

*A Message from Ms. Constance,  
School Founder and CEO,  
Green Apple School Management*

*September 2020*



inspired learning in "green" and healthy schools

## *Welcome*

I hope this communication finds you and your families well. It was absolutely wonderful to see our students and welcome them back to both eLearning and on-site schooling. It brings joy to our world and a sense of normalcy as we work to educate the most important resource our planet holds – our incredible children. As we navigate this journey together, we pledge to be patient with you and your children. We hope you will continue to remain patient with us as we work through some of the startup challenges and continue to develop processes that work well for all types of learning and all types of learners.

It is an honor to serve our students and families. Please know that I appreciate hearing from you at any time. Every suggestion (or concern) brings an opportunity to improve what we do and what we offer to our community. We have the best children and jobs in the world. If you would like to contact me, please email me at [cortiz@greenappleschools.com](mailto:cortiz@greenappleschools.com). If it is an emergency or timely, please do not hesitate to call me on my cell at (321) 720-4682.

*Ms. Constance Ortiz*

Chief Executive Officer  
Green Apple School Management  
Founder of Odyssey Schools

## Half-Cent Sales Surtax Extension

In November 2020 ballot, Odyssey parents will have an opportunity to vote on a proposal for the “Half-Cent Sales Surtax Extension for Critical School Facility, Security, and Technology Upgrades.” The purpose of the sales surtax extension is to upgrade aging schools in Brevard County with critical school facility renewal projects, including school security and technology modernizations. Odyssey Schools are not permitted to promote the ballot, but we would like to share with you ways this money would be used if the ballot were to pass.

For the first time in Brevard’s history, because the laws of Florida have changed, public charter schools will now benefit from the sales surtax based upon their proportionate share of the district’s enrollment. This surcharge will be for 6 years and if passed is expected to bring in approximately \$6,000,000 in total or \$1,000,000 per year into Odyssey schools.

A facility needs assessment is being conducted in the near future, but it is anticipated that if received these funds would be spent upon needed Facility, Educational Technology, Security, and Bus Transportation projects. Some of these needs would include upgrades for our HVAC system, interior and exterior painting, sports field bleachers, roofing upgrades, buses to reduce over-crowding, computers and technology infrastructure, redesign and upgrading of playground equipment, and school lighting and security enhancements. For more information on the November 2020 sales surtax ballot, please visit <https://www.brevardschools.org/Page/17226>.

## eLearning Questions and Contacts

eLearning can offer many challenges. A PowerPoint on the how-to’s of Class Link and Canvas can be found on our websites under the Newsletter links. This knowledge is needed for parents and students of both eLearning and onsite learning platforms. If you have any questions or need support, please do not hesitate to reach out to the eLearning contact on each campus:

### **OCS – Elementary/Eldron:**

Mr. James Monds, Assistant Principal  
[mondsj@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:mondsj@odysseycharterschool.com)

### **OPA – Elementary/Wyoming:**

Mr. Mike Davis, Assistant Principal  
[davism@odysseyprepacademy.com](mailto:davism@odysseyprepacademy.com)

### **OCS Jr/Sr – Wyoming:**

Ms. Marissa Moore, Assistant Principal  
[moorem@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:moorem@odysseycharterschool.com)

## COVID-19 Contacts and Questions

The Health Department has a process to notify us if there is a positive case of COVID-19 on our campuses. If your child becomes exposed, we also have a process in place to notify you. If your child is home sick, please highly consider having them tested for COVID-19. This careful act could help protect many students within our school community. If you have any questions and concerns regarding our COVID-19 safety procedures, please email our safety contacts for each campus:

### **OCS – Elementary/Eldron:**

Ms. Deb Berg, Assistant Principal  
[bergd@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:bergd@odysseycharterschool.com)

### **OPA – Elementary/Wyoming:**

Mr. Mike Davis, Assistant Principal  
[davism@odysseyprepacademy.com](mailto:davism@odysseyprepacademy.com)

### **OCS Jr/Sr – Wyoming:**

Mr. Mike Guevara, Assistant Principal  
[guevaram@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:guevaram@odysseycharterschool.com)

## Bussing Contacts and Questions

There are times when busses can be late, especially during the first weeks of school as they are finalizing routes, establishing seating arrangements, and implementing new safety protocols. For questions regarding bussing at any time, please call Ms. Rosie Greer, Transportation Fleet Coordinator, on her cell at 321-338-5187 or email [greerr@odysseycharter-school.com](mailto:greerr@odysseycharter-school.com). Please also know that as eLearners begin filtering back into our classrooms, there may be a need to readjust some of our bus routes. We will notify you in advance when this happens.

## Classroom Neutrality

I am pleased to announce that the Odyssey Charter School Board has approved a new “Classroom Neutrality” policy for our schools. We have a deep respect for first amendment rights – freedom of speech – and the rights of parents.

### Classroom Neutrality

Neutrality in both curriculum and classroom instruction is paramount to creating an atmosphere of inclusiveness, where all students, regardless of their beliefs and opinions, feel welcome.

A Staff member’s personal opinions on social or political issues (even on ones of great public importance) are not necessarily representative of Odyssey as an institution, and should not affect the performance of their duties.

### Our Obligations to Students:

- Shall not unreasonably deny a student access to diverse points of view.
- Shall not intentionally suppress or distort subject matter relevant to a student’s academic program.
- Shall not intentionally expose a student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement.
- Shall not harass or discriminate against any student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition, sexual orientation, or social and family background and shall make reasonable effort to assure that each student is protected from harassment or discrimination.

### Obligations to the Public:

- Shall take reasonable precautions to distinguish between personal views and those of any educational institution or organization with which the individual is affiliated.
- Shall not intentionally distort or misrepresent facts concerning an educational matter in direct or indirect public expression.
- Shall not use institutional privileges for personal gain or advantage.

<http://www.odysseycharterschool.com/ClassroomNeutrality.pdf>

## Curriculum Notes on Core Knowledge History

Along with Studies Weekly, Odyssey utilizes Core Knowledge History for grades K-6th. Core Knowledge History offers a comprehensive program, rich in content, that focuses upon world civilization, American history, and geography—integrating topics in both civics and the arts. This helps students build knowledge (or cultural literacy). Cultural literacy is the basic knowledge needed for communicating and functioning in contemporary society leading to a high level of literacy. Parents wanting to view Core Knowledge History can do so from the Canvas site.

An important note to parents from Core Knowledge History: Since religion is a shaping force in the story of civilization, the Core Knowledge Sequence introduces children in the early grades to major world religions, beginning with a focus on geography and major symbols and figures. The purpose is not to explore matters of theology but to provide a basic vocabulary for understanding many events and ideas in history. The goal is to familiarize, not proselytize; to be descriptive, not prescriptive. The tone should be one of respect and balance; no religion should be disparaged by implying that it is a thing of the past. To the question, “Which one is true?,” an appropriate response is, “People of different faiths believe different things to be true. The best people to guide you on religious beliefs are your parents.”

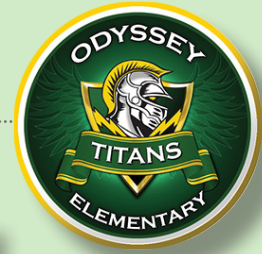
## New Growth

This year brings new growth to our schools. Our new Wellness and Performing Arts Centre has opened and is beautiful. As soon as COVID-19 calms down, we would love to have our students give you a tour. Although the Centre will primarily be used on a daily basis by the Jr/Sr High, there will be ample opportunity for both Odyssey Elementary and Odyssey Preparatory to use the gymnasium for celebrations, graduation, and other events. There is a beautiful outdoor sitting area for upper classmen, and the new track and soccer field are well underway with plans for it to be completed by mid to late October. The organic farm has been relocated and will be ready for planting by mid-October as well.

On the Eldron campus, work was delayed due to planning and zoning issues surrounding the buffer on our property. Although this took much longer than what we anticipated, construction is fully back on track and we are anticipating the completion of our extended car loop by some time in November, which will add 45 additional parking spaces. Our teachers’ parking lot, adding 75 additional parking spaces, and new soccer field and track are slated to be completed by mid-December and our classroom addition, by mid to late January. A new playground space is also being planned for installation next summer. These much needed additions will bring over three additional acres to our campus, a new classroom wing, a total of 115 new parking spaces, and create a much safer car loop, moving traffic off of Eldron and providing two separate drop-off zones for our students. We look forward to these improvements and ask for patience during this school year until work is completed.

# Eldron Campus

## New Growth Photos



Soccer Field



Classroom Addition



Car Loop

# Wyoming Campus

## New Growth Photos



Performing Arts and Gymnasium



Wyoming Campus Soccer Field and Track



Gymnasium - PE Class



Art Room



Wyoming Campus Beginning Band Class

