

SUBJECT

Odyssey Charter School Performance Certificate Conditions Update

APPLICABLE STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

I.C. §33-5203B(1)

I.C. §33-5209C(7)

BACKGROUND

Odyssey Charter School (Odyssey) is a public charter school authorized by the Public Charter School Commission (PCSC). Odyssey recently completed its first year implementing project-based learning for middle school and high school students in Idaho Falls.

Due to significant concerns regarding numerous aspects of the school's operations, Odyssey's performance certificate was approved in April 2014 subject to a list of conditions. Pursuant to I.C. 33-5209C(7), the charter may be revoked if the school fails to meet any of the specific, written conditions for necessary improvements.

DISCUSSION

Odyssey's performance certificate incorporates seven (7) conditions, most of which must be met by June 30, 2014. This cover sheet summarizes Odyssey's status with regard to each condition; the materials that follow include the full list of conditions and supporting documentation.

Condition 1: Board Membership (Met; continued compliance required)

Odyssey's board now has six members and has therefore returned to compliance with Idaho's Nonprofit Corporation Act and Odyssey's charter and bylaws. The board chair has reported that board member Chris Peterson, who is the spouse of administrator Karl Peterson, will resign at the end of June in accordance with the provisions of House Bill 568, which becomes law effective July 1, 2014.

Condition 2: Accreditation Candidacy (Not met at this time)

The performance certificate requires that Odyssey obtain accreditation candidacy status during the 2014-2015 school year; the deadline for meeting this condition is June 30, 2014.

A team of educational professionals working with the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC) conducted a third readiness visit on May 28, 2014. The follow-up report indicating the result of this visit has not yet been provided to the school; therefore, the status of Odyssey's candidacy status is unknown.

Because readiness visits must be made while school is in session, and Odyssey has now recessed for the summer, the May 28 visit represents Odyssey's final opportunity to achieve candidacy status until after school starts in Fall 2014.

Condition 3: Full Accreditation (Not met at this time)

The performance certificate requires that Odyssey obtain full accreditation during the 2014-2015 school year; the deadline for meeting this condition is June 30, 2015, and therefore need not be met at this time.

Odyssey will not be eligible to seek full accreditation until after it has achieved candidacy status.

Condition 4: Special Education Compliance (Met; continued compliance required)

A follow up report from the SDE indicates that Odyssey has taken corrective action and returned to compliance with regard to special education complaint C-14-1-14.

Some elements of the corrective action plan, including provision of speech therapy and counseling services, as well as related transportation, must still be fulfilled during summer 2014.

Condition 5: Financial Planning (Met)

The performance certificate requires that Odyssey submit a complete, detailed financial plan for FY14 and FY15, including budgets and monthly cash flows

Odyssey initially communicated an intention to provide updated financial information to PCSC by early March, 2014. When this report was not received, PCSC staff offered additional support and established a new deadline of April 25, 2014. Odyssey submitted an incomplete report on April 24. Since that time, PCSC staff has worked with Odyssey to improve the thoroughness and accuracy of the financial report. This support has included many hours of one-on-one web meetings, in addition to extensive phone and email conversations.

Odyssey's final version of the report was received on June 3, 2014. More information is provided in a separate agenda item focused on the school's financial update.

Condition 6: Stakeholder Complaint Process (Not met at this time)

Odyssey has published a grievance policy on its website; however, the policy is outdated and fails to meet the standards set forth in the performance certificate condition.

The school has communicated its intention to update and publish a revised stakeholder complaint process prior to the June 30, 2014, deadline.

Condition 7: Board Ethical Standards (Partially met)

Odyssey has published a board of directors' code of ethics on its website; however, the policy fails to fully meet the standards set forth in the "Developing Ethical Standards for your Charter Board" guidance document and email provided by PCSC staff on April 14, 2014, in response to Odyssey's query about the adequacy of the code of ethics document that was subsequently adopted.

The school has communicated its intention to consider this matter further at an upcoming board meeting. It is unknown whether Odyssey will adopt revised board ethical standards prior to the June 30, 2014, deadline.

IMPACT

The conditions in Odyssey's performance certificate all include deadlines of June 30, 2014, or later. Until such time as it becomes clear that one or more of the conditions will not (or cannot) be met by the established deadline, no PCSC action is warranted.

STAFF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff offers no comments or recommendations.

COMMISSION ACTION

Information item only. Any action would be at the discretion of the PCSC.

CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE

This performance certificate is executed on this 17th day of April, 2014, by and between the Idaho Public Charter School Commission (the “Authorizer”), and Odyssey Charter School, Inc. (the “School”), an independent public school organized as an Idaho nonprofit corporation and established under the Public Charter Schools Law, Idaho Code Section 33-5201 *et seq.*, as amended (the “Charter Schools Law.”)

RECITALS

WHEREAS, effective December 31, 2013, the Authorizer approved a charter petition for the establishment of the School; and

WHEREAS, the School began operations in the year 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Schools Law was amended effective as of July 1, 2013 to require all public charter schools approved prior to July 1, 2013 to execute performance certificates with their authorizers no later than July 1, 2014;

NOW THEREFORE in consideration of the foregoing recitals and mutual understandings, the Authorizer and the School agree as follows:

SECTION 1: AUTHORIZATION OF CHARTER SCHOOL

- A. **Continued Operation of School.** Pursuant to the Charter Schools Law, the Authorizer hereby approves the continued operation of the School on the terms and conditions set forth in this Charter School Performance Certificate (the “Certificate”). The approved Charter is attached to this Certificate as Appendix B.
- B. **Pre-Opening Requirements.** Pursuant to Idaho Code Section 33-5206(6), the Authorizer may establish reasonable pre-opening requirements or conditions (“Pre-Opening Requirements”) to monitor the start-up progress of a newly approved public charter school to ensure that the school is prepared to open smoothly on the date agreed. The School shall not commence instruction until all pre-opening requirements have been completed to the satisfaction of the Authorizer. Pre-opening requirements are attached as Appendix C. If all pre-opening conditions have been completed to the satisfaction of the Authorizer, the School shall commence operations/instruction with the first day of school in Fall 2013. In the event that all pre-opening conditions have not been completed to the satisfaction of the Authorizer, the School may not commence instruction on the scheduled first day of school. In such event, the Authorizer may exercise its authority on or before July 20 to prohibit the School from commencing operation/instruction until the start of the

succeeding semester or school year.

- C. Term of Agreement.** This Certificate is effective as of April 17, 2014, and shall continue through June 30, 2017, unless earlier terminated as provided herein.

SECTION 2: SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

- A. Governing Board.** The School shall be governed by a board (the “Charter Board”) in a manner that is consistent with the terms of this Certificate so long as such provisions are in accordance with state, federal, and local law. The Charter Board shall have final authority and responsibility for the academic, financial, and organizational performance of the School. The Charter Board shall also have authority for and be responsible for policy and operational decisions of the School, although nothing herein shall prevent the Charter Board from delegating decision-making authority for policy and operational decisions to officers, employees and agents of the School, as well as third party management providers.
- B. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.** The articles of incorporation and bylaws of the entity holding the charter shall provide for governance of the operation of the School as a nonprofit corporation and public charter school and shall at all times be consistent with all applicable law and this Certificate. The articles of incorporation and bylaws are attached to this Certificate as Appendix D (the “Articles and Bylaws”). Any modification of the Articles and Bylaws must be submitted to the Authorizer within five (5) business days of approval by the Charter Board.
- C. Charter Board Composition.** The composition of the Charter Board shall at all times be determined by and consistent with the Articles and Bylaws and all applicable law and policy. The roster of the Charter Board is attached to this Certificate as Appendix E (the “Board Roster”). The Charter Board shall notify the Authorizer of any changes to the Board Roster and provide an amended Board Roster within five (5) business days of their taking effect.

SECTION 3: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

- A. School Mission.** The mission of the School is as follows: Our mission at Odyssey Charter School is to graduate students who, in addition to being proficient in a range of academic subjects, possess an advanced level of interpersonal and social communication skills, have the ability to engage in critical thinking and rational problem solving, demonstrate respect for the value of the contributions of others, possess a strong sense of personal integrity and responsibility, and believe in their own capacity for achievement.
- B. Grades Served.** The School may serve students in grade 6 through grade 12.
- C. Design Elements.** The School shall implement and maintain the following essential design elements of its educational program:
- Project based learning. Project Based Learning in the form of both large and small

projects, as well as individual and group projects, will be the major teaching method used at Odyssey. Medium and large projects will meet the following 8 essential elements:

- Significant content
 - A need to know
 - A driving question
 - Student voice and choice
 - 21st Century skills of Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, and Creativity & Innovation
 - Inquiry and Innovation
 - Reflection and Revision
 - Public Presented Product
- Character development. Students will be taught to be effective in organizing their personal lives as well as developing effective and acceptable social skills.
 - Four C's of critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity & innovation. Students will collaborate with other students to find unique and creative solutions to problems they face.
 - Technology. Students will learn to use a variety of technology, including but not limited to social media, word processing, and internet use as a tool in their education.

D. Standardized Testing. Students of the School shall be tested with the same standardized tests as other Idaho public school students.

E. Accreditation. The School shall be accredited as provided by rule of the state board of education.

SECTION 4: AUTHORIZER ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Oversight allowing autonomy. The Authorizer shall comply with the provisions of Charter School Law and the terms of this Certificate in a manner that does not unduly inhibit the autonomy of the School. The Authorizer's Role will be to evaluate the School's outcomes according to this Certificate and the Performance Framework rather than to establish the process by which the School achieves the outcomes sought.

B. Charter School Performance Framework. The Charter School Performance Framework ("Performance Framework") is attached and incorporated into this agreement as Appendix F. The Performance Framework shall be used to evaluate the School's academic, financial and operational performance, and shall supersede and replace any and all assessment measures, educational goals and objectives, financial operations metrics, and operational performance metrics set forth in the Charter and not explicitly incorporated into the Performance Framework. The specific terms, form and requirements of the Performance Framework, including any required indicators, measures, metrics, and targets, are determined by the Authorizer and will be binding on the School.

- C. Authorizer to Monitor School Performance.** The Authorizer shall monitor and report on the School's progress in relation to the indicators, measures, metrics and targets set out in the Performance Framework. The School shall be subject to a formal review of its academic, mission-specific, operational, and financial performance at least annually.
- D. School Performance.** The School shall achieve an accountability designation of *Good Standing* or *Honor* on each of the three sections of the Performance Framework. In the event the School is a party to a third party management contract which includes a deficit protection clause, the School shall be exempt from some or all measures within the financial portion of the Performance Framework. In accordance with Charter School Law, the Authorizer shall renew any charter in which the public charter school met all of the terms of its performance certificate at the time of renewal.
- E. Performance Framework As Basis For Renewal of Charter.** The School's performance in relation to the indicators, measures, metrics and targets set forth in the Academic and Mission-Specific, Operational and Financial sections of the Performance Framework shall provide the basis upon which the Authorizer will decide whether to renew the School's Charter at the end of the Certificate term. As part of the Performance Framework, the Authorizer agrees to consider mission-specific, rigorous, valid, and reliable indicators of the School's performance. These negotiated indicators will be included in the Mission-Specific portion of the Academic and Mission Specific section of the Performance Framework.
- F. Authorizer's Right to Review.** The School will be subject to review of its academics, operations and finances by the Authorizer, including related policies, documents and records, when the Authorizer deems such review necessary. The Authorizer shall conduct its reviews in a manner that does not unduly inhibit the autonomy granted to the School.
- G. Site Visits.** In addition to the above procedures, the Charter School shall grant reasonable access to, and cooperate with, the Authorizer, its officers, employees and other agents, including allowing site visits by the Authorizer, its officers, employees, or other agents, for the purpose of allowing the Authorizer to fully evaluate the operations and performance of the School. The Authorizer may conduct a site visit at any time if the Authorizer has reasonable concern regarding the operations and performance of the School. The Authorizer will provide the School reasonable notice prior to its annual site visit to the School. The School shall have an opportunity to provide a written response to the site visit report no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting at which the report is to be considered by the Authorizer. If no written response is provided, the School shall have the opportunity to respond orally to the site visit report at the meeting.
- H. Required Reports.** The School shall prepare and submit reports regarding its governance, operations, and/or finances according to the established policies of and upon the request of the Authorizer. However, to the extent possible, the Authorizer shall not request reports from the School that are otherwise available through student information systems or other data sources reasonably available to the Authorizer.

SECTION 5: SCHOOL OPERATIONS

A. In General. The School and the Charter Board shall operate at all times in accordance with all federal and state laws, local ordinances, regulations and Authorizer policies applicable to charter schools. Authorizer policies in effect for the duration of this Certificate are attached as Appendix G.

B. Maximum Enrollment. The maximum number of students who may be enrolled in the school shall be 700 students. The maximum number of students who may be enrolled per class/grade level, as well as the rate at which Odyssey may expand to full capacity, shall be as follows.

	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	Total
Year 1	50	100	75	50	50	0	0	325
Year 2	50	100	100	75	50	50	0	425
Year 3	75	100	100	100	75	50	50	550
Year 4	75	100	100	100	100	75	50	600
Year 5	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	700

C. Enrollment Policy. The School shall make student recruitment, admissions, enrollment and retention decisions in a nondiscriminatory manner and without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, sex, marital status, religion, ancestry, disability or need for special education services. In no event may the School limit admission based on race, ethnicity, national origin, disability, gender, income level, athletic ability, or proficiency in the English language. If there are more applications to enroll in the charter school than there are spaces available, the charter school shall select students to attend using a random selection process that shall be publicly noticed and open to the public. The School shall follow the enrollment policy approved by the Authorizer and incorporated into this agreement as Appendix H.

D. School Facilities. 1235 Jones Street, Idaho Falls, Idaho. The School shall provide reasonable notification to the Authorizer of any change in the location of its facilities.

E. Attendance Area. The School’s primary attendance area is as follows: Bonneville County, Jefferson Joint School District 251, and Shelley Joint School District 60.

F. Staff. Instructional staff shall be certified teachers as provided by rule of the state board of education. All full-time staff members of the School will be covered by the public employee retirement system, federal social security, unemployment insurance, worker’s compensation insurance, and health insurance.

G. Alignment with All Applicable Law. The School shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. In the event any such laws, rules, or regulations are amended, the School shall be bound by any such amendment upon the effective date of said amendment.

SECTION 6: SCHOOL FINANCE

- A. General.** The School shall comply with all applicable financial and budget statutes, rules, regulations, and financial reporting requirements, as well as the requirements contained in the School Performance Framework incorporated into this contract as Appendix F.
- B. Financial Controls.** At all times, the Charter School shall maintain appropriate governance and managerial procedures and financial controls which procedures and controls shall include, but not be limited to: (1) commonly accepted accounting practices and the capacity to implement them (2) a checking account; (3) adequate payroll procedures; (4) procedures for the creation and review of monthly and quarterly financial reports, which procedures shall specifically identify the individual who will be responsible for preparing such financial reports in the following fiscal year; (5) internal control procedures for cash receipts, cash disbursements and purchases; and (6) maintenance of asset registers and financial procedures for grants in accordance with applicable state and federal law.
- C. Financial Audit.** The School shall submit audited financial statements from an independent auditor to the Authorizer no later than October 15 of each year.
- D. Annual Budgets.** The School shall adopt a budget for each fiscal year, prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. The budget shall be in the Idaho Financial Accounting Reporting Management Systems (IFARMS) format and any other format as may be reasonably requested by the Authorizer.

SECTION 7: TERMINATION, NON-RENEWAL AND REVOCATION

- A. Termination by the School.** Should the School choose to terminate its Charter before the expiration of the Certificate, it may do so upon written notice to the Authorizer. Any school terminating its charter shall work with the Authorizer to ensure a smooth and orderly closure and transition for students and parents, as guided by the public charter school closure protocol established by the Authorizer attached as Appendix I.
- B. Nonrenewal.** The Authorizer may non-renew the Charter at the expiration of the Certificate if the School failed to meet one (1) or more of the terms of its Certificate. Any school which is not renewed shall work with the Authorizer to ensure a smooth and orderly closure and transition for students and parents, as guided by the public charter school closure protocol established by the Authorizer attached as Appendix I.
- C. Revocation.** The School's Charter may be revoked by the Authorizer if the School has failed to meet any of the specific, written renewal conditions attached, if applicable, as Appendix A for necessary improvements established pursuant to Idaho Code§ 33-5209B(1) by the dates specified. Revocation may not occur until

the public charter school has been afforded a public hearing, unless the Authorizer determines that continued operation of the public charter school presents an imminent public safety issue. If the School's Charter is revoked, the School shall work with the Authorizer ensure a smooth and orderly closure and transition for students and parents, as guided by the public charter school closure protocol established by the Authorizer attached as Appendix I.

- D. Dissolution.** Upon termination of the Charter for any reason by the Charter Board, or upon nonrenewal or revocation, the Charter Board will supervise and have authority to conduct the winding up of the business and other affairs of the School; provided, however, that in doing so the Authorizer will not be responsible for and will not assume any liability incurred by the School. The Charter Board and School personnel shall cooperate fully with the winding up of the affairs of the School.
- E. Disposition of School's Assets upon Termination or Dissolution.** Upon termination of the Charter for any reason, any assets owned by the School shall be distributed in accordance with Charter Schools Law.

SECTION 8: MISCELLANEOUS

- A. No Employee or Agency Relationship.** None of the provisions of this Certificate will be construed to create a relationship of agency, representation, joint venture, ownership, or employment between the Authorizer and the School.
- B. Additional Services.** Except as may be expressly provided in this Certificate, as set forth in any subsequent written agreement between the School and the Authorizer, or as may be required by law, neither the School nor the Authorizer shall be entitled to the use of or access to the services, supplies, or facilities of the other.
- C. No Third-Party Beneficiary.** This Certificate shall not create any rights in any third parties, nor shall any third party be entitled to enforce any rights or obligations that may be possessed by either party to this Certificate.
- D. Amendment.** This Certificate may be amended by agreement between the School and the Authorizer in accordance with Authorizer policy, attached as Appendix G. All amendments must be in writing and signed by the School and the Authorizer.

June 17, 2014

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Authorizer and the School have executed this Performance Certificate to be effective April 17, 2014.

Alan Reed

Chairman, Idaho Public Charter School Commission

Carrie Kumbler

Chairman, Odyssey Charter School Board

June 17, 2014

Appendix A: Conditions of Authorization/Renewal

Appendix B: Charter

Appendix C: Pre-Opening Requirements

Appendix D: Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

Appendix E: Board Roster

Appendix F: School Performance Framework

Appendix G: Authorizer Policies

Appendix H: Enrollment Policy

Appendix I: Public Charter School Closure Protocol

June 17, 2014

School: Odyssey Charter School, Inc.

Date: April 17, 2014

Pursuant to Section 33-5209B, Idaho Code, this performance certificate for Odyssey Charter School, Inc. (Odyssey) is subject to the following conditions:

1. Board Membership – Odyssey will return to, and remain in, compliance with Idaho statute, Odyssey’s approved charter, and the bylaws of Odyssey Charter School, Inc. with regard to the minimum number of members serving at any given time. Section 30-3-64 of the Idaho Nonprofit Corporation Act provides that “The board of directors must consist of three (3) or more individuals.” Tab 5 of Odyssey’s approved charter provides that the board will consist of five to seven members. Section 4 of Odyssey’s bylaws states that the number of board members “shall be fixed pursuant to resolutions adopted by the Board.” According to the bylaws, the first such resolution should have been made in July 2013.

This condition must be met by June 30, 2014.

2. Accreditation Candidacy – Odyssey will achieve accreditation candidacy status during the 2013-2014 school year.

This condition must be met by June 30, 2014.

3. Full Accreditation – Odyssey will obtain full accreditation during the 2014-2015 school year.

This condition must be met by June 30, 2015.

4. Special Education Compliance – Odyssey will return to, and remain in, compliance with state and federal special education requirements. This will include fulfillment of the corrective actions ordered by the Idaho State Department of Education in the Final Report regarding the Complain Investigation of Odyssey Charter School District #484, C-14-1-14, that was sent to the school on February 25, 2014.

This condition must be met by June 30, 2014.

5. Financial Planning – Odyssey will submit to the Public Charter School Commission (PCSC) office a complete, detailed financial plan for the remainder of FY14 and all of FY15. Such plan shall include budgets and monthly cash flow projections using PCSC templates. Such plan shall address the means by which Odyssey will mitigate known financial challenges including, but not limited to: costs associated with lawsuits filed against Odyssey, its board, or its employees; costs associated with returning to special education compliance; and low or declining enrollment.

This condition must be met by June 30, 2014.

June 17, 2014

6. Stakeholder Complaint Process – Odyssey will adopt and publish on its website a clear, thorough stakeholder complaint process. Such process shall include steps to be taken by complainants, all contact information necessary to follow such steps, and timelines and means by which Odyssey will respond to complainants. Such process shall specify that Odyssey will submit to the PCSC office copies of any complaints filed against the school, including lawsuits and complaints filed with the Professional Standards Commission relating to school employees, within five business days of receipt, pursuant to IDAPA 08.02.04.302. The process shall remain posted in a highly visible location on Odyssey’s website throughout the performance certificate term.

This condition shall be met by June 30, 2014.

7. Odyssey shall adopt and publish on its website a description of the ethical standards by which Odyssey’s governing board shall abide. Such description shall include, but not be limited to, a clear definition of the role of the board. The governing board’s ethical standards shall remain posted in a highly visible location on Odyssey’s website throughout the performance certificate term.

This condition shall be met by June 30, 2014.

Pursuant to I.C. 33-5209C(7), Odyssey’s charter may be revoked by the Public Charter School Commission if Odyssey fails to meet any of these specific, written conditions for necessary improvements by the dates specified.

June 17, 2014

Tamara Baysinger

From: Bryan and Mindy Stosich <thestosichfam@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 9, 2014 10:43 AM
To: Tamara Baysinger; Helen Pline
Subject: Odyssey Charter School HELP

I am writing to hopefully find answers about how to help my student who is currently attending Odyssey Charter School in Idaho Falls. Let me quickly give you some background: We have been looking for alternatives to the local high schools and have two children in the American Heritage Charter School. I have a son who is a sophomore and was attending Skyline High School. We were hoping to find a better environment with a change of schools for him in January. We tried to enroll him with Inspire (Idaho's Connection Academy) but could not seem to get the paperwork processed or anyone who could answer questions on the phone. Usually we couldn't reach anyone. We were very frustrated when Inspire started school after Christmas break and we still hadn't been able to work out the enrollment issues. We didn't want him starting late so we looked in to Odyssey. It was the middle of a trimester for him but Karl Peterson assured us that he could work out the credits and he wouldn't be behind starting with them on semesters. We have had some issues with friends at the school and so I recently spent the day with my son at Odyssey. I was shocked to see the unprofessional manner the school is run in. The buildings themselves were a sight let alone the teaching! The quality of students made me feel that I was in an alternative school rather than a charter school! Since then we have been taking my son to school, picking him up during lunch and immediately after school in order to limit his time there. We were hoping to get him through the remainder of the school year (there were only 6 weeks left at the time of my visit) and take his credits and move him in the fall. Now I am hearing rumor that Odyssey is not even accredited!!! I don't know if this is true. I don't know what that will mean for my sophomore losing possibly 2 trimesters of credit. I am looking for answers and help. If you would please contact me and give me some information of what is true and what is not, where to start making up the this mistake I have made for my son and how we can salvage his education I would so much appreciate it.

Mindy Stosich
208 313-2478

June 17, 2014

Tamara Baysinger

From: Gmail Brian <stutzmanbrian@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2014 10:48 PM
To: Tamara Baysinger
Subject: Odyssey Charter School in Idaho Falls is Fantastic!

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Tamara Baysinger,

Odyssey Charter School in Idaho Falls is fantastic! We have an 8th grader and a 7th grader at this school and it has been a huge blessing for our family. Our 8th grader said tonight, out of the blue, "I really like Odyssey." And this is from a boy. My kids look forward to school. And the 7th grader is also a boy. The school is growing, we are coming back, and bringing friends with us. While every new organization has growing pains, the folks who are running Odyssey are doing a fantastic job with the students.

I just wanted to report what a great school this is, that is working for many families including my own, and to say thank you to those in charge of charter schools and those in other aspects of state oversight. Odyssey is great!

Brian Stutzman
Idaho Falls
208-681-7640 cell
Box 159
Iona, ID 83427
stutzmanbrian@gmail.com

June 17, 2014

Tamara Baysinger

From: Angel Brockbank <angel@servicequest.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2014 7:55 AM
Subject: Odyssey Charter School

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Morning,

I wanted to share with you our experience with our daughter going to Odyssey Charter School. Victoria was in the 6th grade this year and we were looking for a school that could really help her to develop character and make learning fun. We decided on Odyssey for a few reasons. 1) They had some great curriculum about 7 habits of highly effective people. I believe that children at this age should learn about building character, respect, honesty, great habits, and a healthy self image just as much as normal school curriculum. 2) They had a project based learning. This was a new approach for us and I wanted to try this with my daughter to see if she would retain more of what she learned and enjoy it as well. 3) I was impressed with the faculty. The principal and teachers were all impressive and clearly there because they believed in this concept of project based learning with added important principles.

I have been impressed with the approach that they have taken with their school and I wish that every school took the approach to think outside the box and about about what is important for children to be learning besides the basics ABC/123, as well as the most effective approach for them to learn.

Thank you for your time,

-Angel-

--
Angel Brockbank
208-360-2806
angel@servicequest.com

June 17, 2014

Tamara Baysinger

From: Chris Peterson <cpeterson@theaterfactory.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2014 8:23 AM
To: Tamara Baysinger
Subject: Aubrey James

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Mrs. James asked me to forward this on to each of you as her internet is down. She wrote this from her iphone.
Thank you,
Chris Peterson

From: Aubrey James <aubreyannsmith@gmail.com>
Date: June 3, 2014, 4:33:14 PM MDT
To: Aubreyannsmith@gmail.com

Our experience at Odyssey has been a very positive experience for me as a parent & my daughter as a student, Mesa & her friend Kaycie have really enjoyed their 7th grade year at Odyssey, she never complained once about getting up & going to school as it was an exciting experience for her. I have seen many positive changes in my daughter during the school year as she started out below grade level in her reading & is now above her grade level. We would recommend Odyssey to anyone looking for a great school & we are super excited about coming back next year! ;)

Sincerely, Aubrey James

Sent from my iPhone

June 17, 2014

Jessica Peterson
883 South 5th West
Apartment #8
Rexburg Idaho 83440

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to share some of my experiences as a teacher during my year with Odyssey Charter School and why I am greatly looking forward to a second year of teaching at this charter. I have been teaching Yearbook, PE, Typing, and Journalism as electives for the school grades 6 through 8 and have witnessed a vast amount of student growth and development. I have also experienced remarkable teacher collaboration with some of the staff members at the school which has made my experience at Odyssey very enjoyable.

As a first year teacher, it can be intimidating to jump right into to having 4 different and unique classes to prep and plan for. However, with the great support of a few teachers such as Mrs. Jessen, Ms. Ludlow, and Mrs. Hughes, I have had the help I have needed with creating lesson plans, brainstorming project ideas, and learning how to effectively incorporate the Common Core and State Standards into my curriculum. Grateful for their help and mentoring, I feel secure in my teaching methods and am confident in the subjects. They are always available to help, and have been very willing to give of their personal time to help and benefit this school and it's students.

As a teacher who mostly focuses on the electives of the school, I have had the wonderful opportunity to witness a large amount of student growth and development. It has been astonishing to me as we reach the end of this year to reflect on student's levels of ability during the first month of school and compare that to where they are now. Students are constantly sharing with me how proud they are of their improvements in reading, writing, and math.

If you had asked one of my students at the beginning of the year to write a simple paragraph for a warm-up, he would have groaned and moaned and I would have to sit with him just to get anything done. Recently he came to class bragging to me about how much he loved writing and how he is working on his very own novel. Experiences like these are the moments teachers live for and it just made me beam with pride.

My experience with Odyssey Charter School has been a very pleasant one and I am looking forward to coming back next year. If there is anything I can help with, or if there are any questions I can help answer, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Jessica Peterson
(208)357-6331
jpeterson@ocharter.org

June 17, 2014

Tamara Baysinger

From: ANDREW WHITFORD <andrew_whitford1@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2014 10:41 AM
To: Tamara Baysinger
Subject: Odyssey Charter School

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I am writing you to tell you of my experience with Odyssey Charter School. When I first found out about Odyssey it was just a petition that sounded exciting. I then read the petition and fell in love with the idea. My husband and I wanted this experience for our children so much that we started devoting hundreds of hours to making it happen. I was homeschooling one of my children at the time and the other two were going to two different schools so that I could try to meet the needs of each of my individual children.

The child that I was homeschooling through the district really struggles due to a processing disorder and ADHD. He was on an IEP, going to counseling, Occupational Therapy, and had a PSR worker that he met with every week for several hours. Due to his disabilities he struggled socially which had led to us pulling him from standard public school in the first place. I have to admit that even though I saw the vision of Odyssey I was still not sure if it would be enough to help my son. He started the year off as kind of an experiment. My husband and I were willing to pull him at any time and home school again if it wasn't working for him.

What happened this year for him is nothing short of a miracle. He is no longer on an IEP because he no longer needs the accommodations. Odyssey has taught him the skills he needed to do it on his own. He only needs a 504 now to allow for additional time on assignments. He has graduated from PSR and his social skills have soared. He is now one of the more widely liked boys in school. He no longer needs counseling and has turned into the young man that we always knew he could be. The change in him is amazing! Not only is he doing better in school but he is doing better at home.

This last semester he started playing the upright bass in orchestra. He has picked that up so quickly and is even thinking about playing it in college. He has also loved the drama program and it has helped him to come out of his shell. He even played a big part in the school's fundraiser play as the mirror who had a sense of humor. He is not the same kid who started this school year out.

My other two children are soaring also. I love that the school is not only able but willing to help my struggling and my advanced student. My kids LOVE to come to school and every time that I ask them how their day went they can only give me good reports.

Odyssey is a school that our community needs not only now but in the long run for our children's futures. There is nothing else like it.

Amy Whitford

June 17, 2014

Tamara Baysinger

From: susannah pipkin <pipkids@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2014 3:52 PM
To: Tamara Baysinger
Subject: Odyssey Charter School

June 3, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of seven children and two of those children attend Odyssey Charter School. I have an 8th grader and a 6th grader. Both of these children are receiving Special Education services. I have noticed as a parent how hard our new Special Ed director Mrs. Kennik, has worked to service not only my children but others as well. She tried hard to resolve any concerns I have had, with diplomacy. She has tried hard to create effective IEPs for my children.

I have witnessed our 6th grade teacher Mrs. Inglet spend long hours after school preparing for her classroom. I have seen her handle misbehavior from students in a very fair manner. She has had to contact me on occasion to hold my son accountable and I have been impressed that she not only loves her students but also has expectations for them to achieve. I am so impressed with Mrs. Inglet that she is the reason that I enrolled another one of my kids in Odyssey for next fall. I have also been very impressed with our principal Mr. Peterson. He has been very diplomatic and extremely patient when I have had concerns. When he has had to correct my son he has done so fairly and I highly value his ability to be very level headed and patient. I have had experience with many principals over the years and I have to say that Mr. Peterson is by far my favorite.

Odyssey Charter School makes extra efforts to improve their school. For instance they have had summer get togethers so that the students can get to know each other. Also they have made the effort to bring in an education trainer from the Ron Clark academy. In addition, the administration comes to the choir and orchestra concerts to show their support for the students as well.

I hope those that are in the position to make decisions that effect Odyssey will consider how many families are happy with this school and how many lives will be affected. Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Susannah Pipkin

June 17, 2014

Tamara Baysinger

From: Tringle Witt <tringlewitt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2014 6:14 AM
To: tringlewitt@yahoo.com
Subject: Odyssey Charter School

We were hesitant at first when we thought to enroll our kids at Odyssey Charter School, but the philosophies which they espoused were intriguing and more closely fit my hope for education for my children. We had three children enrolled at Odyssey this year, and they had some great experiences.

My oldest child is very bright, but doesn't like to work at school. For years I have struggled to get her to do her homework and turn things in on time, etc. She really came alive at Odyssey and even went above and beyond in many projects – because she was motivated at school to do so. She had such a positive experience at school this year. When she let her studies slip, we considered sending her to a different school, and she quickly got back on track so she could still go to Odyssey.

My second child struggled for years in school and never made any friends. She is very smart and always does well in studies, but we have always been concerned about her social life. At Odyssey she found several really good close friends, and is doing very socially. The elective and extra-curricular activities offered at Odyssey that my daughter has experienced has also helped her to grow. She picked up a violin for the first time this year, and through the great experiences and instruction is confident and playing well. She has found her niche in choir as well, and these groups have given her great experiences that have helped her grow. She is very advanced in math and sciences, and the robotics program helped foster that kind of thinking and gave her yet another thing to work on and excel at.

School has not come so easily for my third child. Most of this comes from previous bad experiences in other schools where teachers have told him that he can't. At Odyssey he has received the help and encouragement to conquer this. He has had teachers that have expected great things from him and he has not disappointed. He has loved the robotics program and the projects that he has done in other classes have caused him to think and create and learn even when he is not required to. Already he has educational projects planned for the summer. This is what I would have hoped for my son.

We have three very different students at Odyssey, with three very different needs and experiences. For a first year school, I have to say that we went from being hesitant to quite impressed at the possibilities and the potential is for this kind of learning for many different kinds of students. We believe that next year will be even better, and we plan on enrolling a fourth child at Odyssey, and recommend it to our friends that are displeased with their current educational situations.

Josh and Tringle Witt

June 17, 2014

I am Matthew Chambers and I attend Odyssey Charter School as a sixth grader. Last year I went to Mountain Valley but I like Odyssey better because it has four day weeks.

Things I like about school -

I like that there is no school on Friday. And the teachers are amazing and fun.

Thing I wish we could change-

The Chromebooks are too small for my big hands and fingers and it makes it difficult to type and finish work.

and The cost of the polo shirts that cost my family too much money.

Things about school-

New students are welcomed at the school by sliding down a big slide.

The school offers jackets that can be earned for students when they excel in school.

Next year-

I would like to see more cool assemblies held at the school.

I would also like to go on more field trips that involved science and math.

These are some of the ideas I have come up with that could make Odyssey Charter School a better school.

June 17, 2014

Hi my name is Summer Michelle Gaines I love Odyssey Charter School it is the best I have been to because I have the best of friends here (Anishas one of them) I just love my friends like I do my family yes we can get into fights but its not about that, its about how much they care about you and love you as much as Mrs. Babushka she was fun I loved her so much I'm sad that she had to leave but I will always remember her just like I can remember you and I hope you will always remember me just like I will remember you I just love this school I hope you do too.

I came here with the help of my good friend Tasha she is so nice she helped me convince my mom into coming to this school and I love her for that I'm just so happy for that I just want you to know that you're so awesome I just love being in your class its always so fun and you're so funny I just hope I stay until I'm in 10th grade I'm just loving it here at the school I never want to leave and I hope you never leave us in this school I just can't imagine the school without you like the school without you would be a nightmare (kinda is but you make it easier) but you take the weight off my shoulders and you make it fun to learn and I just can't imagine life without you I hope you feel the same way I feel towards the classes.

Man do I hate typing so badly it's just just so boring OMG do I just want to go home and sleep just want to sleep so badly I just want to take this pc home and type their but I can't I wish I had a computer at home but I don't so yeah I guess I died in 5th hour I was so bored like I am today on the 12 of March 2014 which is sad so I just don't want to watch the assembly in 6th hour I'm so excited Mrs. Peterson will get pied today.

I want to come every year after this one I want to have fun with you and know you for as long as I can remember and say, "Yeah I had the best teacher in 6th grade I miss her so much it feels like I can visit her and I will someday visit her at school and maybe sub for her" (when you come back I have a flower for you) and I want you to know its hard to express anything to my teachers (even if their female) I just don't know why its just so weird like I hated telling them anything that I needed or something it's weird I know thats just how I am.

What I liked about Ron Clark was that they have a slide inside the school and I think its the coolest thing I've ever seen don't you? I liked Ron Clark because of the jackets the kid got to have when they had good straight As' & Bs' and a nice personality and has nice manners and is nice to everyone that crosses their path and I think thats a good thing. I just loved watching the kids have fun with each other and their teachers like the original Ron Clark I was happy seeing the kids have so much fun and you could see the kids loved that school. It was just magical like I loved it and it was like all of them were family and like everyone loved everyone and they had so much fun that i wanted to be their and be with them having fun I feel so weird now it just doesn't make sense

June 17, 2014

I'm Brittney Whitford, and I go to the one and only "Odyssey Charter School". I am going to Odyssey This year 2013-2014. The school that I went to last year it was called "Cloverdale Elementary School?". I am glad that I came here to Odyssey because I love it here it is one of my favorite schools ever! My Mom made me come here because she was on the board she is not any more though, I did NOT want to come to odyssey but I am GLAD that I did! I have best friends and I love all the teachers and all the classes.

What I really like about Odyssey Charter School is all the teachers. One of my favorite awesomest teachers is mis. Inglet she is awesome. She is one of the huge main reasons that I want to come to this best school ever next year. And I hope to come here till I graduate. I am glad that she works here at Odyssey Charter School.

This is one thing that I would really like to change. I would like it if we had just have more field trips. I really like to have the field trips I wish that we could go to more places around idaho. I wish that we could do more things and people would know who we are instead of people not knowing who we are. That is why I want to have more field trips.

this is one thing that I saw at R.C.H school. I wish that we could have the swirly slide and we could be able to slide down it. I think that it would be really fun to do it and it would be an opportunity to do it. I think that it would make our school more fun and more exciting. I think that would be awesome for our school.

This is one some things I would like to do this year. I would like to do more things outside. I think that it would be fun to do more things outside. I wish that we could do P.E. outside more often. I think that it could be fun to maybe have tables out side sometimes when it is nicer outside. So I wish that we could do more things outside.

I love odyssey it is my favorite school ever. The teachers are the best teachers I have ever seen They are really good teachers. I also love the school here because there is NO

BULLYING here. I also adore that everyone at odyssey is so nice. I love it here and I want to stay here till I graduate. I hope that everyone else loves this school.

Things About Odyssey

Hi this is Bleak I go to Odyssey Charter School, I decided to go to Odyssey because there are so many wonderful things about it. Last year i went to Jefferson Elementary School. I left that school because the teachers were not very nice and I got bullied a lot.

Some of the things I like are the dress code, the teachers, Fridays off, that it is project base learning, how much time we get to read, the physical education class, the lunches, and how nice and great friends all of the students are. I like the dress code here because it keeps kids from being bullied about their clothes and their wealth, and they at least let you were what ever color you want. I love how nice, kind, and caring all of the teachers are and Mrs. Inglet dresses up silly and makes it so us kids have tons of fun. I like how we get Fridays off, it gives me time to do whatever I want to, and one time I even got to go to school in Rigby for a Friday with my friend, the good news is I didn't really like it. I like the project base learning because it teaches us to work in groups and do a lot of projects. I love how Mrs. Inglet lets us read for 30 minutes. I love how Mrs. Peterson lets us choose the lesson in our physical education class and be the teacher for the day it is so fun and easy. I have lots of friends and they are all so nice.

Some of the things I would like to change are the math, the science, I would like dangling earrings to be allowed, untucked necklaces, and little heels. I am not very good at math or science and that is why I want to change those. I would like us girls to be allowed to wear dangling earrings so we can express ourselves a more and have fun. I would also like untucked necklaces and high heel to be allowed for that reason.

Some of the things I saw that I wish we could do are more field trips, bungee jumping, slide, and the school jacket. I would like more field trips so we can have more fun at school and kids would look forward to something awesome (not that we don't). I think the bungee jumping would be a good reward for doing good work and having good grades. I think the slide would be so fun and special because, what kind of school has a slide except Ron Clark's. I think the school jacket would be fun to have and it encourages kids to have fun and learn at the same time.

The things I would like to have this upcoming year are high heels, necklaces, more field trips, and the school jacket. I would like high heels at least a little medium bump because I don't know about other girls but I love to be tall even though I am taller than

June 17, 2014

Things about Odyssey

I'm Kyona Bolinder and I like Odyssey Charter School it's the best. The school I went to last year was Firth and I was so lonely. I left because you could not make any friends you could never fit in. There are so many amazing things about Odyssey that everyone enjoys because it's fantastic. So you really need to go to this wonderful school we always have room for more amazing children. So maybe next year your fantastic children will come here and have an amazing time with us. Also like this school because it's very small and my last school was huge.

Things that I love about our school is how nice and caring the teachers are. I also love how there is practically no homework. Something that is my favorite is the food it is so good it's way better than my last school it was all canned. My friends well they are so nice and caring I and I have tons of them here I had one at my last school. This school is also my favorite because they provide Chromebooks which like no schools do.

Things I would like to change are I want to be able to wear regular high heels because girls like to wear them and they are so lovely. Also something I would like to change is I want logos because a lot of people wear sweaters with logos and it's a little hard to find one that doesn't. Hats, I want to change that rule because I really love pretty hats so many other people do also. I know we get more lunch than other schools but we are growing kids and we get hungry more. I know this might not happen but I want digital clocks they are so much easier to read.

Things I saw in the Ron Clark pictures is a slide because we should be able to earn tickets and be able to go on the slide. I kinda want to have music during class it sounds so fun to do. Dancing would be fun especially in class only made up math songs though. Field trips like in the pictures well we didn't see any but they go everywhere and it sounds amazing to be able to go around the world. Also maybe we should get the privilege just like the first sentence and get tickets so we can jump on a trampoline.

Things I want to possibly do this year is maybe go to jump for a day. We could also maybe go to the movies, but maybe not that's a little spendy for some people. Only if we could get a suggestion box some people would just die for that like me. Ice cream we could go get that maybe on the last day of school.

I love Odyssey Charter School it's the best! This school is the smallest school I have been to, but it's the most amazing. Please sign your kids up here they will just adore this magnificent place. Odyssey is so amazing you will not want to leave you will cry when

June 17, 2014

Odyssey charter school

This is the stuff I don't like in the school. This is also about what I like about RCA. This is also for what I want next year. Also this what I like about Odyssey. Well lets get started.

I love that we have fun during school and we can choose our own electives. I also like the idea of intro to drama thing. Also I love the idea of German. I also enjoy the after school classes like tract, climbing(the school used to do it),cross country, and robotics. Also I like P.E.

What I like about the Ron Clark Academy is the tramp,which I also think we should have. The house idea would be awesome. Also I like the idea where we get to write on the desks. I think we should also get computers like them. I also like the spin thing in it and the house it lands on gets a prize.

Well I think that we should get that stuff. I also would like the teachers to be nicer. It Would be a little more fair for the students. Also I think they should have the tramp. Well thats the end of that.

June 17, 2014

Why I Attend Odyssey

My name is Kaldon Witt I enjoy attending to Odyssey Charter School. I have attended to many different schools but this one has got to be the best. Hopefully I will be at Odyssey for until I graduate. I love coming to school each morning.

The things that I like about Odyssey Charter School is first the teachers. I like how most of them do project based learning. Mr. Walker had us do a project where we bounced around the room like atoms. When the air cooled down we would slowly drift normally around but when the air heated up we went to the middle of the room. I also like the teachers I love that the teacher work hard so that we can learn and get a good college degree. I like the lunch I love that the lunch room has a microwave because our old school didn't let us use the teachers microwave so we had to eat our home lunch freezing cold and they didn't care. That is why I love awesome Odyssey.

The first thing that I want to change about Odyssey Charter school is Next year want to have any kind of clothes as long as there nice. I also want to have rolling chairs or comfy chairs. The thing that I want to have most of all want all the teacher to have class pets like a lizard or a dog or even a really fat hamster that needs a workout. I want to learn more being outside and not inside.

the things that I like about the Ron Clark academy first is I want a slide one of those big winding slide. I also want to be as cool and as wide known as The Ron Clark Academy. I want to also want to have the have the houses like the cool Ron Clark academy.

The first thing that I want to change about Odyssey Charter school is first I want to have our own computer that is brand new that the school never touches that we can bring home. the next thing that I want to change the school hours from 8 till 4:30 to 12 till 8:30. And I want to have big locker and after that.

I hope you liked my writing on why I

Odyssey Charter

My name is Emma Grover I'm a student of Odyssey. I have been homeschooled all my life and I wanted to have a fresh start. We started school August 26. What I came here for was project based learning.

I Like

I love the Teachers here. I like how nice and fun they are. I can't imagine if they left the school I would miss them so much. Also I like that they are creating fun stuff, funny and really fun. I like that we have the dress code. I like that we have the P.E. classes. I also like that the school is project based.

I Want to Change

What I didn't like was that we did not have lockers. We should have some lockers. I think that we need lockers. Why do we need lockers? So we can put Homework, book's and stuff that we can't hold if are backpack is too full. And if we could have lockers in school.

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I liked that you can bungee jump and go down the slide. I also like about it that if you work hard you can win a jacket. I think it would be good that we if we (classes) could like to have one of the tables that you can write on it. I would like to go to the 8th grade contest.

June 17, 2014

Why hello there! I must have missed you on the way in! I'm Douglas, a student at Odyssey charter school, a new school that just opened up this year in sunny Idaho Falls, Idaho! Well I guess I should tell you about our school now that I got you interested. I decided to come here because I was disappointed that my old school had to have students parents volunteer to teach music or sometimes gym and we only had those classes once a week where as here we get gym or our electives everyday and they actually have teachers for those classes.

Well, I better tell you about the schools features now that I gotcha hooked. Well i believe that just about everyone agrees that the best part of our school is that we don't have school on friday,also this close to none homework deal is just about everyones favorite part of school. We have an amazing faculty as well,(don't tell the other teachers but Mrs. Inglet is by far the best teacher here,that stays a secret.)Even better though, we have some of the best students around.

Although this is the closest you can get to a perfect school, we do have some things that if we changed would make it not just more efficient but more fun as well. I think that maybe we can take more field trips and also take field trips in more than one class, because gym is the only class we take field trips in. Also we can take more out of town field trips like going to Salt Lake City or just going anywhere farther than 10 minutes into town like the time we went to the Idaho falls rec center,(that was fun but going to Salt lake sounds more fun.) Another thing we could do is have more after school activities. And my personal favorite is maybe we could buy the big field across the street so that we could play soccer or football on the dirt and grass instead of the concrete.

But we have lots of things that make this school great and that we should keep, such as the dress code, which makes it so in the mornings you're not scrambling around looking for a shirt that you forgot you threw out years ago versus right now you just find a polo and pants then your done! Also we should stick with daily reading, I LOVE daily reading in Mrs. Inglet's class. Lots and lots of projects are GREAT!!, so much fun all the time!, well sign me up! And like I said before, the close to none homework is amazing.

And now the very small list of things I don't like here at school. Well my mom works here which isn't that bad but sometimes it is but not often. And math is something I don't really like but no matter where I go I get the feeling I won't like math. I would like our drama department to put on more plays. And my least favorite thing. The fact that my choir class has had 3 concerts so far and is having one at the end of the school year so altogether we have 4 concerts and I would personally like a lot more.

Odyssey Charter School

My name is Miriam Martinez, and I attend to Odyssey Charter School in Idaho Falls. Last year I went to Midway Elementary in Menan. It was fun but I like this school a lot better. I decided to come to Odyssey because there is no school on Friday, and it is not very crowded.

I love just about everything at Odyssey Charter School. I love Mrs. Inglet and the teachers and staff at Odyssey. I really like the dress code. The lunches are delicious. It's nice not having any school on Fridays. Odyssey is a wonderful place to go to school.

There are a few things I would like to change about Odyssey. I would like the dress code to be changed a little bit so that the girls can wear necklaces and small dangly earrings. A vending machine would be a fun thing to have. I think it would be nice if everyone had a computer of their own. I'd love it if everyone would stop leaving the school. I hope that some or all of these things can be changed.

Ron Clark Academy did lots of fun things that I wish we could do here. First, I would love to have a slide. It would be lots of fun to go on a few more field trips. I really like the idea of being put in different houses. I also think it would be fun to be able to earn school jackets. It would be fun to do some of these things from Ron Clark Academy.

There are a few things that we can't do this year but would be fun to do next year at Odyssey Charter School. I would like to have lots of enjoyable assemblies. It would be super fun to go to an amusement park. I think Ron Clark should come to our school in person. I'd really like to have a field day at the end of the school year. Next year would be more enjoyable if we could do some of these things.

This school is wonderful. I have told my siblings all about it and they all like to come. I think that this school would be more enjoyable if some of the things I have talked about could be used. I'd really like to graduate from Odyssey. I hope this school doesn't ever close.

June 17, 2014

My name is James Maughan I go to Odyssey Charter. Last Year I went to Rimrock Elementary. I hated it. Then I found out about Odyssey, My Parents said we could try it out this year. So here I am I guess.

I like Odyssey, it's a ok school and I really like it. I enjoy getting to wear any colored polos and being project based. I also like not having school on friday. I like being able to talk to other kids and have fun. Thats some of the stuff I like about Odyssey.

Things I don't like about Odyssey are. I don't think were treated responsible enough. I would like to be treated more responsible. I also want to be able to wear hats. Thats some of the things I want to change.

Things I saw at Ron Clark I liked were, The field trips. I'd like to go on field trips all over the world. I also liked the cool class rooms and I liked the slide. I also liked the idea of houses and points.

Things I want to do next year are. I want to be able wear hats and jackets. I also want to go on field trips around the world, I would love to have a slide and do houses. Those are some things i'd like to have next year.



Odyssey Charter School

Hi, my name is Emily Whiting and I attend Odyssey Charter School in Idaho Falls Idaho. Odyssey is an amazing school! The school I went to last year was White Pine Charter School it was in Idaho Falls /Ammon Idaho. The reason why I came to this school is because my family hates hard homework.

The things I love about Odyssey are: In Mrs. Inglet's class we get to read 30 minutes each wonderful day and I love reading! The dress code is spectacular compared to my old school. We actually get to wear jeans and any color of polo we want here. The teachers, staff, and the principal are all brilliant. They help me a lot here. Even if I need help with my friends fighting or me feeling down. I also love how we have very exciting electives. Especially Intro to theater. I think this school is AWESOME!

The things I would like to change about this school are: The lunches are way too expensive! They're \$3.00 each day! That's why I can never have hot lunch. At lunch there is hardly anything to do outside and I get bored really easy. Also It is very boring in class. I would like to be more active in class and I want more fun projects. I want to wear pretty dangly earrings and necklaces really bad. I just like wearing them because it makes me feel beautiful inside. That's what I would like to change about this school.

Ron Clark Academy is very cool. Some of the things they have I wish we had. Like a long, extraordinary, slippery slide. It would be really fun and it would help us not be bored and tired at lunch. Field trips are so fun, exciting, extraordinary and awesome to go on! Ron Clark Academy goes almost everywhere! I wish we could go on lots and lots of fun field trips. Like Lagoon. Going on amazing field trip would make me overjoyed! The paintings on the walls of the classrooms are so awesome and amazing! I wish we could do that. Especially the drama room. The Harry Potter houses at Ron Clark are an amazing idea. It would be really fun to do that and I would love the houses because I love Harry Potter! I hope we can do these things at our school.

Next year I would like to have more amazing fun. I want to go on more amazing field trips. I want to learn way more. The last finally thing, I want Ron Clark to come to our school. That's what I would like to do next year.

June 17, 2014

My name is Aidyn Ogden, and I attend Odyssey Charter school this year. I am 12 year's old and I am in 6th grade. I really like it here and it is a lot more fun than what I did last year I did k12 home school and it was not as fun as this. I have not been to public school since kindergarten and so far I have lots of friends.

What I love about this awesome school is all my wonderful teachers. They are very good teachers they actually help us more than teachers in other schools. And I also like all my friends that I have here it is very fun to eat lunch with them. I love reading for thirty minutes every morning and night I did not read much before I came here and now I read a lot. I love all the activities we do like field trips all the projects in Mrs. Inglets class right as we get done with one project we do another, and we never stop having fun.

Some thing's I would like to change are I would like to go on more field trips cause the only class we do field trips in is in p.e. And I would like to have every one to have their own chromebook to take home for homework because some kids either don't have a computer or their parents won't let them use the one they have at home. And I would like it if we could have a day where everyone could wear a hat. I think we should also get some t-shirts and jackets made with our school logo on them that we can wear once in a while.

Some things I saw that I wish I could do I would like to do trips to places like the Ron Clark school does because I think that would be very fun. I Also wish that we could do more projects in other classes like we do in social studies. I want to do the houses that they did in Ron Clark that looked very fun. And I would like to do the bungee jump thing to that looked awesome.

Some things I want to do next year are to go on some more field trips in other classes. And I would like to have some more class party's. And have a day we could all wear a hat because there are some kids who really want to. And I would like to have a day where we could watch movie's in reading and social studies.

I am Aidyn Ogden and I am attending Odyssey Charter this year. And I am going next year too. And my goal is to work as hard as I can in school. And stay as long as I can. And I really like it here and I have lots of fun.

Odyssey Charter School

Hi my name is Kaidin schneiderhan and I am 12 years old. I loved being home schooled. Last year my awesome Aunt Jacqi taught us in her basement last year. My cousin Abby and I thought that it was a little hard for her to teach six kids. Then Abby's and my mom found Odyssey. We were scared at first, I just didn't like school so I really didn't want to go. Later on my mom talked us in to going so we were then ready

Once I went to Odyssey I felt very at home. One of the things I love about Odyssey are that everyone is friendly. I have not seen any bullies. Another thing I like is that Odyssey provides computers. The schools I attended to don't do that. And that is what I like about Odyssey.

Some things about Odyssey that I would like changed are 1) I would really like to go outside for math and learn more about perimeter or something. And 2) I would enjoy getting digital clocks because sixth graders can already tell time. If we could do that school would be a lot better.

I love Odyssey, and everything it offers. This year I would really like go on more field trips. I feel that learning will be more exciting if we do that. I would aslo enjoy if the teachers got on tables or stands and made a rap up so it would help with learning a lot. The one thing I would really want is to have one day where Oddessy will let anyone check out a book like a library. Then you don't have to go there.

I would want to do a lot of things this year, like get a huge new gymnasium so we can have a lot more classes in there and not just use it for P.E. Another thing I would want to do is have big big classrooms so 6th graders can team with 8th graders to work on a project and get points for team effort. I think that would help us a lot more to learn something faster.

After all Odyssey is a pretty cool school. There are computers to use for free, good friends, good teachers, awesome subjects to teach, and Odyssey makes you feel very at home. It's weird how it all began in a basement with my aunt teaching me. And now you can see why I love Odyssey.

June 17, 2014

Things about Odyssey

By Crystal Felgenhauer

Hi my name is Crystal Felgenhauer and I am 12 years old. I go to Odyssey Charter School. It is such a spectacular school! Last year I went to Stuart. I decided to come here because I didn't like my old school that much. I didn't like it because I didn't get the help I needed. I found out about this school from my best friend. I am writing this because I really like Odyssey and I am really glad that I got to come here.

Some of the things I love about Odyssey is the teaching style. I love that there is almost no homework because I get to spend more time with my family. I also like that there is no school on Fridays. I love the teachers and the projects that we do. I love that we get to use Chromebooks. I like them because at my old school we had regular computers and I think it is really cool that we get to use the Chromebooks.

Some of the things I would change about Odyssey is the behavior in the classes. I think it is way too noisy in most of the classes. When it is really noisy it is hard for me to concentrate.

Some of the things I wish we could this year, do is I wish we that could travel and go on more field trips. I wish we could have a day when we could wear whatever we wanted as long it is appropriate. I would want to have a day that we could go skiing for the day. I would like to get lockers so we could keep our things in there and we wouldn't have to carry all our stuff around. I would like lockers because I have a lot of thing that I have to keep track of and carry around.

The things I like about the Ron Clark Academy, is I like that when you have good grades for a while you get a jacket. I like that they get to go around the world and go to different states or countries. I really like that they have houses and the slide.

Those are some of the amazing things about Odyssey. School is here is so much fun. Those are some of the things I like and don't like about Odyssey. I hope you can see how much I really like this school.

June 17, 2014

I am Ethan Whiting from Idaho Falls and I am 12 years old. Last year I went to White Pine Charter School. But this year I am going to the best school ever Odyssey Charter School it is a very good school because they are project base school, and thats what I wanted. Then I will plan to stay here till 12th grade because this is such a great school.

Some of the stuff I like is the teachers that really make us dream big, not little like Mrs. Inglet. She is always making us dream big not small. I also like how we do tons of projects, and how everyone is nice to me, and no bullying happens in this school. I also like that we have no school on friday because It gives me time to do things that I like to do, and I get to sleep more than other people. Then I like how we have LOW homework because it lets me spend more time with my family, and friends. That is why I love and adore this school.

I would like to get off school at 3:00 p.m - 3:20 p.m because I get home late and I get to do nothing with my family that much, and I would like to change that. Then I would like to go to more places so we can explore the world more and see new things that we have never seen but want to see. Then I would like to do more projects and more hand on stuff with the teachers. Then I would like to do more plays in drama and to raise money for the school so we can go places. this is some of the stuff I want to happen in this school.

Things I wish we could do that I saw at the Ron Clark Academy. I wish that we could have more fun things the students can do at lunch because it get a little boring. Then I would like to go on more trips to explore new places outside of the USA or Idaho. Then I would like to have a commons area for the students to have fun and hangout with friends. Then I would like the houses thing so it would make it much easier to earn stuff and have fun. So this is some I wish for us to do from Ron Clark's school.

Things I want to do next year.. First I would want to go on more trips to explore more like I said. Then I would like to do more dances for 6th - 7th grade so we can raise money and have fun as a school. Then I would like to have more activities after school and make them a little cheaper. Then I would like to change school time to 3:00 p.m so we have more time at home after school. This is some the stuff I would really really like to do next year.

Thats why I go to Odyssey Charter because it is the best school ever. Then I hope to come here till I graduate 12th grade. Because it is such a good school and I love the project base school.

Odyssey Charter School

By: Anisha Reynolds

My name is Anisha Reynolds. This year I attend the stupendous Odyssey Charter School! Last year I went to Hillview Elementary. I'm so glad that I started Odyssey! It is so much more fun than regular schools. During the summer I met super Mrs. Peterson (Principal's Wife) and awesome Mrs. Peterson (Computer Teacher) at the fantastically, fanatic farmers market while my mom and I headed home from the sweet library. The way they talked about the school had me begging my mom to come here, so here I am.

These are things I love about this school. I absolutely adore the way the spectacularly super-sweet teachers really do care about the students. The way they use their own money to buy excellent books or amazing experiment supplies as if they were our parents! I really enjoy reading every morning, because I never have felt like I've had enough reading (unless you count reading under the desk...) in all my other schools. I enjoy having less homework. I'm extremely glad that we have beautiful Fridays off, it gives me my unbelievably much needed rest. I love everything about this school!

There are some things I would like to change. I believe we should be able to wear nice long, untucked necklaces. Or we should definitely be able to wear cute dangly earrings. I think we should have more field-trips in each class. I feel that I, surprisingly, learn better actively, such as if we were learning about doctors or human anatomy we could visit a doctor's office. I feel that we should have designs on our polos so we can express ourselves more.

Ron Clark's school is awesome! In Ron Clark's school they have houses, like in wonderful Harry Potter. I personally think that we should have houses too, such as Petra, Ventus, Flamma, Flumen, Fœnum, and Praecantatio. Or Rock, Wind, Flame, Water, Grass, and Sorcery. I believe we should be able to earn sweet jackets if we earn enough points in TTM (Think Through Math) or read so many books. We definitely need more field trips, as I have said before, it helps kids to learn if we can see with our own eyes and be close to the subject we're learning about. An awesome commons area for students to mingle would be great too. Super Ron Clark is a great influence who I think we could all learn from.

The things I would like to do next year are, more field trips, a visit to marvelous Ron Clark's School, maybe a bigger building, more students. I have already been distractingly pestering you about field trips so I won't explain why I want more of them... again. It would be awesome to visit Ron Clark! We could go down the slide, look at all the amazing classrooms and even sing the

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ODYSSEY

By: Isabelle nielsen

I love Odyssey

My name is Isabelle Nielsen. I am going to tell you about Odyssey which is the school that I am going to this year. I went to school at Hawthorne Elementary last year. The reason I am at Odyssey is because of my friend's mom told me about it.

Things I love

I love so many stuff at Odyssey. I love how many friends I have at Odyssey. I like how we have three drama classes and lots of plays. I also love how we have a friendly and fun principal with an awesome background. We also get electives in sixth grade! I like how there are so many varieties of books! Odyssey also provides Chromebooks for us to use for school only. I like my amazing pupils very much.

Things I would like to change

I would like to change the high heel rules. I would also like to change the dangling earrings rule. I want to have shirts that are plain in color. I want to change the designs on jackets or coats. Hats should be allowed to wear hats during lunch. I want to be able to wear sandals in summer and flipflops but I can't unless the rules is changed. I want any color of jeans and shorts. We should change the shoe rules.

Things I saw I wish we could have

There are some stuff that I want for our school from Ron Clark Academy. I want a slide in the gym or wherever is pleasurable. I want a bungee cord and to be able to bounce with it. I want a few trampolines. I also want more manners at Odyssey. I also want to be able to draw and write on tables. I want to be able to wear school skirts. It would be very cool to have a slide in school.

Things I want to do this year

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Odyssey

Written By: Tori Brockbank

My name is Tori Brockbank. I moved to Idaho from Washington. I had to figure out which school I was going to, and at a little street fair last year, the principal was telling everyone about the school. I was really excited, and at first I didn't get in, but then we got an acceptance call during 2nd period, and now I go to school here! I am very grateful to be able to attend here, and I hope that this paper will help improve this school somehow.

I love the fact that we are a project based school, and I enjoy getting to work in a group and get creative with what I do. I also like that we are a middle school, and are able to switch periods so that we are not stuck in one classroom all day. I enjoy the 30 minutes of reading each day, and I think that it is really helping to improve our reading skills and comprehension. I also enjoy the classes we have, and how they are taught. I especially like that we have electives and after school classes. One of my favorite parts about coming to Odyssey is no school on Fridays, allowing us to relax and have a fun day, which gets us pumped back up for Monday, and I also enjoy that we have very little homework so that we are not stressed out all the time, and it help us to enjoy school even more.

Now, don't get me wrong, I love this school, but there are a couple of things that I would like to change. One of them is dress code. I would also like a bigger gym, and to have a cafeteria separate, so that we can do more events, and not be crammed, and be able to do P.E. without stepping on some leftover lunch garbage. I think that we should also have a longer lunch time, so that we can have just a little bit more time to socialize and eat as well. I also would like to to have a bigger school building, allowing more space for certain things, and fun, creative classrooms that make kids feel safe, happy and ready to learn.

I adore Ron Clark Academy. There are so many amazing things I wish we could do to be like them I couldn't say them all, but, here are a couple. I really liked the slide, and the bungee jump thing. I wish we could get some cool equipment like that. I also wish that with some work with some companies, and buy some things that would help us to start some sports at school, such as swimming, ice skating, soccer, volleyball, cheer, etc. That would also tie into getting a bigger

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Odyssey

By: Kaylee Ward

Hello, my name is Kaylee Ward and I go to Odyssey Charter school in Idaho Falls. In my old school, Discovery Elementary, I found out about this Odyssey and all the fun and amazing things they were going to doing there. It sounded interesting and I decided that I would go over and try it. I've been here since the beginning of the year and it has been an good experience.

This school has a lot of amazing qualities. We have no school on Friday so we get a three day weekend! The teachers are kind, and we do our writing on these laptops! Homework is a nuisance to all of us right? Well if you come to my school you will hardly have any. You can learn a lot of new things here in the after school programs. We have martial arts, cake class, voice lessons, horseback riding, fencing, and more. I take voice lessons and it has taught me to be better singer and things you need to do sing a good song that I didn't know about.

There are some things here though that I don't really wear a smile about, like how we can't wear dangly jewelry. I Love to wear it and it makes me devastated that I can't wear it. Anywho, another thing I don't like is that our lunch isn't very long. It's the only break we get for an entire day and it's only twenty five minutes! At my old school we got a 50 minute break and it was AWESOME! The price of lunch is too high. It's three dollars every day! That is a lot, if you were to pay everyday it would be almost 90\$ every month!

Ron Clark is an amazing guy, he has this awesome school and there is so many things they do there that I know that if you saw what it was like you'd be bursting with jealousy and wish your school was as fun. They have these mini phone computer things that they do their work on and tests. They have a really enormous school and the have a slide going down from the first building to the next. The students use it to get to their classes! Houses are made up for the kids like in Harry Potter and whoever has the most points gets a big I mean totally, fantastic, amazing, prize. Classrooms is like your not even in school The walls are painted to look like what the teacher likes and it looks nothing like the boring painted walls in regular schools.

Next year I want to have some changes. First of all I want a bigger school. The one we are in is tiny! Some lockers with it would be nice to. I want a slide to be put in this school. Just like the stupendous Ron Clark school does. We have field trips that are magnificent, but it annoys me that we have to pay to in order to go. I want to be able to have the field trips paid for already. Who here loves to read? I have a passion for reading books and would like to get a library. I want to get books like fablehaven, harry potter, heros, things that everyone loves.

For this school starting out it is pretty good. I hope that we can change the school to be better

June 17, 2014

The Wonderful Odyssey Charter School

I, Heidi Mill, love Odyssey! Shortly after we heard about fantastic odyssey and how it is project based, we decided to go check it out. The school building screamed, "Come Here." The school I went to last year, Taylor's Crossing, was all about sitting at a boring, cramped desk and being quiet; while, here we can get up and move around to do projects. We don't have school on Friday and that makes me feel FREE! We can have a rest day and then on Saturdays we can play with friends! I am so glad that I switched schools to this wonderful Odyssey Charter school that I love!

There are so many fun and awesome things here. The most wonderful things, for me, at Odyssey is the wonderful, all-knowing teachers; the active, hands-ons projects we do; and my very favorite is the four day week. My teachers are so very kind to me; they are like superheroes in the way they get all the projects ready for us. The projects are well thought through and it is a wonderful way to learn! The great four day week is my absolute favorite part of Odyssey. It makes me feel like I am the most special person in the whole intire world. The many things we do here are so fun.

The small and minor things I want changed are very limited. I want a longer lunch so we have more time to eat. I personally love to dye my hair and I want to dye it unnatural colors like blue or pink. I have also heard that people love A and B days. I think that A and B days would spread out what we do instead of doing everything over again every day. Another thing I want to change is the color of polos (for example striped polos). The few things I want to change are really just small and minor things.

The Ron Clark Academy is pretty amazing and there are some thing I wish we could do. I think it would be so fun to have a slide in school. I also saw that their classrooms were all colorful not blah and dull. They had a theme like video games, or cartoons on the walls. (I know that Mrs. Inglet would choose Monkeys!) I would also love to have houses like Ron Clark's academy. (Examples: Green Monkeys, Red Lizards, Blue Lions, and Yellow Horses.) It would also be fun to have field trips to countries. Those are the things I saw in the Ron Clark Academy that I wish we could do.

Next year I am hoping that we can do some more things. I have had problems in the past with birthday celebrations and teachers recognizing great students. This year I want to have a big, giant, huge celebrations for birthdays. (I mean the whole school sings happy birthday to that person.) I think that we need more projects. We should also have more electives. I also want to have the teachers hand out Great Student Awards. I'm hoping next year we can do more things.