



Odyssey Charter School
Nurturing a Lifelong Love of Learning

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Odyssey Charter Teacher Contributes to State-Wide Project to Make PPE for Health Care Workers

WILMINGTON, DE

OCS High School Computer Science teacher Sani Chalima had the foresight to bring the school's 3D printer to her home when schools closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Then she heard about a project initiated and coordinated by Yianni Jannelli, the son of OCS Greek teacher and Board Member Eva Jannelli, to use 3D printers from multiple Delaware public schools to make personal protective equipment (PPE) for medical personnel.

Using the OCS 3D printer, and with technical assistance from Yianni Jannelli and financial support from members of the OCS Board of Directors, Ms. Chalima and her family have turned their family room into a workshop and have produced 50 medical-quality face shields and ear savers to be donated to health care workers.

"Face shields are vital: they create a physical barrier between the droplets a patient produces when they cough or sneeze, and the face and respirator itself. The shields also protect the face masks that doctors and nurses wear over their nose and mouth," said Chalima.

This PPE was assembled by Yianni Jannelli and delivered on May 15 to grateful staff at Christiana Care Union in Elkton, MD.

Said Ms. Jannelli, "Odyssey is an educational institution that is based on the Hellenic values. It's not accidental that the word in English for philanthropy comes from the Greek 'philanthropia,' which means exactly that: love for fellow human beings. Sani's work on



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the face shields exemplifies the kind of action we want to model for our students. The Odyssey Board is happy to be able to provide support for this project."

The need for PPE for health care workers continues. Ms. Chalima is working on a second batch of PPE that will be combined with items created by others and delivered to Nemours / A.I. duPont Hospital for Children.



OCS Computer Science teacher Sani Chalima with face shields.



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About Odyssey Charter School

In 2006, Odyssey opened its doors as Delaware's first mathematics and foreign language focused elementary education charter school. Founded by, and with ongoing support from, members of the Wilmington, DE, chapter of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), and having its founding roots deep within the Greek community, culture and unsurpassed educational heritage, our mission is to prepare students for a lifelong enthusiasm for learning, develop a keen awareness of world citizenship and culture and establish critical thinking and problem-solving proficiency through the added learning of the Modern Greek language and Mathematics focus.

Today, building on tremendous academic success, Odyssey has expanded to an award-winning K-12 choice education and serves one of the most diverse student bodies of nearly 2,000 students (40% minorities and 50% low-income). Serving the entire New Castle County, OCS' admissions policy is entirely choice lottery without pre-qualification academic testing or other qualifiers. We are proud to offer choice education opportunity to our community and demonstrate academic success through innovation as Odyssey's dual language curriculum is intertwined with a rigorous core curriculum.

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