

# Odyssey Charter School Admissions Procedure 2020/2021 School Year

1. Odyssey Charter School (a State of Delaware public charter school) will participate in the State of Delaware choice/charter school open enrollment period from the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in November through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in January of the school year preceding enrollment. (November 4, 2019 through January 8, 2020 for the 2020/2021 school year.) All interested legal residents<sup>1</sup> of the State of Delaware desiring to attend Odyssey Charter School must complete an application and submit that application to the school, including founders, employees, siblings, and any other interested parties. It is preferred that applications be made online at <https://www.schoolchoicede.org/ApplyInfo/Odyssey>. Paper applications are available from the admissions office at the school by request. All applications received after the deadline, but postmarked by the deadline, will be considered received by the deadline. If oversubscribed at the end of the open application period, Odyssey Charter School will hold an electronic\* lottery, applying preferences as stated in the charter and in this document, and allowed by state law. Applications received after the open enrollment period will be placed at the end of the waiting list after the lottery has concluded. If not oversubscribed, Odyssey Charter School will conditionally admit all students who apply within the open application period to any open spots and will add additional students as applications are received in the order that they are received.

2. The electronic lottery will be held in February of 2020. Results will be emailed (and/or mailed) to families as required by law by Saturday, February 29, 2020. More information including deadlines will be available at <https://www.schoolchoicede.org/>.

3. Odyssey Charter School is offering two programs for new students in grade Kindergarten and one program each for all other grades for the 2020/2021 school year. Kindergarten applicants who are interested in both programs should choose a first and a second choice. Choices include **Greek Language Immersion** and **Regular Education with Greek Foreign Language in the Elementary School (FLES.)** If a second choice is not selected, applicant will only be considered for one program. *(All other new elementary students are in a Regular Education with Greek FLES program. High school students are required to take 3 credits of Greek courses.)*

- **Greek Language Immersion (Available for new Kindergarten applicants.)** Odyssey Charter School will offer dual language immersion in Greek beginning in kindergarten during the 2020-2021 school year. Students will receive instruction during half of their day in English for reading, language arts and mathematics. During the other half of the day students will receive instruction in mathematics, science, social studies and Greek language and culture. The school will offer 2 new kindergarten classrooms of dual language instruction. Students will commit to continued participation in immersion programing with students receiving instruction in English for half of the day and Greek for the other half. Applications are open to all students applying for kindergarten.

4. Odyssey Charter School will show preference in filling the positions in the school, as allowed by Delaware State Law. The following preferences will be applied in the order listed below:

- A. Children of Founding Members - The Board will maintain a list on file. This number cannot exceed 5% of the total seats available. See [OCS DOE Charter](#) pg. 39 online for the list of founding members.
- B. Children of current full-time employees of Odyssey Charter School and who will be full-time employees the next school year.
- C. Siblings of children currently attending the school and that will be in attendance the next

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<sup>1</sup> Note: Residency must be established as of the date of the lottery and proper verification will be required after students have been accepted. Residency must be with the primary or shared custodial parent(s) or legal guardian(s) -- not other relatives or friends. Residence must be student's primary home, not a rental property, vacation home, place of business, etc.

school year. \*\*

- D. Siblings of children conditionally accepted during this lottery, if those conditionally accepted children accept their invitations.

Once the lottery begins, this preference is applied to the siblings of the newly accepted students.

(If the newly accepted student does not accept the invitation, the older sibling will lose any sibling preference given in the lottery and will go to the bottom of the waitlist for that grade.)

Once an applicant is assigned a number on a waiting list for a given grade, that applicant will not receive sibling preference in this fiscal year's lottery due to a brother or sister being admitted to another grade later in the lottery, nor will such an applicant placed on the waiting list provide a sibling preference to a brother or sister who is applying for any other grade(s).

Example 1: Joe Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and Ann Smith, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, are sibling applicants with no current OCS siblings. There are 3 spots open in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Joe Smith's name is drawn 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade drawing, so he is invited to attend 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Since Joe is now invited, Ann Smith is given sibling preference in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade drawing. (Siblings of current students are drawn first, and then siblings of students conditionally accepted during the lottery (like Ann) are drawn.)

Example 2. Using the same two students from the first example, Joe Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and Ann Smith, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, are sibling applicants with no current OCS siblings. There are 3 spots open in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Joe Smith's name is drawn 84<sup>th</sup> in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade drawing. After the 3 spots in 1<sup>st</sup> grade are filled, Joe is placed at # 81 on the waitlist for 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Ann Smith's name is drawn 1<sup>st</sup> in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade drawing and she is invited to attend Odyssey for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Joe Smith has already been given a waiting list number in the previously held 1<sup>st</sup> grade drawing, so he will not be given sibling preference. Joe will remain 81<sup>st</sup> on the waitlist for 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

Example 3. Using the same two students from the first example, Joe Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and Ann Smith, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, are sibling applicants with no current OCS siblings. There are 3 spots open in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Joe Smith's name is drawn 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade drawing, so he is invited to attend 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Since Joe is now invited, Ann Smith is given sibling preference in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade drawing. Using the sibling preference, Ann's name is drawn 1<sup>st</sup>, and she is invited to attend Odyssey and accepts the invitation. Joe and Ann's parents then decide NOT to accept Joe's invitation. Ann's invitation and enrollment are now withdrawn from Odyssey, and her name will go to the bottom of the waitlist for 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Example 4. John Doe has been a student at Odyssey since kindergarten. He is now in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. His little sister Zoey Doe is admitted to kindergarten with sibling preference. Zoey is registered at Odyssey for the following school year. In September, Odyssey receives word that John Doe will not be attending high school at Odyssey. Zoey Doe now loses her spot at Odyssey, since it was obtained with sibling preference that no longer applies. She must now attend her feeder pattern school or a private school. (Sibling preference laws are meant to keep siblings in the same school.) Zoey had received unfair sibling preference, and now moves to the bottom of the waiting list for kindergarten at Odyssey. The next person on the waiting list for kindergarten will now be invited.

Children of staff members hired after the start of the school year contract will receive employee preference for the following school year.

5. The order of the lotteries to determine admission will be  
K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
6. The intent of the sibling preference law is to keep families together. SIBLING by definition is a:
  - A. Biological/adopted sibling
  - B. Step-siblings residing in the same household. (Step-siblings are, by definition, children of a

- step-parent by a legally recognized marriage other than with one's own father or mother.)
- C. Foster children residing within the same household.
  - D. Step-siblings living in different households are not considered for sibling preference.**

Parents must indicate siblings on the applications. Odyssey Charter School cannot be responsible for determining which students are siblings.

**\*\*An alumnus of the school with a sibling applying for the following year does not qualify as a sibling for entrance preference. If a student is enrolled from the lottery based upon receiving the sibling preference and the student currently attending OCS withdraws, the sibling accepted during the lottery will be deemed to have lost their acceptance to OCS. The sibling can then be placed at the bottom of the waitlist at the request of the parent. Please see example 4 above.**

Same grade siblings will be treated as one single applicant unit, rather than as multiple applicants. These siblings must have matching registration information with the current public school (address, parent names, etc.) in order to be considered as a single applicant unit. (Odyssey cannot be held responsible for errors in registration with the current public school.) When that one applicant unit is drawn in the lottery, the same grade sibling will be numerically ordered next to his/her sibling on the waiting list or conditionally accepted dependent upon where in the lottery that applicant unit was drawn.

**NOTE: ALL APPLICANTS, including siblings of current students and children of current employees or founding members must submit an application to the school during the open enrollment period to be considered for admission.**

7. After open enrollment, those who still wish to apply may do so at <https://www.schoolchoicede.org/ApplyInfo/Odyssey> or request an application from the admissions office. Once received, the application would be placed on the waiting list in the order received.
8. Applications are only valid for one year. New applications for the following year will need to be submitted for next year's consideration during open enrollment. The waiting list does not carry over from year to year.
9. Any parent requesting that a student apply for a grade other than the grade that student would normally be attending, must submit a written request to the Head of School at least three weeks prior to the lottery. The parent also must grant permission for Odyssey Charter School to obtain copies of all records from the child's current school when requesting to skip/repeat a grade. The school's administration will be the final authority on whether a student should be allowed to skip a grade or repeat a grade.
10. Students applying for kindergarten do not necessarily have to be currently enrolled in a pre-K program. An official birth certificate showing that the child will turn five-years old by August 31<sup>st</sup> of the kindergarten year will be required during the application process for the student to be officially considered for acceptance. Odyssey Charter School does not consider students for early acceptance.
11. The order of the waiting list is established according to the rules described above. It should be noted, however, that the number of openings in any grade may fluctuate based on other factors such as student withdrawals, retentions, reassignment of students to other grades or specific classes, finances, etc. These changes may occur at any time and will affect the number of openings available but not the order of students on the waiting list established during the lottery process.
12. If any information from the parent/guardian of any student on current or previously submitted enrollment applications is found to be false and/or an attempt to obtain unfair lottery preference or unlawful early admission, the application and enrollment will be considered null and void, and will

result in the rejection of the application form, disqualification from the lottery process if applicable, withdrawal of invitation offer, and/or termination of school choice by Odyssey Charter School for any current and future applications for that student, and/or from that parent/guardian for any other student.

### 13. Eligibility for Admission

- a) Odyssey Charter School admits students based on the Delaware Education Code Title 14, Chapter 5 governing charter schools:
  - (i) *Prohibit discrimination in **admission policy** on the basis of sex, national origin, ethnicity, religion, disability, academic, artistic, or athletic ability, or the district the child would otherwise attend in accordance with this code, although the charter may provide for the exclusion of a student who has a documented history of a criminal offense, a juvenile court adjudication, or discipline problems.*
- b) It is the intention of the school to reflect the community it serves and be open to any resident in the area that would otherwise attend a school in Delaware.

\*Odyssey will now and in the future make use of an electronic lottery. The electronic lottery system has been tested and is used by most if not all the Delaware school districts, and many of the charter schools for the Delaware Choice/Charter School Program. It has proven to be an efficient, effective, and fair method of determining lottery selection in the school choice process. It eliminates the potential for human error and is much more efficient than a paper lottery system. Please be sure to apply at [SchoolChoiceDE.org](http://SchoolChoiceDE.org).