



Odyssey Online Learning Middle School

A Note from Ms. Vann

Dear Middle School Families,

As we move further into Quarter 2, I want to take a moment to share how proud I am of all of our students. Throughout Quarter 2, we have observed students' hard work, healthy attendance, improved grades, and willingness to take advantage of extra support opportunities. Thank you for encouraging students at home, supporting them, and helping them shine in our virtual community.



As we enter the holiday season, I am especially grateful for our students and dedicated staff. At OOL, we are thankful and proud to be able to offer virtual learning as a quality school choice option here in South Carolina—an option that opens doors for students to learn in the way that best fits their needs.

Thank you for choosing OOL and for trusting us with your student's education. I wish you a joyful and safe winter break with your loved ones! Happy Holidays!

Warmly,

Ms. Vann

Principal

OOL Middle School

Join Us at the Charleston Holiday Parade! 🎉

Odyssey Online Learning was selected to participate in the downtown Charleston holiday parade on December 7th! We invite our students and families to join Ms. Vann and other OOL staff at the parade. Limited spaces are available to walk in the parade with the OOL float, please reach out to Ms. Vann (sarah.vann@odysseyonline.com) if you're interested in joining in the holiday cheer.



★City of Charleston Holiday Parade, December 7th, 3:00pm ★

Families can learn more information about the City of Charleston Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting, [here](#). 🌲

MAP Testing: Round 2!

All students in grades 6th-8th are required to complete MAP testing in the fall, winter, and spring each school year. All students in grades 6-8 take the Reading and Math tests. Our 6th grade students are also taking MAP Science. The MAP assessments for Reading, Math, and Science help provide teachers, students, and families with valuable information about students' skills, needs and progress towards mastery of SC State Standards.

Students complete MAP tests at home, on Zoom with their teachers. A laptop computer with a working camera is required to successfully complete the test.

SAVE THE DATE	
REQUIRED MAP TESTING	Monday December 8 & Tuesday December 9
TESTING IS COMPLETED AT HOME, ON ZOOM, WITH CAMERAS ON	<small>Additional details will be shared next week. If a student misses testing, make up testing will be during the student's spare time in the afternoon or on a Friday.</small>

- **ALL students are testing December 8th and 9th, taking Reading and Math.**
- **6th Grade students only** are taking **MAP Science** on **December 10th**.
- Make up sessions in the early morning or later afternoons are required for any missed tests.

★ OOL Middle School Students of the Month ★



Audrey Abernathy



Middle School Student



Gianna Toscano



Middle School Student





Highlights from Middle School Classes ✨

Math with Dr. Coyle ➕✖️

Celebrations from Math

- 6th graders are starting to collaborate more often with each other, which makes class more fun and engaging
- Over 90% of students attend live lessons each day! 📺
- 8th graders Unit 2 Test: Average of 83%!
- Students are engaging in retake opportunities and taking initiative to join extra help Zoom sessions!

Reminders for Math Class

- Students should be prepared to start math class with **paper and pencil every day!** We want to see all the scratch work!

English/Language Arts with Ms. Hill 📖

ELA Classes Have Been Diving Into

- 7th graders are finishing up their 1st informational essays, they have done a great job as we have working through the writing process as class and learned about MLA formatting, citing sources, and created works cited pages
- 8th graders are about to dive into their narrative writing unit by creating a story from their own imagination as a way to review character development and plot

Science with Ms. Farmer 🐼

Science Class Highlights

- 6th graders are beginning a new unit on the structure and function of cells and their organelles. The class will learn how cells work together to form various organ systems. The focus will be on nervous system structure and function. 📖
- 7th graders are learning how and why objects in the physical world move and change position. They will learn about position, displacement, speed, and velocity in the coming weeks. 🚗
- 8th graders are continuing to learn about Earth's place in the universe by studying our solar system, and Earth's interactions with the sun and moon. Students will continue to observe moon phases over the course of 15 days by keeping a moon journal! 🌙

Social Studies with Ms. Wilber 🌐📖

History Class Highlights

- Students have collaboratively practiced and applied historical vocabulary working in pairs through collaboration - we love seeing peer interaction in class!
- Students reimagined perspectives from the Revolutionary War, considering the beliefs and opinions of Patriots and Loyalists

Keyboarding & Computer Fundamentals with Ms. Muggeo 🖱️

Computer Class Highlights

- Students are strengthening their math skills through real-world problem-solving and exploring strategies that build confidence and understanding while writing simple programs in Python. Students are encouraging logical thinking, creativity, and connections between math and computing.

PE/Health with Ms. Fachko 🏃‍♀️🏊‍♀️🥋🥋🥋🥋🥋🥋

PE and Health Highlights

- 6th graders in PE have been focusing on fitness assessments and learning how different tests can give us information about our personal risk level for chronic diseases.
- 8th graders have shifted to health and big focus has been about how media and our environment influences our choices, body image, and mental health. Students have discussed personal strategies about how they can develop strong self esteem and confidence to make healthy, smart choices.

Field Trips 🐻🌻🐟

We love a fun field trip!

In November, Ms. Wilber and Dr. Coyle joined students at the Avengers End Game in Greenville, SC! They really enjoyed spending time with middle school students and families. 😊

This month, on **December 5th**, OOL students are visiting the **SC Aquarium in Charleston, SC!** We are so excited to see everyone soon! 🐠🐡🐙



Important Dates

School Breaks, End of Quarter 2 and More!

- December 5: Field Trip at SC Aquarium
 - December 7: City of Charleston Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting
 - December 8-10: MAP Testing **Mandatory**
 - December 22 - January 2: Winter Break School Closed
 - January 14: Quarter 2 ENDS. ALL Quarter 2 Must be Complete!
 - January 19: MLK Jr. Day, School Closed
 - January 20: First Day of Live Classes for Quarter 3
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School Counseling

Ms. Nilsen is enjoying getting to know students and families! Join Ms. Nilsen on **December 5th** for a lessons and discussions on friendships in middle school. The Zoom link for the session can be found in student's Canvas calendars! 📅

- 6th Grade @ 10:30
- 7th grade @ 11:00
- 8th grade @ 11:30

Also starting in January, Ms. Nilsen is kicking off the New Year with small groups. There will be a variety of topics including organization as a virtual student, career exploration, and digital safety.

Reminders from Ms. Adams, Middle School SES

1. Communication is KEY, please respond to all communication from Ms. Adams
2. Prioritize checking emails Monday mornings, that is when Ms. Adams shares Action Plans with her Master Class students.
3. Ms. Adams is always here, reach out when you need help!

If students do these 2 things, they will see success as OOL students:

1. attend all required sessions (live classes *and* extra help sessions)
 2. submit assignments every day
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Middle School Town Halls

We are hosting Middle School Town Halls via Zoom on January 21st. We want to start the new year and quarter 3 off strong! At the start of a new term *and* the half way point in the school year, it's always helpful to review OOL expectations and provide an opportunity for students and families

to clarify any questions. Students and families will also learn successful habits for OOL students, important state testing expectations, and details about fun events happening in the Spring.

✦ Middle School Town Halls, January 21st, 12:00pm and 6:00pm ✦

Zoom links to join the Town Halls will be sent in January!

December Spirit Week 🕶️🎄👶

December 12th-16th

Monday: Wear a Holiday Themed Hat or Headwear 🧢👶

Tuesday: Wear a Festive Flannel Shirt or Flannel PJs

Wednesday: Wear an Ugly, Awesome Holiday Sweater 🧶

Thursday: Dress Like Your Favorite Holiday Movie Character 🎬

🌟 OOL Staff Highlights 🌟



Ms. Studebaker ✦



Ms. Farmer ✦



Ms. Reynolds ✦



Ms. Brakefield ✦



Ms. McMinn ✦



Honoring Veterans Day in the Middle School

This past Veteran's Day, Mrs. Wilber and our social studies classes honored veterans that are also the loved ones of students and teachers in our middle school community.

We are thankful for their service!



Ashley Owings

Ashley is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

