



	Date: 04/21/2021
Meeting: April 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	Next year's course offerings, hirings, enrollment specifically with the high school
School Site Goal #2	DE&I: Analysis of all programs and structures
School Site Goal #3	Fundraising 2.0, facilities updates
School Site Goal #4	Focus on visual branding, universal branding

Update 1 COVID UPDATES Notes/Data

- a. Students are required to have a negative test within one week prior to the scheduled return date
- b. Additional testing times and dates have been offered to accommodate additional return to school students, Smarter Balance, PSAT, ETC
- c. Roll out of staff vaccinations are beginning, with some of our teachers already receiving their first dose. We can expect more invitations to follow from the state. We are hopeful upwards of 85% or more of our staff will be vaccinated by late spring, although the timing depends exclusively on the state roll out program.

LS: All students have been given the option to return 4 days per week and the only student remaining on zoom has done so by choice. We have a total of 406 students on campus 4 days per week and 182 on zoom, with an average of 17 in-person and 8 zoom students per classroom. These numbers do vary by classroom though based on parent preference, and in some cases we have welcomed an entire classroom back to the building.

HS: As of 4/26 all High School students who are attending will shift to 4-day per week

Return to Campus Testing as of 4/19/21:

Week of:	4/12
Campus Event	734
At Campus Event Positive Results	5
Confirmed on PCR	4
Test Results on Other Testing Positive Prior to Return	9
# of children prevented from returning to campus asymptomatic	13

Positivity at Campus Events : $5/734 = .01\%$

Teacher Vaccination Data:

Self Reported by Staff
Over 50% have been vaccinated at this point according to self reporting data

[New Castle County Data](#)

	<p>instruction. We have shifted to in-cafeteria lunches and will have 116 students returning on a 4-day per week basis next week! This represents just over 40% of our school population.</p> <p>MS: As of 3/29 MS students have been attending school 4 days a week. Beginning next week with our final cohort returning on 4/26 we will have 302 students attending. In 6th grade we have 106 students attending; in 7th grade we have 106 students attending and in 8th grade we have 90 students attending. In total 57% of middle school has returned to in-person learning.</p> <p>IM: IS: At the Intermediate School, we will welcome our last in-person cohort on Monday. We will have a total of 348 students in-person, 4 days per week which is 63% of the IS student body. This week, students are visiting the book fair and are participating in Earth Week, lead by Mrs. Gates at the Intermediate School. 3-5 staff is excited to celebrate the EOY with all our students who are working so hard. There are EOY activities being planned. Thanks to all our families for their continued support.</p>		
<p>Part 2 COVID</p>	<p>Testing is available for all staff Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri in school building</p> <p>Survey for phase 4 was sent out after spring break and students will be able to return from 4/26 through the end of the year.</p> <p>Phase 3 Testing:</p>	<p>The implications of the recent updates to guidelines, new research, and our testing data have allowed for us to expand reopening. We have welcomed back close to 60% of students across all grade levels.</p>	<p>New data on 3 ft social distancing:</p> <p>https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/14/health/Covid-schools-social-distancing-3-feet.html</p>

	<p>All on campus students have been required to provide a COVID test result prior to return 4/19/21. Students that have had a positive COVID-19 test result have it on file in the nurse's office. Testing continues to be offered to families to assist with return to school and other campus events.</p> <p>Families may choose to have COVID testing at a site of their choice or the school offered BD Veritor Antigen testing.</p>	<p>In an abundance of caution the week of April 12-16 was used as a virtual week for all students and staff. This policy is consistent with several state guidelines of a quarantine period after return from out of state travel. We will also require an updated negative COVID-19 test in order to return the following week. A letter highlighting all this information was sent to families last month and is attached herein. (letter to families). As clearly seen by the data we highlighted above, this virtual week prevented potential outbreaks across buildings through asymptomatic transmission. We will continue to remain diligent in our commitment to safety as an organization and sincerely appreciate everyone's cooperation.</p>	<p>Dr. Fauci's remarks regarding physical distancing:</p> <p>https://www.businessinsider.com/fauci-study-3-foot-social-distancing-safe-for-schools-cdc-2021-3</p> <p>We will continue to follow our testing data and identify and trends moving forward building and campus specific.</p>
<p>Flagpole initiative and fundraising updates</p>	<p>The buy a brick flagpole fundraiser has officially launched! The goal is to raise upwards of \$80,000. The bricks can have family names, messages, or can even have names of graduating classes. Communication has been sent out through our PTO! We encourage everyone to take advantage of this unique opportunity to be a permanent part of Odyssey's history! Please do share the information with friends, families, and local businesses who could take advantage of a wonderful advertising opportunity! So far we have sold some large sponsorships and have also sold 79 individual bricks. We also have laid the foundation for the first flagpoles in front of building 21 which will be erected later this month.</p> <p>Buy a Brick Flagpole Fundraiser</p>	<p>Following our meetings with consultants, we have started to build a new infrastructure for fundraising. Thanks to our IT department and collective efforts, we are building our capacity for coordinated fundraising efforts in the future through a new database. The cloud based system is in the final stages of construction. We are also finalizing the hiring of a school development consultant to help with future fundraising and strategic initiatives. This process should conclude in the coming days.</p>	

<p>Culture Focus</p>	<p>A parent education event about equity based grading will occur in next week or in early May, as a follow up to some of the transitions we have made to make our grades as equitable and transparent as possible.</p> <p>OCS 4th dimension diversity, equity, and Inclusion work is continuing for our leadership team. We have completed 3 of the 6 training sessions thus far.</p> <p>As I continue my work to meet with stakeholders, we have conducted meet and greets with families, the most recent being April 15th featuring board members and the head of school. We discussed our full return to in person instruction on the 19th of April and the high school return on April 26th. We also discussed the new carline procedure and the ongoing construction of the Wegman's in front of our school</p> <p>Our efforts to increase communication across the schools using operations updates during staff meetings have occurred weekly for all grade levels, alternating between the faculty meetings. Our support team attended faculty meetings to provide updates, answer questions, bridge communication and transparency. We have also increased our Blackboard communication capacity to include Facebook and other social media outlets so we can expand our reach when we make announcements.</p>	<p>OCS is working to build out some community level events as we have several celebrations in the coming months. Our first celebration of the Bicentennial Anniversary for Greek Independence was a huge success, with the message we sent from Freedom Plaza being viewed by thousands of people nationally, supporting our vision of letting the world know about who Odyssey Charter is and why we are so special! A celebratory staff picnic is also being planned for the end of the year, led by our own Katie Manley. Outdoor class celebrations are also being planned for June. As mentioned last month, we will be celebrating the promotion of our students for grades K, 5, 8, and 12. That means we will be hosting 4 graduations in the late spring. The dates are set for the first two weekends of June. Look for updates from the school deans.</p>	<p>The PTO is hosting a Book Fair.. This will be an opportunity for our students to enhance their love of reading and promote literacy in our school. The fair is located in the gym between buildings 21 and 22. Please contact Ms. Kaijia Miller for details and look for communication from our schools.</p>
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<p>HS Updates</p>	<p>College Data - HS Total Applications submitted as of 4/21: 193</p> <p>Percent of Class of 2021 applying to at least 1 school: 71%</p> <p>33% of students have reported merit scholarship/grant awards totaling over \$1.4 million dollars!</p> <p>FAFSA completion has risen to 65%</p> <p>We have 106 acceptances spanning 13 states: DE, PA, FL, NJ, VA, NY, MA, TX, NC, IN, CA, GA, WV</p>	<p>School Choice - HS</p> <p>We are poised to accept our largest incoming 9th grade class yet, and continue to solidify enrollments from our current 8th grade students as well as finalizing choice documents with families new to Odyssey.</p> <p>Students who are joining our freshman class will receive the Class of 2025 box including their official Class of 2025 T Shirt, Lanyard, Admissions forms, and more. <i>Any current 8th grader who is planning to stay at OCS and has not yet received their box should reach out to Tracie Principe or Kristy Lingo so that we can be sure to count you in!</i></p>	<p>Recognitions - HS</p> <p>We are excited to recognize two of our staff members for outstanding work!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shannan Beck was recognized by the CollegeBoard as a recipient of the 2021 CollegeBoard Counselor Recognition Program. She was one of 4 counselors recognized across the state and the only one in a charter school! - Melissa Tracy was selected as an Eagles/Axalta All-Pro Teacher for the 2021 School Year!
<p>MS Recognitions</p>	<p>The middle school would like to recognize Alexandra Mylonas. She successfully defended her doctoral thesis at the end of March. Thank you Dr. Mylonas for all that you do for OCS!</p> <p><u>National Junior Honor Society</u> In May, 38 seventh grade students will be inducted into Odyssey’s National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). This is a major accomplishment for these students. In order to be eligible for NJHS a student must be in 7th or 8th grade and have a GPA of 3.75 or higher. We are very proud of our Owls!</p> <p><u>Business Professionals of America</u> Sixteen BPA Middle Level members are going to participate in the BPA National Leadership Conference.</p>		

	<p>The BPA NLC will occur virtually from April 26-May 9, 2021. Members will be participating in competitive events, opening sessions, a special event, and an awards session.</p> <p>Four of our BPA Middle Level members are going to be recognized during the National Honor Awards Session on Friday, May 7. These members have gone above and beyond by completing the Ambassador Torch Awards. This is the highest level a member can reach and is only recognized after completion of 70 points in each Torch Category. The categories are Leadership; Service; Cooperation; Knowledge; Friendship; Love, Hope, Faith; and Patriotism. An Ambassador is defined as “a diplomatic official of the highest rank appointed and accredited as a representative of the organization.”</p> <p>The BPA Middle Level members who have completed the Ambassador Torch Awards are:</p> <p>Asvika Gobinathan Arya Gupta Haasini Potluri Subiksha Srinivasan Vidya</p> <p>We would also like to recognize Subiksha Srinivasan Vidya who will be the BPA Middle Level Representative for the 2021-2022 school year! She will represent all Middle Level members in Delaware next year in Delaware BPA.</p>		
<p>Update on school priorities</p>		<p>DEI:</p>	<p>Stakeholder communication updates:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The third first session for school leadership occurred last week. This is part of a series to empower our school leaders b. A revised attendance policy is in its final revisions focusing on supporting families in the maximum capacity by pooling our resources and shifting our overall approach. c. An updated grading policy has been implemented to create more transparency for families to serve as partners in education but also to ensure we are doing everything in our power to foster equitable outcomes for ALL learners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. UCP and updated policy for homeless and foster youth to be ratified by the Board in the upcoming board meeting. Drafts are being reviewed and finalized this week. b. Monthly communication from the Head of School with Executive Summary began on Feb 1 and is posted on our website. Two issues are posted. Next issue will come out the first week of May. c. Parent/Student Surveys will be conducted by a national normed independent company. We are currently looking at costs for each vendor. Staff surveys have been conducted both internally and through Insight over the last two months, but the school is looking to a more comprehensive solution. . These anonymous surveys will focus on school culture, climate and safety. We will use this data to drive our future decision making.
<p>Visual Branding</p>	<p>A major focus of our campaign this year is to improve the visual footprint of the school. You may have noticed tremendous efforts made to maintain all our flowerbeds, manicure our athletic facilities, place new signs outside buildings, reorganize lobbies and entryways, etc. We are also in the process of placing signage on all our school buildings to remove previous designations associated with prior occupants of the buildings.</p>	<p>The athletic fields are also being branded with our logo and block letters on the sidelines as a centerpiece of competitive sports. Our teams have received new uniforms and we have seen success on the field as well, with soccer, baseball, softball and track all seeing success in competition. The Parliament of Owls is starting to soar!!! GO OWLS GO!!</p>	

Financial Update

- Odyssey has been awarded \$1,972,460 as a part of the ESSER III (American Rescue Plan). A mandated 20% of funding must be reserved to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions and ensure that those interventions respond to students' social, emotional, and academic needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups. These funds will be available through 9/30/2024. It is unclear if LEAs will receive them prior to June 30th, so the budgeted revenues and expenses are not included in these projections.
- ESSER II Funds have been reallocated from originally budgeted contractual services to cover additional facilities HVAC upgrades and to cover the cost of the courtyard tent.
- The originally budgeted draw from the Repair and Replacement fund is being reduced from \$240k to \$110k based on project deferrals and funding adjustments.
- Recognizing savings of approximately \$25k on a mild winter for snow removal and \$25k in energy savings.
- Projections currently showing a positive variance to the final budget for approximately \$356k. The

	<p>projected year-end cash on hand is \$4.8mill. The projections include a total spend down of Federal Funds, which will likely not be the case.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cash Basis investors report projects 1.63 debt coverage ratio (requirement is 1.10) and 67.81 estimated days of cash on hand (covenant is 60.00 days) at year end. 		
<p>Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CDC Covid Guidelines on buses still restricts buses to 23 students + siblings. ● Continuing to offer open seats on buses as well as find alternative transportation needs for all families who are returning full time. ● March 29th we added 2 OCS bus routes (K-5 students) that helped add 46 bus riders, all of this is in house. ● Working to improve efficiency of carline at both the IS and LS. ● Call Evan Winokur X440 or e-mail if you have a transportation issue or want to discuss your family's needs. 		