



ODYSSEY
CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.

Brevard County Public Schools
2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, Florida 32940

HIGH PERFORMING CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION
2013-2014

NAME OF PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL: Odyssey Charter Preparatory Academy

Name of HP school submitting Application*: Odyssey Charter School MSID#: 6507

NAME OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION/MUNICIPALITY UNDER WHICH CHARTER WILL BE ORGANIZED OR OPERATED:

Odyssey Charter School, Inc.

Provide the name of the person who will serve as the primary contact for this Application. The primary contact should serve as the contact for follow-up, interviews, and all notices regarding this Application.

NAME OF CONTACT PERSON: Brent A. Christensen, Ed.S.

TITLE/RELATIONSHIP TO NONPROFIT: Principal, Odyssey Charter School

MAILING ADDRESS: 1755 Eldron Boulevard SE, Palm Bay, FL 32909

PRIMARY TELEPHONE: (321) 733-0442 ALTERNATE TELEPHONE: (402) 417-3813

E-MAIL ADDRESS: christensenb@odysseycharterschool.com

NAME OF EDUCATION SERVICE PROVIDER (if any): Academica Central Florida, LLC

NAME OF PARTNER/PARENT ORGANIZATION (if any): N/A

Projected School Opening Date: August 2013

School Year	Grade Levels	Total Projected Student Enrollment	Student Enrollment Capacity (if known)
First Year	K-5	464	n/a
Second Year	K-6	552	n/a
Third Year	K-7	640	n/a
Fourth Year	K-8	728	n/a
Fifth Year	K-8	728	n/a

I certify that I have the authority to submit this application and that all information contained herein is complete and accurate, realizing that any misrepresentation could result in disqualification from the application process or revocation after award. I understand that incomplete applications will not be considered. The person named as the contact person for the application is so authorized to serve as the primary contact for this application on behalf of the applicant.

Brent A. Christensen
Signature

Brent A. Christensen
Printed Name

Principal
Title

7-27-12
Date

Executive Summary

Odyssey Charter Preparatory Academy (OCPA) is a high performing charter school replication of Odyssey Charter School (OCS) in Palm Bay, a popular choice school in Brevard County. OCS is fully SACS accredited and winner of the Governor's 2009 Serve to Preserve Award – an award that acknowledges schools in the state that are leaders in sustainability.

The mission of OCPA is to work in partnership with the family and community with the aim of helping each child reach full potential in all areas of life.

We seek to educate the whole child with the understanding that each child must achieve a balance of intellectual, physical, emotional, spiritual and social skills as a foundation for life.

The mission and vision for the school was created by the school's Founding Executive Director, Constance Ortiz, and the original founding governing board members. The mission grew through the years from a seed idea and the question: "How can we best help children reach their full potential intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, socially and physically?" Consistent adherence to the school's mission for every child grew Odyssey Charter School into the shining model it is today. The parent school developed its Whole Child/Whole School approach through the evolution of its mission and dedicated itself to providing the best environment and programs we could find for child development.

The programmatic features include the "GreenPrint" from the Green Schools National Network, which identifies core practices and corresponding benchmarks to provide a road map through long-term commitment to lead the school community to more conscious and sustainable practices. Each charter school commits to implement both the road map and the essential elements of the model: Montessori Philosophy; the Positive Discipline in the Classroom program; nutrition education from the Center for Eco-Literacy's "Big Ideas" and Teachers College, Columbia University's "LiFE" curriculum; and Professional Learning Communities for expansion of the key elements and a teaching faculty that continuously strives to improve the educational environment for our students.

The school will start with Kindergarten through 5th grades and add a grade level each year through 8th grade. It anticipates starting with approximately 450 students and will build out with approximately 750 students. It is anticipated that there will be four classes of each grade level. The school will comply with Class Size and plans on serving a similar demographic that already attends its parent school. Presently OCS serves a 50% racial/ethnic population and 65% free and reduced lunch student population. The school will be open to all age and grade appropriate students who would qualify to attend a traditional public school in the District and will not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, or disability in its school admission process. It is expected to have an English Language Learner (ELL) and Exceptional Student population (ESE) reflective of OCS or the surrounding schools and community it will serve.

It is anticipated that the school will lease the Palm Bay Community Charter School site – a 96,000 square foot school building, located 2-1/2 miles from the main Odyssey. The site has

over 65 classrooms, including kitchen/cafeteria, science/art labs, media centers, administrative space, restrooms, and the field and playground space needed. If for some reason this facility does not work out, the school will identify another location in south or central Brevard. The School plans on becoming a satellite school lunch site under OCS and will stagger start times to share its buses with OCS. These economies will save the school money in its early years.

The district asks how the proposed school will be more effective than the schools serving the targeted student population. Odyssey prides itself in being a partner and complement to the many fine traditional public schools and public charter schools in the district. It has become a popular, sought after choice among parents in Palm Bay. Much of the leadership of Odyssey Charter School has been with the school for many years and is committed to the creation of the new school and the professional development of its faculty and staff. As far as academic results, Odyssey Charter School scored an A and was the second highest school among Palm Bay's traditional public schools for the 2011-2012 year--according to the latest scores released from the State of Florida. (These scores are presently being adjusted by the State and the latest results were not available at the time of the writing of this executive summary.) It is the belief of the governing board and school leadership that the school will be more effective for its targeted student population because of its program addressing the needs and health of the whole child and its approach to education – assisting children in the development of self-mastery, self-discipline, and independence, which is inherent within the Montessori Philosophy of education.

There are many partner organizations that will assist the school: Montessori Live, an online Montessori Training Program, fully accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education; the Green Schools National Network offers support and guidance; Academica and Academica Central Florida offers executive leadership, best school management practices, and mission development for the new school; the Florida Inclusion Network; the Positive Discipline in the Classroom organization, the school district for its training in Professional Learning Communities; the Center for Eco-Literacy for its lunch program and “Big Ideas” and Teachers College, Columbia University for its nutrition education and teacher training modules to help students develop critical thinking skills and analysis in the areas of reading and writing. There really are too many partners to mention. No school is an island and Odyssey relies upon a combination of partnerships to assist in the fulfillment of its unique mission.

The community could benefit from another Odyssey model. The OCS waiting list shows a need for another school in south Brevard. Even with the expansion of the parent school this year with an increase of 160 students (from 625 students to 760 students) and the addition of another co-teaching Kindergarten class of 30 students, there are over 250 students waiting entrance into the school. During the past two years, OCS has received between approximately 650-725 applications for a limited number of openings. The school has been receiving pressure to expand now for many years from parents of students who have not been able to gain entrance through the lottery process.

With the replication expansion, we are happy and honored to serve these families.