

School Year  
2024-2025



# STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK



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# Welcome

Welcome to Odyssey Charter School, where education transcends the ordinary to cultivate extraordinary minds. Our commitment to personalized learning sets us apart, tailoring educational experiences to each student's unique strengths, passions, and learning style. With an exceptional team of dedicated educators, we boast an unmatched staff that goes above and beyond to nurture a love for learning and foster academic excellence. At Odyssey Charter School we set high expectations, challenging students to reach their full potential and preparing them for a future of limitless possibilities. Our rigorous curriculum, combined with a supportive and inclusive community, creates an environment where students thrive academically and personally. Join us in the pursuit of knowledge and character development – discover the exceptional education that defines Odyssey Charter School.



**Brooke Austin**  
**Director**





# Mission

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Odyssey Charter School teaches students how to learn using a classically based curriculum that is thorough, challenging and systematic. Taught to appreciate public virtue, supplied with knowledge and enabled to discover the patterns and relationships therein, each student is prepared to embark on their individual odyssey with the foundation of knowledge and critical thinking skills necessary to enjoy being independent learners for life.

# Belief Statement

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Odyssey believes that children are born with intelligence and curiosity to learn. If done right, education will embrace and enhance these characteristics. An elementary education should provide the foundation of learning skills and knowledge that is deep and strong enough to support whatever subsequent educational goals a student may desire to pursue. Priority must be given to mastery of basics in language arts and math as the foundation for all other knowledge.



# Our Schedule

## Daily Schedule

Grades K-6

MTThF 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Wednesday is early release: 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Doors open at 8:15 am and students should be dropped off between 8:15 and 8:27. Students are considered tardy if they are not in their classrooms when school starts at 8:30 am. A warning bell sounds at 8:27 to encourage students to get quickly to class.

Afternoon carpool begins at 3:00 pm on MTThF and 1:30 pm on Wednesdays and any other designated early out days. Carpool duration is 15 minutes. Please arrive in time to have your child picked up within that 15 minute window.



# Carpool



It is important for all stakeholders to follow the carpool rules to dismiss each student safely and quickly. Please follow the direction of our staff at carpool as they guide and direct you. Be patient and respectful. The first few weeks of every year take a little longer as we train new families and students on our process. After the initial training period, carpool is smooth and efficient if everyone follows the procedures. Be sure to obtain your carpool card with your unique family call number and bring it with you EVERY time you pick up your student.

For more information and detail about our carpool process, please visit our carpool page on our website by clicking on [this link](#).

# Parents as Partners



Odyssey Charter School firmly believes that it takes a village to raise a child. You are your child's first and most important teacher and we want you involved in your child's education. Research has shown that children whose parents are involved in their schools do better, they perform better, they are better behaved, have better attendance, and are more likely to graduate and continue their education.

To discover the many ways you can volunteer at Odyssey Charter School, please email [volunteer@odysseycharter.net](mailto:volunteer@odysseycharter.net) or visit [this volunteer link](#) on our website.

## Curriculum

Odyssey Charter School believes that the best way to produce students who will be independent learners for life is through a classical education. A classical education uses history as its organizing outline, beginning with the ancients and progressing forward to the moderns in history, science, literature, art and music. Elementary students learn as many concepts as they can, emphasizing Western and world culture. These concepts are the basis of a life of learning.

## Curriculum Offerings

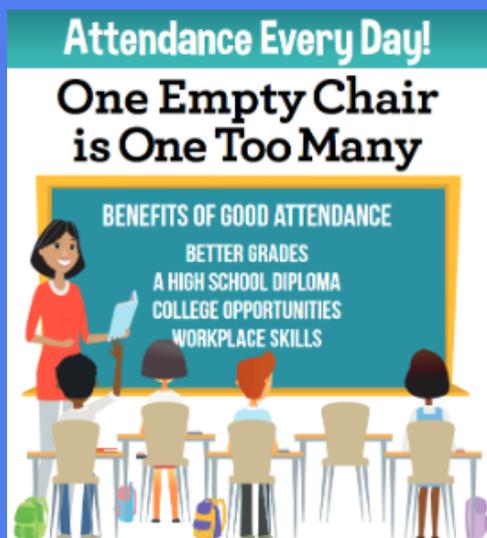
Teachers use the tools of curriculum to meet the needs of individual students. Some of the curriculum used here at Odyssey Charter School is The Core Knowledge Sequence, Saxon, Core Knowledge Language Arts, Spalding, Kodaly, Latin, and more! To learn more about our curriculum you can visit the virtual tour section of our website, or [click here](#).





# Attendance Matters!

We want our students at school every day, all day! Attendance matters! When a child attends school they get to engage with their peers and teachers, developing relationships and routines. They participate in classroom discussions and collaborative work as they learn valuable skills that help them become a contributing member of our community. When students miss school, they miss out on so much more than academics!



If a student misses just 10% of school, for ANY reason, they are considered chronically absent. This can translate into a student having difficulty learning to read by third-grade, achieving in middle school, and graduating from high school. Every day counts!

Being on time is also important. It sets the tone for the rest of the day and helps each student settle in to the expectations of the day. Late arrivals are considered a disruption to class.

# Uniforms

We believe uniforms are a necessary part of the distinctive learning environment parents will find at Odyssey Charter School. Uniforms improve the classroom learning environment; build citizenship and a sense of community in our children; and create a safe learning environment.

Uniforms must be worn during school hours, except under special circumstances as announced by the school. Uniforms must also be worn for all before and after school programs, including field trips and special school activities, and all tutoring and enrichment sessions, except on occasions when costumes may be required for dress rehearsals or performances. More detail can be found on our [website](#).



## Uniform Tops

Navy, white, light yellow (not gold) or light blue long or short sleeve polo uniform style shirt with no visible logos.

## Uniform Bottoms

- Navy or khaki twill uniform pants, shorts, or skirts – no “pull on” style pants, joggers, or pants with visible back pockets or cargo pockets.



## Accessories

Black or brown belts are required for grades 3-6. Socks can be white, navy blue, khaki, or black. Shoes need to be neutral with no distracting designs.

## Outerwear

For extra warmth during the school day, students may wear the OCS hoodie or OCS sweatshirt, a plain navy zip up sweatshirt, or a solid navy or white sweater.



# School Safety & Behavior

We are proud to share that our school is committed to creating a safe and nurturing environment for all students. Policies and procedures are written with students in mind to encourage students to make good choices, be a helpful member of our school community, and learn to act instead of react to situations. To access all our current policies [click here](#).



## Anti-Bully

We have adopted a firm stance against bullying, actively promoting an anti-bullying culture within our school community. Our dedication to this cause stems from the belief that every child deserves to learn and grow in an atmosphere free from fear, intimidation, and harassment. By fostering a supportive environment, we aim to empower our students to express themselves, build positive relationships, and focus on their academic and personal development without the negative impact of bullying. Our comprehensive anti-bullying policies, awareness programs, and open communication channels are integral parts of our commitment to ensuring that our school remains a place where every child feels valued, respected, and protected.

## Emotional Growth & Learning

Odyssey's Emotional Growth and Learning (EGL) program helps our students build emotional awareness, self-management skills, social awareness, and relationship skills. Each week we focus as a school community on one topic within those categories. Throughout the week students are introduced to the topic and given opportunities to explore and practice that topic and put it to use when the need arises. By using this proactive approach, students are equipped with skills and tools that will help them to be more successful academically and socially. You can find the weekly topic schedule and a link to resources that support both adult and student learning for each topic [here](#).

# More Information

We pride ourselves on keeping you apprised of all the happenings at Odyssey Charter School. You can always check our website for more information, or your teacher's website if your questions are more specific to your student's class. Please reach out to us if you have any questions. We are happy to help!

## Contact us :

 (801) 492-8105

 [www.odysseycharter.net](http://www.odysseycharter.net)

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