

WE ARE ODYSSEY



Odyssey Multiage Program
Bainbridge Island

★ At Odyssey, our program is based on three main ideas... ★



multiage

all together

Many ages and stages work and grow together, both at their own pace and within a community of peers.



parent
involved

“shoulder to shoulder”

Whether in the classroom, at home, or on committees, our parents are active contributors and decision makers.



independent
learners

and a
student-directed approach

This sums us all up!



multiage

How much could you learn if
you had 72 teachers?

A multiage philosophy allows room for...

- flexible grouping
- individual practice and extensions
- students to learn from each other, getting
a chance to observe, practice, master, and
mentor
- building confidence with collaboration
and presentation



family involvement



Adults model curiosity, commitment, and a joy for learning.

- Each family is asked to give about 100 hours to the program each year.

- Adults are required to attend one parent evening per month to learn, celebrate, and vote.

- There are many ways to participate, ranging from in classroom help to organizing events and experiences behind the scenes.



independent learners and a student-directed approach

Students build habits of independence, beginning in K and culminating in our 7-8.



A student-directed (as opposed to teacher-directed) experience means kids have VOICE and CHOICE.

Freedom of movement is important.

Project based learning: elementary project agreements to middle school 8 week independent projects that include research, experts, blogging, and presentations.



Students learn to solve problems and practice being part of a larger community. Class meetings are led by peers each week.





What does this all look like and sound like?



K



- ☆ whole group lessons
- ☆ small group instruction in reading and math
- ☆ writer's workshop
- ☆ small groups of students working on different activities at the same time
- ☆ parent run mini classes based on student interest

- ☆ students working together as partners
- ☆ discussion during lessons and independent work time (peer to peer and adult to child)
- ☆ student engagement in a variety of activities at the same time



- ☆ work time: kids choose work from a menu and practice building concentration
- ☆ parent volunteers working with students
- ☆ teachers sitting on the floor with small groups
- ☆ whole group, collaborative lessons

- ☆ a busy room with 40+ students sharing materials, choosing work, and collaborating
- ☆ adults asking "what are you working on" and "how can I help you"
- ☆ all students actively engaging, doing, and responding



1-6

7-8



- ☆ everyday starts informally with advisory for personal connections and community building
- ☆ class sizes of 25-28
- ☆ small learning community of 50-ish students

- ☆ all students take art, music, PE, PBL and Tech
- ☆ traditional middle school model schedule: kids travel back and forth between two teachers for 50 minute classes





K

- ☆ With parent support, teacher can meet with small groups of students to help them progress at their own pace
- ☆ Students gain skills and strategies to be independent learners
- ☆ Over the course of the year, students develop intrinsic motivation to prepare for the 1-6 environment

1-6



☆ 1-6 collaboration means kids get to know the teachers that they will have in the future

☆ two years with the same teacher gives kids extra time to grow, practice, and develop at their own pace

☆ students are encouraged to make choices and take ownership in their work



7-8



☆ traditional middle school schedule
and curriculum that rotates every 2 years

☆ service learning during the school day

☆ elementary model for electives

☆ outdoor education

☆ student voice and choice in
the classroom, with activities
and through leadership



HOW ODYSSEY IS STRUCTURED

Kindergarten

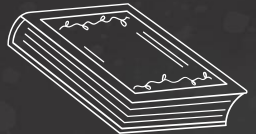
Elementary
Class

1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Elementary
Class

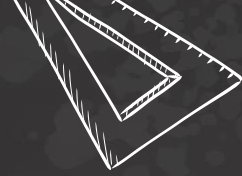
1-2, 3-4, 5-6

7-8





Frequently asked QUESTIONS



Class size?

Comparable at each grade to other classes in the district, but we often run a little bigger because we are required to fill all the spots.



Same curriculum?

Teachers have all the same materials as other schools. Sometimes we add in more. (Outdoor ed!) Sometimes we rearrange things to suit a multiage class.

Same specialists?

Yes. Just like other BISD schools, K-4 go to art, music, PE, and STEM. 5-7 go to art, music, and PE.

Will my kid have friends?

Probably. We model inclusivity and openness. Being with the same peers over 9 years means deep, family-like friendships are formed (and problems learn how to get solved.)



We heard your teachers are superheroes. Is that true? Nope. We're passionate and practiced teachers, like many. We do give many extra hours and heart to differentiation, parent meetings, and events.

Do you have band? Can I do sports at Woodward?

No. (But you should hear our marimbas!)
Yes, definitely.



What's next?

Apply: due Monday, March 4th 3:00PM

Click 'Enrollment' and 'Application Links' at
<https://www.bisd303.org/cos>

Email Alli in our office for more info
aschilf@bisd303.org

Connect with an Odyssey parent. Check out the OPTO table and please sign the attendance sheet for future tours and upcoming school events.

