



THE PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

**"The greatest gifts we can give our children
are the roots of responsibility and the wings of
independence."**

--Dennis Waitley

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2016-2017 School Year

Welcome back Argonauts and families! Those of you who are new to Odyssey, we welcome you to our team and look forward to a fantastic year together. We are excited about the upcoming school year as we add a final elementary campus to our family of schools and add a beautiful new building to our Odyssey Institute complex. Each year we excitedly look to the future, building on a solid foundation of Odyssey tradition.

Our culture is designed around a set of core values that emphasize and acknowledge the hard work of our entire team. *Teachers, staff, and the Goodyear community are all team members.* We sincerely hope that each and every interaction that you have on our beautiful campus this year is a reflection of this core value. We look forward to sharing in the education of your child this year!

If you have any questions as we begin the 2016-2017 school year please contact your scholar's teacher, our front office staff or one of our administrators and we will be happy to assist you. We thank you for trusting us with the education of your scholar, and we are glad you are joining us in the adventure!

- Mrs. Douglass

Class Placement at Odyssey

How does Odyssey determine class placement?

We use a model called Cluster Grouping to group ALL of our scholars. This model of instruction is the opposite of 'tracking' students into 'high' and 'low' classes. Cluster grouping places a group of scholars who are performing at grade level, above grade level, and perhaps slightly below grade level together in one homeroom class. This allows elementary scholars to receive enrichment within their classroom using instruction that provides opportunities to grow academically, cognitively, socially, and emotionally according to their abilities and talents. This model is ideal because it gives scholars the opportunity to work in a community of other learners who think like them and it enables the teacher to provide ongoing support, acceleration, and enrichment as needed. Grouping scholars in this way allows for flexible movement within the instructional day and ensures every scholar has the opportunity for remediation or enrichment in specific skills throughout the year.



Can we make teacher requests?

Administrators and teachers strive hard to create classes that are balanced in a range of ways, from gender to academic ability. No matter how empathetic the administrator may be, the answer is going to be:

“Give it a chance”

This is not simply because moving students around is disruptive to the classroom environment, this is actually because at Odyssey we truly believe in both our teachers AND our scholars. We believe that our teachers are absolutely committed to our scholars, school and culture. We also believe that given the chance, each and every one of our scholars has the ability to be successful in our school environment. Jim Faye, the author of Love and Logic, has several words of advice for parents who are helping a child build this self-confidence during a new or difficult school transition. You can read the article here: <https://www.loveandlogic.com/pdfs/start-school-with-a-smile.pdf>

At Odyssey, we stand by and believe in all of our team members. We know kids are capable and confident. We trust in our teachers who are well intentioned and professional. And we believe in our families who help us in developing scholars who are independent and responsible!

Dress Code at Odyssey

The Odyssey Dress code contributes to our culture. It is the belief that the wearing of a school uniform by scholars of The Odyssey Preparatory Academy assists in creating an environment conducive to a quality learning opportunity. It fosters an environment in which scholars focus on contributing their talents to the classroom and are appreciated and valued for their hard work.

UNIFORMS

SHIRTS: The ONLY APPROVED shirts for boys and girls enrolled at TOPA K-5 campuses are the short-sleeved uniform shirt with the Odyssey logo, exclusively offered at Absolute Screen Printing in Buckeye. Shirts must be tucked in at all times.

SHORTS/PANTS: The ONLY APPROVED shorts/pants for boys and girls are Dickies uniform line black color pants, shorts or capris. Shorts/pants must fit appropriately and be free of holes and stains. **Leggings/Tights MAY NOT be worn under shorts.**

OUTERWEAR: Only Odyssey outerwear may be worn in the classrooms. Odyssey outerwear includes all TOPA and OI jackets and sweatshirts purchased at The Spirit Store and/or Absolute Screen Printing. Long sleeve grey, black and white solid color under shirts may be worn. School appropriate winter jackets may be worn outside of the classroom during PE and Recess, but must be removed in the classroom.

Welcome Back Folder

Please collect your scholar packet in the front office **prior** to back to school night. Packets will be available beginning Wednesday, August 10th.

Packets include the following information: classroom assignment, permission slips, drop-off and pick-up procedures, Information on enrichment programs, hot lunch, emergency plans, transportation, and back to school night information.

We're Going Back To School



School Supplies

The recommended school supplies for the 2016-2017 school year are now available. We hope that having this list of important items in advance is helpful so that unnecessary materials are not purchased.

While supplies and materials necessary for the completion of the classroom curriculum will be provided by the school, it is helpful to have more than the minimum available. We thank you for your support in this area!



Back to School Night

August 18th, 2016 5-7PM

Tour campus! Visit the classrooms! Meet your teachers! Shop at the SPIRIT STORE!

* School supplies should be dropped off at this time.

* Campus events and volunteer information will be available in the gym.

*Information available regarding hot lunch, after care/Friday care programs, and extra curricular activities.

First Day of School Flexible Start Time - August 22nd

The first day back to school is a very exciting and busy time. Many parents enjoy walking their scholar to class on the first day. Because parking space is limited, we offer a flexible start time on the first day of school. This will allow you the opportunity to arrive on campus anytime between 7:00 and 9:30AM on Monday, August 22nd.

With the late start, scholars and parents can take their time to find a place to park, and enjoy the first day drop off tradition together.

Morning pledge and core values will begin promptly at 9:30. Scholars arriving after this time will be considered tardy.

Parents: please be considerate of the classroom, teachers will be engaged with the scholars during this time. Classroom doors and gates will close, and the regular school day will begin promptly at 9:30 on the first day of school only.

