

Odyssey Charter School Admissions Procedure

2019/2020 School Year

1. Odyssey Charter School (a State of Delaware public charter school) will advertise the open enrollment period from the 1st Monday in November through the 2nd Wednesday in January of the school year preceding enrollment. (November 5, 2018 through January 9, 2019 for the 2019/2020 school year.) All interested legal residents¹ 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 at the school. 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 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 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 2019. Results will be emailed (and/or mailed) to families as required by law by Thursday, February 28, 2019. More information including deadlines will be available at <https://www.schoolchoicede.org/>.

3. Odyssey Charter School is offering two programs for grades Kindergarten through Second Grade in the 2019/2020 school year. Applicants should choose a first and a second choice. Choices include **Greek Language Immersion** and **Regular Education with Greek Foreign Language in Elementary School (FLES.)** If a second choice is not selected, you will only be considered for one program. *(All other elementary grades are in a Regular Education with Greek FLES program. High school students are required to take 3 credits of Greek classes.)*

- **Greek Language Immersion (Available Kindergarten through Second Grade).**

Odyssey Charter School will offer dual language immersion in Greek beginning in kindergarten during the 2019-2020 school year. Students will receive instruction during a portion 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 classrooms of dual language instruction. Students will commit to continued participation in immersion programming with students receiving instruction in English for half of the day and Greek for the other half. Applications are open to all students enrolling in kindergarten through second grade. Parents who feel that their child may have significant communication delays in their first language should seriously weigh the pros and cons of applying to an immersion program.

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 full-time employees of Odyssey Charter School.
- C. Siblings of children currently attending the school and that will be in attendance the next

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

Example 3: Using the same two students from the first example, Joe Smith, 1st grade, and Ann Smith, 8th grade, are sibling applicants with no current OCS siblings. There are 3 spots open in 1st grade. Joe Smith's name is drawn 2nd in the 1st grade drawing, so he is invited to attend 1st grade. Since Joe is now invited, Ann Smith is given sibling preference in the 8th grade drawing. Using the sibling preference, Ann's name is drawn 1st, 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 8th grade.

Example 4: John Doe has been a student at Odyssey since kindergarten. He is now in 8th 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. (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.

After the lottery, the only change to the waiting list would be for the child(ren) of a newly hired full time employee (hired by the school after the open enrollment period closed). They will go to the front of the waiting list in the order their applications are received.

4. The order of the lotteries to determine admission for 2019/2020 school year and thereafter will be K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.
5. The intent of the sibling preference law is to keep families together. SIBLING by definition is a:
 - A. Biological/adoptive sibling
 - B. Step-siblings residing in the same household

- C. Foster children residing within the same household
- D. Step-siblings living in different households are not considered for a 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 to go to another school, 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. When that one applicant unit is drawn in the lottery, the same grade siblings will be numerically ordered on the waiting list or conditionally accepted dependent upon where in the lottery that applicant unit was drawn.

NOTE: 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.

6. After the lottery takes place, those who still wish to apply may do so at <https://www.schoolchoicede.org/ApplyInfo/Odyssey> or request an application from the office. Once received, the application would be placed on the waiting list in the order received.
7. Applications are only valid for one year. New applications for the following year will need to be submitted for next year's consideration. The waiting list does not carry over year to year.
8. 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.
9. 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 31st of the kindergarten year will be required during the enrollment process in order for the student to be officially accepted.
10. 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.
11. 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.

12. 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 of 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.