

The Parliament Times

Monthly Head of Schools Communication



Odyssey Return is huge success!

On January 19th, Odyssey Charter re-opened in its hybrid model to welcome our students back to in-person instruction.

Odyssey has successfully ushered in its reopening with a focus on safety as our top priority. We are happy to report that Odyssey has been certified as a rapid testing center and we have been testing since early January. Students are being welcomed by specific grade levels. Please look for updates from your building deans on a weekly basis regarding the specific return dates and times for your student. Thank you to all the nurses, staff, teachers, families, and larger community for your support in helping us get our kids back in school! Cheers!

O

DID YOU KNOW

Odyssey Charter 2021 Graduating Seniors have been accepted to universities in 10 states!

C

We are the first school in Delaware to receive the prestigious 2021 US Department of Education Green Ribbon Award!

S

DID YOU KNOW

Learning Greek as a foreign language boosts ELA test scores with over 25% of English words coming directly from Greek!



Odyssey Senior Admitted to Cornell!

Congratulations to Joshua McCrae on your admission to Cornell University. Josh has always had a passion for engineering and has leveraged this passion to create this incredible opportunity! We know your future is brighter than ever! Go Owls!



Odyssey's Melissa Tracy selected Charter School Teacher of the Year!!

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to our students. Our Odyssey teachers really are the best!

Odyssey Charter rolls out COVID testing

Thanks to the incredible efforts of our nursing department, Odyssey has successfully started rapid antigen testing.

The testing program at Odyssey has been occurring for the last four weeks, as we strategically return to hybrid learning. Safety is always first, so we are making every effort to ensure our students can return to school safely. Our initial testing has yielded promising data, with 99.25% of students testing negative and 100% of staff testing negative. As more promising data becomes available, we will be looking to safely increase the number of students we are welcoming back to campus.



We would like to sincerely thank all our counselors for their efforts to support our students. Our counselors work to ensure the social emotional well being of our students and their academic success. Cheers
Counseling Team!

Head of School Updates

In the coming weeks, I am meeting with various stakeholder groups across our community to get inputs that will help establish the framework for the next five years. We have identified three main priorities as we transition to an established community charter school. We would like to focus on increasing our fundraising and investment into the school so we can complete the vision of building our community gymnasium and theater. We would like to evaluate and update all of our operations from the lens of diversity, equity and inclusion so ensure we are leveraging all our students and staff's talents in order to establish ourselves as the best school in Delaware. Finally, we want to strive to offer the best academic program possible, focusing on excellent instruction, diverse offerings, expansion of our sports/extracurricular programming, our green initiative, and the continued expansion of our successful Greek immersion program. There is much to be excited for and we cannot wait to begin writing the next chapter in our story. Please feel free to join board members and I at one of our upcoming meet and greets. They are scheduled for March 11, April 15, and May 27 from 6-7pm. You can join by zoom or stop in to meet in person. I am always available by email at elias.pappas@odyssey.k12.de.us to serve your needs. Thank you for choosing Odyssey Charter School! Go Owls!

****Additionally, I am including my executive summary from the January 21, 2021 board meeting for your review.*



	Date: 01/21/2021
Meeting: January Monthly Board Meeting	Facilitator: Elias Pappas

Our VISION: Open as many doors as possible for our students once they matriculate through our program.
Our MISSION: The Mission of Odyssey Charter School 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.
Our CORE VALUES: Ubuntu. Comunidad. Aien Aristeuein.

School Site Priorities: What goals are we focusing on? What data do we have to support this goal (the next 4-6 weeks)?

School Site Goal #1	Matrix and Budget by schools
School Site Goal #2	EPP and DE&I
School Site Goal #3	Spec Ed audit coming
School Site Goal #4	Ongoing PD: One on Ones with Deans

Update 1 COVID UPDATES Notes/Data	<p>a. Staff and union agreed with me to terminology around “strongly encouraging testing”</p> <p>b. Staff returned to work at a very encouraging rate as a result of the safety measures the school undertook</p> <p>c. Students were required to have a negative test within one week prior to the scheduled return date</p> <p>HS: 59 students signed up and 51/59 attended. Of those 8 who did not attend, 7 did not have their COVID test completed and did not return/attended online. The other student was absent. On Feb 2, there will be a total of 2 cohorts with a grand total of 92 students. 33% of HS students returning as of Feb 1</p> <p>MS: 1/19 Cohort A- 49 students signed up and 44/49 attended. Of those five that did not attend, 4 did not have their Covid test completed.</p> <p>1/21 Cohort B- 47 students signed up and 45/47 attended. Of those two that did not attend, 1 did not have his Covid test completed.</p> <p>In total we had 48% of our 6th grade attend.</p>	Current testing data as of 01/21/2021:			Data as of 01/21/2021:	
		Staff Testing	At OCS	Outside		Total Tested
		Lower	29	1		30
		Intermediate	28	2		30
		Middle	35	3		38
		High	24	3		27
		Total	116	9		125
		0% positivity rate thus far				
		OCS Students				
			Tested	Unable to Test (Have had COVID in the last 90 days)		Awaiting test Results
Lower School	90	2	1	93		
Intermediate School	91	5	0	96		

On the week of 01/25 7th grade returns. We have 88 students returning between both cohorts. **That is 50.3% of our seventh grade.**

On the week of 02/01 8th grade returns. We have 84 students returning between both cohorts. **That is 47% of our seventh grade.**

IM: IS: On our opening day, Tuesday, January 19th, 49 students signed up and 44/49 attended. Of those 5 who did not attend, 1 did not have their COVID test completed and did not return/attended online. The other students attended virtually. **Our third-grade total for both cohorts is ~50%.**

We are looking forward to bringing back **~41% of our 4th graders signed up for the week of 1/25 and 54% of our 5th graders signed up for the week of 2/1.**

LS: On Monday, 49 of 53 registered COHORT A Kindergarten students attend in person. On Thursday, 44 of 47 registered COHORT B Kindergarten students attend as well as 1 non-kindergarten student with complex needs.

Of the 7 Kindergarten absences, only 1 was related to the absence of a negative COVID test

Therefore, this week the lower school welcomed back **approximately 51% of the total Kindergarten grade to the building.**

We look forward to opening our doors to 1st Grade next week and 2nd Grade the week of 2/1.

Middle School	81	2	4	87
High School	55	0	2	57
OCS Students	317	9	7	333

- Data only reflects grades K,3,6 & HS

Total students that have been tested that are signed up and have started hybrid (K,3,6 & HS) = $317/333 = 95\%$

If we remove the amount that CAN NOT test = $317/324 = 97.8\%$

Total Tests at OCS approx 400 - 3 positive results
School Positivity less than <1% ($397/400 = .9925$)

Part 2 COVID	<p>OCS was certified as a testing center within 24 hours of the application being submitted.</p> <p>Testing for staff occurs Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri</p> <p>Testing for students occurs each wednesday for the cohort returning the following week</p> <p>Current Challenge: Establishing our school as a long term certified testing center. Currently we are authorized for one round of testing. Once we are certified, we will create a protocol around the frequency of testing, most likely every 2-3 weeks, but also targeted on infection rates in each building. In other words, testing frequency could increase in a building if the infection rate is higher. I am working with Kendall Massett from the charter school division to create a partnership with a clinic that would certify our school. Kendall said not to worry too much because she feels confident we will forge this relationship. We also have reached out to community members who are physicians for support as well.</p>		
Meeting with Board	<p>Created a Calndly schedule and opened up time for one week to have 1 on 1 appointments with Board members, and scheduled another the week after.</p>	<p>To date, I have met with Elias, Anamaria, Erin, Helen, Valerie, Georgia, Eva and Maryann</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall I have conducted 1 on 1 meetings with 73% of the board ● I would like to have 1 on 1 meetings completed by Feb 8th.. 	<p>Attended academic meetings, senior leadership meetings, met with several levels of stakeholders including food service, operations, deans from all schools, Spc Ed, DE&I (Angela Bowen), Delaware Charter Leaders (Kendall Masset, Gregory Meece) and State Rep(State Rep Mike Smith), EPP Reps, 4th Dimension, Salesianum Athletics for Collab with Sports program, Investors (Peter Svahn, Wells Fargo), Gateway Lab (Building 27 projects), Community members including local churches</p>
Culture Focus	<p>Delivered opening PD to all staff, sent out opening letter to stakeholders, Head of Schools Coffee and Chats with Board Members beginning January 28th</p>	<p>Participation in online activities was at 95% of attendees, as measured by zoom poll data</p>	<p>Odyssey is back Video of return to in-person learning was a huge success partly because staff had the opportunity to see how other buildings are operating as well!</p>

			Staff felt very positive about PD and priorities sample responses here	
HS College Data Update	<p>Total Applications submitted as of 1/20: 180</p> <p>Percent of Class of 2021 applying to at least 1 school: 67%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 17% increase over 2019-2020 school year at this time <p>18% of students have reported merit scholarship/grant awards totaling over \$675,000 thus far.</p> <p>83% of applicants have been accepted to at least one college</p> <p>We have 60 acceptances spanning 9 states: DE, PA, FL, NJ, VA, NY, MA, TX, NC</p> <p>FAFSA completion is currently at 53%. While lower than we would like, this is outpacing schools locally and nationally</p>			
NA				
NA				
NA				
NA				