Health

Led by our visionary founder, Ms. Constance Ortiz, Odyssey Charter School, Inc. is excited to share our growing vision for establishing a National Model for Healthy Schools. Through our Strategic Plan, we continue to implement key initiatives that prioritize the health, well-being, and success of our students, staff, and community, advancing our holistic education mission.



1. Healthy School Campus

Odyssey remains committed to creating enriched environments that promote sustainability and natural health. Alongside The Farm at Odyssey on our Jr/Sr High School campus and gardens at Odyssey Preparatory Academy and Odyssey Charter Elementary, we are proud to announce new greenhouses across campuses. These spaces allow students to cultivate vegetables year-round, supporting hands-on STEAM learning and providing fresh produce for our Healthy cafés.



2. Healthy School Lunch Program: From Garden to Plate

Our Healthy café staff has made impactful changes this year to our school meals by eliminating harmful glyphosates and seed oils. Our breakfasts and lunches continue to feature fresh, nutrient-rich meals sourced from our gardens and farm when possible. Nutrition education is also infused into gardening courses, teaching students how what they eat directly influences their health and well-being.



3. Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being

Supporting mental and emotional health is a cornerstone of Odyssey's holistic mission. Alongside the continued implementation of Positive Discipline in the Classroom by Jane Nelsen, we have introduced the Resiliency Florida initiative, which provides monthly guides to help students build grit, perseverance, emotional regulation, and problem-solving skills. Additional training for teachers will take place this summer to further strengthen these programs. Parents can visit <https://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/parents.stml> for more details.



4. Physical Fitness: Fitness for Life

Odyssey is embarking on a transformative journey to redefine Physical Education (PE) as Fitness for Life to encourage lifelong health and wellness in our students. Inspired by SPARK: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain, PE teachers are completing professional development to transition their roles into Personal Trainers and Wellness Coaches. This summer, new PE curricula will be mapped out to align to the Fitness for Life goals, making sure to continue programs like the Annual 5K Run, Presidential Youth Fitness Program, and American Heart Month.

Through these Strategic Plan goals, Odyssey Charter School, Inc. is creating a vibrant, sustainable community that promotes the growth and success of every student. Stay tuned for updates as we set new standards for health and wellness in education!

Survey Results

We are pleased to inform you that the results from the recent Parent and Student Surveys, provided by Cognia, have been received. These valuable insights will be reviewed and shared with our entire school administration, faculty, and staff team.

The feedback provided by both parents and students is essential in guiding our efforts to enhance the educational experience at our school. We are committed to using this information to identify areas of strength and areas where we can continue to grow in order to better serve our students and community.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the surveys. We appreciate your input and look forward to working together toward continuous improvement.

Odyssey Charter Schools, Inc. 2024-2025 Stakeholder Survey Results



Odyssey Charter School Elementary

PARENT SURVEY RESULTS:

(298 respondents - Grades 3-5)

3 Highest Selected Statements About Their Child's School

- Have high expectations for learning
- Think about children's safety when making decisions
- Treat us with respect /make us feel welcomed

3 Least Selected Statements About Their Child's Educational Program

- Had instruction that was changed to meet their needs
- Had learning experiences that were unique to their needs
- Received support based on their needs

STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS:

(359 respondents)

3 Highest Selected Statements About Their School

- Make sure we have what we need to learn
- Know and do their work well
- Show that they care about us

3 Least Selected Statements About the Adults in Their School

- Adults ask me what I think about my lessons
- Lessons that were changed to meet my needs
- Lesson that made me think in new ways



Odyssey Preparatory Academy

PARENT SURVEY RESULTS:

(128 respondents)

3 Highest Selected Statements About Their Child's School

- Think about children's safety when making decisions
- Treat us with respect/ make us feel welcomed
- Have high expectations for learning

3 Least Selected Statements About Their Child's Educational Program

- Received support based on their needs
- Had learning experiences that were unique to their needs
- Used a variety of resources to learn about things that interest them

STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS:

(224 respondents - Grades 3-5)

3 Highest Selected Statements About Their School

- Make sure we have what we need to learn
- Make us feel safe
- Know and do their work well

3 Least Selected Statements About the Adults in Their School

- Opportunities to give adults my opinions about learning activities
- Lessons that were changed to meet my needs
- Different tools to help me learn about things I like



Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High School

PARENT SURVEY RESULTS:

(294 respondents)

3 Highest Selected Statements About Their Child's School

- Have high expectations for learning
- Treat us with respect/ make us feel welcomed
- Think about children's safety when making decisions

3 Least Selected Statements About Their Child's Educational Program

- Had learning experiences that were unique to their needs
- Had instruction that was changed to meet their needs
- Received support based on their needs

STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS:

(294 respondents - Grades 6-12)

3 Highest Selected Statements About Their School

- Make decisions to keep us safe
- Lessons that taught me about different cultures
- Know and do their work well

3 Least Selected Statements About the Adults in Their School

- Lessons that were changed to meet my needs
- Opportunities to give adults my opinions about learning activities
- Take time to get to know me/try new things to improve our school

Green Apple School Management

Green Apple School Management (Green Apple) is a fully accredited charter school support and service organization, recognized by Cognia, the world's largest accrediting agency for K-12 schools, colleges, and universities. Founded in 2013 by Ms. Constance Ortiz, the visionary behind Odyssey Charter School, Inc., Green Apple was born from her recognition that school leaders often lack the time and resources needed to develop effective school models while also managing the many other essential aspects of running a thriving educational institution.

Ms. Ortiz founded Odyssey Charter School in 1999 with the mission to help every child reach their full potential across all areas of life. With over 26 years of experience in developing this successful school model, her dedication and passion continue to drive the schools' mission each day.

Green Apple offers a comprehensive range of services across three core domains: Mission/Academics, Business/Finance, and New Growth/Development. Our team consists of experienced management professionals who provide specialized support in key areas such as:

- Mission and Vision Support
- Human Resource Coordination
- Government and Board Compliance
- Technology Support
- Marketing and Public Relations
- Grant Writing and Management
- Finance and Bookkeeping
- Budget Development, Financial Forecasting, and Reporting
- Curriculum Support and Educational Coaching
- New Teacher On-boarding and Professional Development
- Leadership and Staff Development
- Student Services and Data Analysis
- Facilities Development
- New Growth and Expansion

Our team is dedicated to helping our schools foster a healthy, sustainable, and innovative environment that empowers both educators and students. To learn more, you can review our most recent contract with the Odyssey Charter School Board via this link: <https://odysseyschools.com/pdf/OCS-Inc-GA-Management-Agreement.pdf>