

Odyssey Review

Volume 2, Issue 3

Spring 2008

Student Writers:

Special points of interest:

- Having problems with eClassroom? Need directions on how to submit an assignment? Call the tech support hotline 24/7 at 1-877-627-7890
- Computer broken? Just acting funny? OCS offers a computer repair service. Email techsupport@odysseyk12.org for more information
- Scholarship Applications now available. See your counselor for details.
- **2008 Graduation to be held June 3 6:30 PM at Cashman Theatre.**

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Odyssey Charter School to Turn 10

That is right folks! Odyssey Charter School will be one decade old this upcoming school year, 2008-2009. This means OCS has been around long enough that some of its teachers could have attended high school here. To celebrate Odyssey is designing a new Ten Year Anniversary Logo, and we would like your help!



Current OCS Logo

Your design may be done in any medium, ie. pencil, pen, computer graphics, etc. The contest is open to all Odyssey Students in grades k-12. The winning design will be used, or incorporated into Odyssey's 10th Anniversary Logo.

Please submit your design to the high school or K-8 office, before May 16th. Your name and grade should be included with your design submission.

OCS K-12 Yearbooks Now Available

Pick up your copy in the high school office! Be sure to check out the high school pages designed by the Publications students. Perhaps next year you would like to join Publications to help make the yearbook even better. See your counselor if interested.

Odyssey Charter Schools Go GREEN!

Odyssey's school colors may be blue and white, but the school is going green! Odyssey Charter Schools has instituted a new GREEN Committee. The GREEN Committee will focus on ways in which OCS can become more environmentally friendly. Hey, we already save a lot of trees by providing our curriculum (and this newspaper) entirely online! If you have any suggestions for the GREEN Committee, please email them to nhaakmsa@odysseyk12.org.

Don't forget to sign up for OCHS Family Baseball Night on April 25th. See the front office for more details!

On Fashion Samantha Campanella



Fashion revolves in everyone's worlds. If you think about kids and adults buy accordingly to what other people say looks good. It used to be you bought what you liked and were a, "Trend setter." But now if you were to try something like that you'd have to have seen it on a celebrity to make it happen. [The pictures to the right are an example of making a fashion statement viva celebrity.]

This piece of clothing (the fat belt) is an accessories a lot of girls started to wear after the Fall 2007 Fashion show, in New York City. It can be seen on Gisele (first picture on the left), Victoria Beckham (left bottom), Lindsay Lohan, and many other big well known names.

I find it to be a silly outfit. Why would you want something wrapped

so tightly around you, it shows off all the bad things about your shape? People should wear things that flatter their figure not someone else's. For instance when your not a twig, wearing horizontal lines or wide belts, creates a shorter wide perception of what you really look like. However on a smaller figure it is portrayed as a divider, it shows off your curved hip and small mid section. Another mistake some people make is wearing chunky jewelry like they see it on these petite models, however if your arms aren't little toothpicks, then bangles look silly, or if you have a short neck do not wear a bold thick necklace these are for people with longer necks, it brings them down.

On Fashion: What is a Girl to Wear? Raven Stephens

I don't tend to follow fashion closely. I don't really care if my sneakers are 'last season's look'. However, there is one current style that I cannot ignore. It seems to be all the rage among women today, and I cannot understand how it came about. I only know that I feel it should be abolished. I am talking about the way women's tops and dresses are cut very low to expose the maximum amount of cleavage.

Many times I have seen women today wear blouses and dresses that are extremely low-cut. I dislike the immodesty they display

through the outfits they choose. Some look like they would spill right out of their garments if they leaned forward. I cannot fathom why any self-respecting woman would want to walk around half-naked, as if it were something to be proud of!

It is irritating to me when I walk into a store, looking for a cute outfit to buy, only to find that neckline of most blouses and dresses are completely inappropriate. The thing that I find most shocking about this trend is that it is not limited to the young teenagers. Mature women, who

I thought would know better, engage in this practice just as eagerly as the girls. I find it disgusting and embarrassing to see women of *any* age wearing such clothes.

I wish society would find this fashion as revolting as I do. Unfortunately, it seems to be just the opposite. Necklines are becoming lower and lower. It appears that this trend is here to stay, like it or not. Even so, I hope that someone will realize that this trend should be wholly done away with.



Gotta beef with something in the paper? Write a letter to the editor!
Send your beef to

nhaaksma@odysseyk12.org

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of OCHS or official policies of OCHS.

Communicating with Teachers at OCHS

Student Discussion

Leslie Romhilt:

I think it is great that the teachers our branching out to communicate with the students. Odyssey's unique schedule makes it a complicated to get a hold of teachers like a traditional school. They may or may not be on campus, or you could miss the opportunity to discuss a very important assignment. I have a friend who emailed her algebra teacher about an assignment and it got lost in the mass of emails he got from the rest of his students. By the teachers giving the students their phone numbers or screen names we can get help at a quicker pace and it more direct, just like face to face. Mr. Smoot gave us his cell phone number (so we could text him, if a problem arose), although I've never had to use it it's nice to have it as an option.

Another easy way for us to get a hold of our teachers is through the Ning network, which is an option I use frequently. There are many options on there for help, they have different group-classes you can belong to, and you can get advice from peers as well as teachers. I've talked to Ms. Fitzgerald (Logic and Rhetoric), and Coach Smoot (Physical Education) numerous times, as well as my friends from their classes. Smoot makes it easier for us to get good grades in the class by posting discussions and giving us points for participating, which I think more teachers should do (seeing as that may be the reason so many students are falling behind in their studies).

Overall, my experience with communicating with teachers has been satisfying, the only complaint I have is that more teachers should get involved, maybe even more schools (it could boost our testing levels if we all participate whilst out of school).

Emily Hall:

I've chosen to write my topic on the texting and e-mailing with teachers. Everyone I know is always texting and are always on the computer e-mailing back and forth so I think it's the cool new way to communicate with teachers. I'm texting my family and friends twenty-four-seven, so it just makes it a million times easier being allowed to text your teachers for help. Us teens are always texting and communicating in these ways so it's not going out of our way texting the teachers. We never exactly get to see our teachers as much as we would need to for help so who ever thought to do this is just genius in my eyes. It has not been any concern for me yet but the only worries I do have are that after sending an e-mail or text that my teacher won't respond quickly enough. So far it hasn't happened but what if it does? These are some things to think about as teachers to make students more comfortable with sending questions to their teachers. That is about the only question and concern I've got about this subject. Other than that I think more teachers should have these things available. I would even recommend it to teachers in real public schools. It's a great idea that makes students actually ask for help. Pretty much my whole school year life I've always been nervous and scared to ask for help from my teachers, even more scared when my peers are watching but being able to text when needed is a great thing. I feel a lot more confident in asking for help.

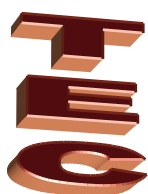
Courtney Maserke:

I like the idea of all the teachers at Odyssey using many different forms of communication with the students. It helps a lot and is fast for the students who have quick urgent questions. I would have to say that instant messaging is the best communication, because it is fast communication and you can understand what each person is trying to say. Instant messaging is just like a real live conversation just it is typing instead of talking. Email would be my last choice because you have to wait for the teacher to read it and reply which can take up to a day or even a week. And in some cases you have the teachers who don't even email you back when it is involves something important. That has happened to me many times. Text messaging is pretty much the same thing as instant messaging but I couldn't see myself text messaging my teachers, which is pretty weird. I haven't instant messaged a teacher yet because I have not had to but I would rather then emailing the teacher. I do know that my government teacher Mr. Moses is always online and chats with my friends if they need help. He helped out my friend one time when I was next to her while she was talking to him. It was a simple easy conversation and helped her out with a question she had in no time. It is good to have that many different ways to communicate, since we are an online school. I think that Odyssey does an excellent job at trying to help each and every student out as much as possible, just as long as the student is willing to get help. Teachers are always there for the students, and you don't find that in traditional schools.

Nevada Proficiency Summer Testing Schedule

MAY 12 – 14	NHSPE* Reading Math	12, Adult	MAY 14
MAY 14	NHSPE* Writing	12, Adult	MAY 14
JULY 15	NHSPE* Math	11, 12, Adult	JULY 18
JULY 16	NHSPE* Writing	12, Adult	JULY 18
JULY 17	NHSPE* Reading	11, 12, Adult	JULY 18

Contact Elaine Mastracchio, Director of Grants and Testing, at emastracchio@odysseyk12.org to see if you are eligible for the above testing dates.



2007-2008 Activity Schedule

2007-2008 Schedule of College Recruiter Visits

April.....Family Night: 51s Baseball Game
 May.....End of the Year Movie Night

Friday, May 16.....College of Southern NV

Interested in joining TEC: Teen Entertainment Committee?

Email Mr. Meier at mmeier@odysseyk12.org OR
 Mrs. McClain at kmclain@odysseyk12.org

Student Editorial: After School Activities at OCHS

Lydia Gonzales

There is an absence of after-school clubs provided at Odyssey Charter High School. Odyssey High School should have a variety of after-school clubs for students to meet. There are many new students coming to Odyssey each year, and there is very little socialization taking place, especially on a typical school day. Some students are very social, and love to interact with people. Others are very shy and need an informal, structured setting, like a club, to make friends and get to know other students.

There is already a Teen Entertainment Committee (T.E.C.) that meets every other week to plan events once a month, but hardly any of the students are willing to attend. In addition, the same activities are planned each year. Occasionally, the meetings will be canceled without notice.

There is now a Student Union where the students can relax, study and socialize, but many students are unable to come during school hours. Also, there is no structure or organized social activities for students to interact with each other.

After-school clubs that are geared toward a variety of student interests would provide more social interaction with people who have the same interests. It also gives the teachers a chance to interact with the students as well. The club members can come up with activities

they want to do, instead of the T.E.C. committee telling the students what activity is available that month.

At the end of the school day, all the classrooms are available to allow a number of clubs to meet. If different clubs meet on different days, there could be a larger variety of clubs meeting each day. The school may not feel the students would be interested because hardly any students go to the T.E.C. meetings. The school can have a survey and ask the students what after-school clubs they have been involved in before, what they enjoyed about them and what type of clubs students might be interested in. The teachers can also be surveyed on which after-school clubs they have participated in before. If they have, they could be asked if they would want to help start them at Odyssey. The most popular after-school clubs chosen will be the ones that can meet.

The T.E.C. already is established with two teachers running it every other Monday for one hour. To get more student involvement in the committee and at planned events, the school newspaper could do an article about it and even do a survey to see what ideas students come up with to make it more worthwhile. It could even be turned into an after-school club. That might make it more fun.

It is understood that teachers and other school employees may not want to stay late after school, but there is usually somebody there after school for an hour or two anyway. If the principal or vice principal like the idea, they could arrange for someone to stay after-hours, if they were willing, or have the janitorial staff clean daily during that time.

The clubs do not have to meet for more than one or two hours per week. If it is not possible to meet every week, then they can meet every other week. Odyssey Charter School does not have to be considered just a school. The students should be able to feel more comfortable and welcome at school. It is true that people go to school just to learn, but the students can get encouraged to come to school by providing fun side-activities for the students when school is not in session. There are many creative ways to encourage people to go to school, and have fun at the same time. In other words, with more exciting activities, Odyssey may soon become a home away from home.