Open House Presentation
2020-2021
Welcome and Introductions

- Marnie Cooke, Executive Director
- Kathryn Martinez, Director of Instruction
- Elki Neiberger, Director of Operations
- Ben Hoffman, Director of Adventure & Culture
Odyssey’s Vision...

Odyssey School of Denver students will:

■ Take risks and innovate;
■ Lead with integrity and compassion;
■ Be civically and socially engaged;
■ Push themselves to exceed expectations; and
■ Embrace learning as a life-long adventure.
Mission Statement

Odyssey School of Denver is a diverse, public, K-8 Expeditionary Learning school. We teach students how to learn through a focus on academic achievement, critical thinking and social responsibility, preparing them for high school and beyond.
Our Special Sauce - What Sets Us Apart?

#1 - How we learn is as important as what we learn.

#2 - We insist on high expectations for learners.

#3 - We live by our commitment to crew and community.
Fast Facts about Odyssey

- DPS charter school since 1998
- Managed by Odyssey Board of Directors
- K-8 school, class sizes no bigger than 26
- 262 students in 2020-2021, 318 at full build out in 2024-25
- Participant School in DPS School Choice Process
- 33% students qualify for free and reduced lunch
- 47% students of color
- Crew Lead Teachers and five Specialists (Math and Specials)
- Two Special Education teachers, PT 2nd-8th Reading Interventionist and K/1 paras
- Four administrators (ED, Dir of Instruction, Dir of Ops, Dir of Adventure/Culture), front office manager, multiple enrichment providers
- DPS Support - Nurse, Psychologist, OT/PT, Speech
- Two staff on Board of Directors (13 total)
- Meets Expectations/Green on DPS School Performance Framework
Odyssey Expansion Plan

In anticipation of charter renewal this summer/fall, Odyssey’s Board voted to maintain our K-8 model, while growing our elementary program by 50%.

- **2020-2021** - We have 40 Kindergarten seats and 40 1st grade seats, maintain 26 students in grades 2-8 (four primary classes at 20 students each)
- **2021-2022 through 2024-2025** - Phase in 40 students per grade, K-5 while keeping MS at 26 students per grade. 318 Students in Fall, 2024
- Added special education teacher and K/1 para this year
- Additional specials teacher in 2022-2023
Odyssey’s Calendar and School Day

Typical School Day:
■ Start August 12th, end May 28th
■ Mondays – Thursdays  8:10 – 3:15 PM
■ Fridays  8:10 – 1:15 PM
■ Kindergarten has a staggered start, beginning a week later than 1st-8th grade. First week of school is half days.

Virtual School Day:
■ Start August 24th, end May 28th
■ Mondays – Thursdays  8:30 – 2:30 PM
■ Fridays  8:30 – 12:00 PM
A Quick Glossary...

- **Crew** – a group of students lead by a crew leader/teacher that stay together for the year or beyond to support each other academically and socially.

- **Expeditions** – Long-term, in-depth study of a compelling and relevant topic that leads to high-quality and authentic student work.

- **Fieldwork** – Working with experts in the field to better understand key issues and learn skills.

- **Crew Trips** – Overnight adventure that supports the crew in becoming an effective and cohesive group that learns from each other.
Video - Odyssey Crew

Mikayla
8th Grader

Miles
8th Grader
Odyssey - A Credentialed EL School

Odyssey School is one of 15 EL schools in the front range, 32 in Colorado and 165 nationwide. EL schools are K-12 and found in urban, suburban and rural communities.

EL Education is a national network of school partners that are working toward a vision of what’s possible for students by broadening the definition of student achievement.
Learning Expeditions - A Key Curricular Structure

● Expeditions bring standards alive
● Long-term, in-depth studies that offer real world connections
● Original research, critical thinking and building character along the way
● Builds literacy skills - reading, writing, speaking and listening through mostly non-fiction text and writing from evidence
● Compelling topics and guiding questions
● Incorporation of fieldwork, experts and service learning
● Production and presentation of high-quality work
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Weather</td>
<td>Trees</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Sun, Moon, Stars</td>
<td>Birds</td>
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<td>2nd</td>
<td>Fossils</td>
<td>Pollinators</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Learning Challenges Near &amp; Far</td>
<td>Water</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Animal Defense Mechanisms</td>
<td>What’s Worth Fighting For</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Human Rights</td>
<td>Natural Disasters</td>
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## Expedition Scope and Sequence: 6-8

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>American Indian Boarding Schools</td>
<td>Remarkable Accomplishments in Space Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th/8th Humanities</td>
<td>Y1: Folklore of Latin America</td>
<td>Y1: Harlem Renaissance</td>
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<td>Y2: Lost Children of Sudan</td>
<td>Y2: Lessons from Japanese American Internment</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th/8th Science</td>
<td>Y1: Epidemics</td>
<td>Y1: Plastic Pollution</td>
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<td>Y2: Food Choices</td>
<td>Y2: TBD</td>
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Fieldwork, Expert and Presentation

- Example Guest Speakers:
  - Fifth Grade: Sani, Bosnian Baker
  - 7th & 8th grade: Dr. O’Leary, Denver Health
- Example Field Work:
  - Dinosaur Ridge
  - National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

Work Products and Projects

- Children’s Books
- Podcasts
- Scientific Journal
School-wide Practices at Odyssey

**Student-Engaged Assessment** - Learning targets, checks for understanding, models, critique and feedback, and using data with students

**Portfolios** - Student work collected over time that demonstrates achievement in subject areas and Habits of learning. Often used during passage presentations and conferences

**Student-Led Conferences** - Twice a year, Kindergarten through 8th grade students present learning to teachers and families

**Passage Presentations** - In 3rd, 5th and 8th grade, students present to a panel. Authentic audience and means for receiving descriptive feedback

**Exhibition Nights** - Presentations of learning, often showcasing student products or projects that reflect real-world connections
Odyssey Habits of a Learner

Self-Awareness
Responsibility
Service and Stewardship
Social Awareness
Collaboration
Revision
A Quick Glimpse of a Student Passages Presentation
A Safe Adventure Program

Risk management is a top priority - We rely on protocols, highly trained staff, minimum ratios to teach/support ALL students in safely participating and leading while:

- Multi-Night Camping
- Rock Climbing
- Hiking
- Snowshoeing
- Rafting
- Biking
Our Expectations for Families

Parents/families engaging and supporting school by reading and responding to teacher and school communication, attending parent/family events and following basic norms for communication (staying student-focused, active listening, kind/respectful, etc.)

100% student participation in student-led conferences, passages and preparation

100% student participation in adventure experiences

Parent volunteering and fundraising support as needed:

- Adventure Campaign
- Annual Campaign
- Dining Out Nights
- Spring Auction
School Choice Process

- Families will research DPS schools via a printed enrollment guide, online resources and school visits.
- All students in pre-K and 8th grades (as well students in 5th grade going to new middle schools) will list their school preferences online through SchoolChoice.
- Students who are new to the district or who are interested in choosing a different school than the one they currently attend should also fill out a SchoolChoice form.
- Online SchoolChoice forms will be available in late January.
School Choice Process II

- Choice forms will be due back to the district by January 31st.
- An enrollment tool will combine students' preferences with schools' predetermined priorities and capacities.
- Students will be notified of their school assignment in March.

Thank you for coming!
Questions That Benefit the Whole Group

What are you wondering?