

ODYSSEY ORACLE JUNIOR



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Thanks to the following staff and volunteers of Odyssey Junior:

Odyssey Junior Teens/Goodman Library, grades 6-12: Sagashus Levingston, Gretchen McClain, Anthony Ward '04, Todd Lilly, Leigh Fredrickson, Scott Cooper, Lucia Chikowero '14, Catina McAlister '11

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ODYSSEY JUNIOR TEENS



SUPERHEROES



If I were a superhero, my name would be "Knowledge Girl" and my sidekick would be called "The Question." The villain would be named "Procrastination Man." My purpose would be to spread knowledge to kids and let them learn about their history. I would also

teach them things they need to know about life. (**Keziah Bester**)

If I were a superhero, my outfit would be red and blue with white stripes and no cape. I only have one weakness, which is losing the battle. I fight for everyone, unlike the villain Donald Trump. I plan to defeat the Donald by finding and hiding all his money and making people believe love trumps hate. My sidekick is my little brother.

(**JaQuez McAlister**)



If I were a superhero, my name would be "Afro-DeDe." One flick of the fro gets you where you



need to go or out of trouble. My sidekick is "Curls" but we call her "Lil' Curls," "Lil' C" for short. Our fight is against "Perm." Know no Perm: it is out to damage our hair. Afro-DeDe is there to support black girls and encourages them to embrace their natural hair.

(**Denaria Rowe**)



I would be "Self-Esteem Girl." My superpower would be to help people who lack the self-esteem to be successful in life. My sidekick would be "Assure-Woman." She would assure you that you are worthy. The villain would be "Self-Conscious Man." He touches people and makes them feel self-conscious. My outfit would be skin-tight and rainbow colored with "SE" on it. (**Yemi Harding**)

As a superhero, I would fight racism, explicit and institutional. I would be called "Moon Goddess" and my sidekick, Zoe, will be called "Sunshine." She will help me fight for justice for all women. Everyday, I will make sure people of color, women included, will be given the opportunities they deserve. (**Dianna Murray**)



I am "Super Liv." My sidekick would be "Super Kay D." The villains are bullies. My outfit is a pink outfit. My sidekick is wearing blue with a "K" on it. My weakness is not having Super Kay D. (**Olivia Partee**)

I am Safaa. Here is some stuff about me and what I do. I have the power to solve high school drama "problems." It's not hard: you just listen to their drama but

know exactly what is happening with them with your visibility eyes, if you have any like me. Then to solve it, say something they will never do in their mind. They will listen to you and do it after a dozen complaints. It's simple, but you must know how to treat them. (**Safaa Mohammed Saed**)



Super Hero

Name: Smile Boy

Sidekick Name: Smile Dolphin

What you fight/villain: people that do not smile

Villain: Sadness

Superpowers: make anyone happy

Weakness: He loses happiness while helping others.

(Abdul Mohammed Saed)



Blackman. My cape is black and blue. I want a symbol on my black cape; it will say Blackman. I'm darker than the night. I'm made from diamonds. My sidekick is Blackboy. The villain is Blob. He's fat and consuming all the gas stations and ruining the people of Blackville. He must be stopped. (Chochoma Harding)

have superpowers, such as self-reliance, nerves of steel, self-confidence, and intuition. (Dauntrea Vance)

If I were a superhero, I would be "Independent Woman." I would take on villains single-handedly and work alone. I would



I'm a team of one! I am Earth's Defender. I clean up people's litter and tell people about their pollution in their air, but I can't force the opinions of others or their decisions.

(Jocelyn Moore)



NOTICING THE UNNOTICED



I think something that goes unlooked at in the world is disability. Sure, people have ramps here and there and parking spaces, but that is not enough in this world. We need more – more ramps, parking spaces, doors, etc. In a lot of places, the doors to buildings aren't big enough or accessible for people in wheel chairs. Even places with elevators, like schools, have them located at the end of a long hallway. By the time you get to your next class, you will not be having a good day. In most kitchens you cannot get to your pantry, which is two feet wide and your wheelchair is three feet wide. Another disadvantage is that you can't access your oven and the top of your stove. This is why I think people with disabilities should get more tools to help them do better in their lives and live with one less disadvantage that they have to carry around with them all the time. I think that would make a huge difference in the world. **(Maka Chikowero)**

The willingness to learn and my appreciation of knowledge help me overcome the unseen adversity that I experience. It often goes unnoticed by others in my life. **(Dauntrea Vance)**



I think a big problem that needs to be solved is the lack of listening to our children. We are silenced. When we have a lack of motivation, it is assumed we don't want to learn. No one bothers to ask about how much sleep we had last night, what our emotional/mental state is, and why we don't want to work. They don't think to consider my socio-economic status, the way I help my family, and the work I put into my home. They just assume we are lazy. They don't think about how our self-esteem, education-wise, has convinced me that I am not smart enough. They don't think to ask; they just assume. **(Dianna Murray)**

Something that goes unnoticed in my life is my sense of leadership. Growing up the youngest with a lot of different struggles, I learned a lot from my brothers and sister. Going through high school with parents being sick and helping my niece and nephews, I learned a lot about leadership and how to help others whenever you can. It shaped me into the person I am today and made me more humble about life. **(Keziah Bester)**





"You're pretty...for a black girl." How many times have I heard that? I swear I don't even have enough fingers and toes to count it. Every time I hear it, I look around at the very few black girls at Hamilton. "Yeah, well, Leilani has an amazing shape," "Mariah has plump lips," and "Destiny's eyes are to die for." Personally, I think that the few black women and girls that I am surrounded by leave a mark on the world. We are noticeable. So whenever I hear those words, I think to myself, we are phenomenal and independent, and we hold up a high standard for everyone. **(Yemi Harding)**

I was in the deep with my cousin; the waves were harsh. The waves were so high that I could see the lifeguard perfectly. The first wave we almost tipped over. It pushed us so far we were in the shallow end with the little kids. The next time we went back out there it happened: we tipped. He went under, and I couldn't find him at all.

I put my head under the water. I couldn't find him. I was scared. I tried again. I still couldn't find him, but then I saw him. The waves pushed him farther, and then he sank. I had to go and get him. He could die and it would be my fault. I swam as fast as I could to save him.

I had to take the floaty so I could help him float to safety. I went down but he was too far, so I had to come back up to breathe. I took a deep breath and then went back down; I caught him. I put him on the floaty and then pushed him back to safety.

If I didn't save him, I would regret it to this day. He was one of my best cousins, and he was also my friend. I would have been so depressed and sad about this. Knowing that I could have saved him would have made me so sad.

This is the thing I did that most people don't know. I saved my cousin's life, and that was the greatest thing that I did. Everyone was so proud I did the right thing. **(Santana James)**



APPLYING YOURSELF

To get ready for future applications to colleges and programs, Odyssey Junior teens practiced applying for UW's People Program.



I want to go to college and play basketball and study to be a vet. I think I can achieve this by being in the People Program. I think the People Program will help me get to the NBA and being a vet. This can help me be the best I can be in class.

Also people say that the People Program is fun and I can learn a lot. People I know said they enjoy it and had a happy time doing it. It would be fun because all my friends are joining. Also, I want to see the experience of being in college.

Another thing is that this can help bring my grades higher. Also, I think I can learn a lot in this program, too. It would be helpful getting more help than I usually do. It would help me improve my math and working with others.

I always wanted to be a vet and I think it will help me do that. I want to be a vet because I love animals and taking care of them. I also want to learn about more languages and speak them, such as Spanish, French, and German. I want to learn these languages to speak with people around the world.

I think the People Program will help me in many ways. The People Program is fun and has my friends in it. It will help me by getting good grades, going to college, and learning new languages. (**Santana James**)



I would apply for the People Program because I want something to look forward to. I want to explore the terrains of a better school and place for the greater good, not just a place to teach me the difference between a solid and a liquid. If I were in the People Program, I would be able to learn economics and poetry and engineering, all the things that I don't learn about in middle school.

Learning these things would help me improve my mental state and open me up to a world of perseverance, so when I graduate, I will know how to succeed in life. I want to be prepared because a dream without a plan is a wish. If I am going to become a poet and engineer of hover cars, I am going to need to know how to fix things and know the different properties of engineering, and the only way to learn is to be taught. I'd rather learn now than later. My dream is success. (**Jocelyn Moore**)



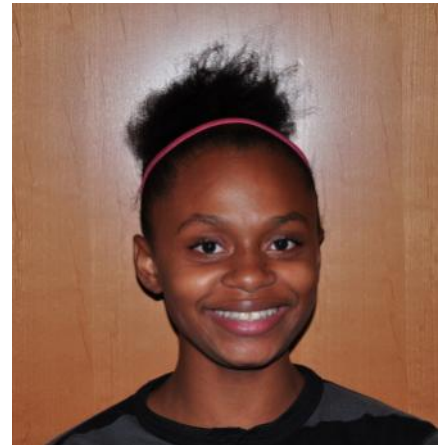
I want to go to the People Program because it is so cool and I want to meet other people. I think the People Program will be fun and cool, and I think the People Program will help me in general. (**Abdul Mohammed Saed**)

Making it into the People Program will be a big opportunity for me. I come from a pretty crazy background, and the People Program is something that will drive me to the success that I want. I've always been a good student, but it was the people and the lifestyle I was around.

Some people say that success is hard to achieve. It's really not; people just don't put in the time and hard work it takes to get there. (**Denaria Rowe**)



The People Program sounds like a program for me. I want to go to college for four years, unless a soccer team wants to put me on a contract. But I want to do at least two years of college before I go pro, if I go pro, because education is important to me. Photography is my plan B. So, I also want to go to school for that. (**Tyelle Latham**)



ODYSSEY EXPLORERS



BEATING BULLYING

Alan Mendoza

Once when I went to the mall I saw two bullies that took someone's hat. One of the bullies was pushing him and the other was running. After a while I told the two bullies to stop. They stopped and gave him his hat back, and they got in trouble with their mom.



Evan Sanchez-Gomez

My brother got bullied. Two big guys took his phone. He said, "Can I please have it back?" They said, "No." My brother ran, and they kicked and hit him. I was holding his stuff. The police finally caught the bullies. I don't think people should bully because they get in trouble. If I saw bullies in my class, I would tell the teacher.



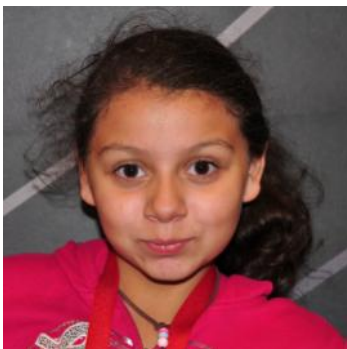
Lanagsha Richmond

Once upon a time, I saw a little second grader getting bullied. Guess who it was? It was me who was bullied. I was really hurt after they bullied me. I had a black eye and a bloody nose. He said, "If you tell the teacher, you are going to get bullied even more." I told my dad and my mom and my brother and my sister. My brother and sister told the teacher. I was still crying and crying.



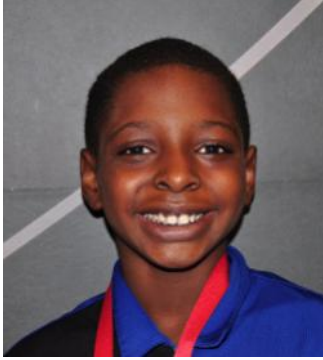
We should have No Bullying signs:

- No bullying at school or at home.
- Stop bullying right now!
- I hate bullies.



Anna Uriostegui

If I ever saw somebody bullying anybody, I would use my super powers to stop that mean bully! I would use my words to politely say, "Please stop!" If the bully does not stop, then I would get my trusty, helpful teacher. Hopefully, with my teacher's help, we can make the bullying stop. So that means I'm a superhero at helping keep people from getting bullied.



Jerry Moore

When I was bullied I didn't like it at all. It felt like I was crushed. So, every time I see somebody getting bullied, I help because I know it will hurt and they will feel left out. Then I teach that person to stand up for themselves so they can fight back on bullying. So then everyone can feel good and feel like they are important. They can go to the school or the playground or park or even home. Then I have a new friend that knows not to bully because they know how it feels. So then I help someone else. So who wants to be in the No Bullying Helper Club?

Kamya Davis

My best friend Juliana was bullied by three boys. Their names were Shawn, Korde, and TJ. They were pushing her around. They were kicking her around, and they pushed her in the mud. I said, "Stop it!" They didn't stop. I kept saying it over and over, and then I said it again. Then they finally stopped.

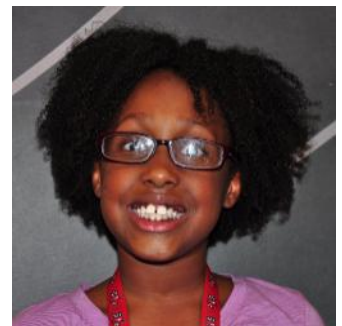


Roselyn Sanchez-Gomez

The Time I Stopped Someone Bullying Someone Else (real life story)
I was in the fourth grade, and this happened during recess. This girl wanted to play football, but the boys playing said that girls can't play football because they aren't strong enough. So I went over there and asked her if she wanted to play football with me. She agreed to. While we were playing, the boys laughed at us. They said that we don't know how to throw a football or how to play. We told the teacher. They stopped for a while. When the teacher wasn't looking, they continued to laugh at us. I told the teacher one more time, and they finally stopped. They ended up wanting us to play with them.

Alleanah Hancock

One time my friend and I got bullied by a kid at school. The kid hit us with a soccer ball on the head. It was on purpose too. We said stop, and he stopped and went away.



Javon McAlister

One day there was a time where these two girls were bullying my friend at our class Christmas party. They were throwing her cookie on the ground and it broke. I came over and gave my cookie to my friend.

OUR TRIP TO THE MADISON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Nasier Emmanuel

The thing I thought was the most fun was the shadow room. The shadow room is very dark and I like the darkness. You have to press the button and pose against the wall. And when the camera flashes there are shadows on the wall behind you.



Roselyn Sanchez-Gomez

Some Things I Liked about the Children's Museum:

Thing #1: The Kitchen. I liked the kitchen because I haven't played with a toy kitchen since I was like between 6-8 years old. 2. I could charge how much money (fake money) I'd like. 3. I could create whatever food I'd like.

Thing #2: The shadow room because it was so cool when the flash went off and you got to see your shadows afterwards.

Last but not least: The gerbil wheel! There are so many reasons why I LOVED the wheel, but I'll just tell you two reasons why. 1. Because it was really fun when I got to run really fast on the wheel. 2. Also because you feel like you can run for miles and miles.

Anna Uriostegui

My Amazing Adventure to the Children's Museum!

There are a lot of things I really liked about the Children's Museum, but I just can't pick my favorite one. So I'll just tell you I loved all of the things about the Children's Museum.

Alleannah Hancock

I like the butterflies hanging from the ceiling. I like them because butterflies are very beautiful to me. I also like them because I loved the color of the wings and the color of the background too. And that's why I liked the Children's Museum.





Nyjua Emmanuel

The thing I liked was playing with Nasier and Lanagsha. We played on the hamster wheel and we played in the shadow room where you take selfies and all of that other stuff. Me, Lanagsha, and Nasier went in this house and it was small. . . .

Evan Sanchez-Gomez

The slide shocked me. I climbed backwards when no one was watching. I went back down when I heard someone coming. Ms. Marian took a picture of me.

Jordan Moore

My Awesome Adventure to the Museum

I LOVED the shadow room. The shadow room is a room that takes your picture when you pose, and then a camera puts your pose on the wall. It was really, really fun. The next time I go I will play on the King Kong. The reason why it was fun was because I was with my friends.



Alan Mendoza

I really liked everything. I got to go into the shadow room. The shadow room is a place where you can make shadows. You make shadows by pressing a button and then you make a pose and that's how you make shadows. This is why I liked the Children's Museum.



Jerry Moore

I felt at the Children's Museum that I was having fun and I liked it there. I was at the place next to the coat area and that was the place where me and Jordan made a great track on a wall of magnets. It was fun. Then after a while me and Jordan went to the shadow room. It was cool. Jordan and I made it look like we were falling. Jordan grabbed my leg and I bent down. We hit the button and 6,5,4,3,2,1, FLASH! That was fun too. Then Jordan and I saw everyone else and they were in the kitchen. I was not interested. Then I saw King Pong. I played a long time. Then I heard Marian scream, so I went in the hamster wheel. It was fantastic. I loved the Children's Museum. Then I saw Jordan in a car and next to him was a giant slide. Then I climbed up and slid down. WHEEEEEEEEEEE!! Then I followed Jordan and he led me to a marble track. It was fun! Then we had a

snack. I was also thirsty. Brysen led me to a fountain before we left. Then we got on a bus and went back to UW-Madison.

Ryland English

I liked the Gerbil Wheel because it was fun and stuff and because I like to run. I liked the rocket laser because I could see other things.

Brysen Wills

What I liked most at the Children's Museum was the shadow room. Everything was so fun. Everything was so interesting but the hamster wheel was the most physical. That was my second favorite part. My third favorite was the water tornado. My least favorite was the water room. I had a lot of fun. I think it was so nice that they left the museum open just for us.

Lanagsha Richmond

I liked the gerbil wheel because I was running really fast. I liked the shadow room because it felt like we were taking pictures. We were playing house in the little huts. I liked throwing water around in the water section. That was my favorite part!

Kamya Davis

The hamster wheel, the kitchen, and the little playground were my favorite. I liked them because I could cook, run so fast like a hamster, and run so fast down the slide on my tummy. I liked the piano and little rocket ship and the art room with the little designs.



SERVICE LEARNING ACTIVITIES



Chris Wagner,
Odyssey Junior Coordinator

For our first service learning activity, we gave back to the pet therapy dogs and their owners who visit us once a month for “Read to a Dog.” Every month, a group of people bring their registered pet therapy dogs to Odyssey Explorers. The youth choose a book or two and cuddle up to a dog to read aloud. It’s a relaxing way to practice reading – the dogs are nonjudgmental and LOVE the attention, and the children feel free to plow ahead and read material even when it is challenging!



To thank them, we made tie-blankets out of flannel for the dogs. The blankets require cutting two equal size squares of flannel, cutting strips of the cloth around the edges and then tying them together. It makes a cozy warm place for the dogs to snuggle.

For our second service learning project, we made Valentine’s cards and goodie packets for veterans who are in transitional housing in Madison. These veterans returned from service with physical and

emotional problems and have faced homelessness, drug addiction, depression and more. The home provides a safe place for them to heal and develop coping, human relation and employment skills.

We used donated items and a few purchased items to make up packets of materials they need: pencil holders, pens, pencils, eraser, note cards, stamps, sticky notes, plus some snacks and chocolate. Each veteran also received a Valentine’s card from one of the children.



Here are a few comments from the Explorers:

--It (making the goodie bags for the veterans) made me feel good because I was doing something for someone who was nice. -- *Anna*

----I felt like I was giving back to someone who had helped me: people in the Army and Navy who protected us. – *Jerry*

--I felt a little scared knowing that people in the (armed services) might come back without a leg or hurt. I was happy to give them something they needed. – *Alan*

--It made me feel fantastic to help people who had been hurt. If I had some band aids, I would have given them some. *(good suggestion for next time!)* – *Jordan*

The veterans sent us a lovely card, signed by each one with notes like: “Amazing students in the Odyssey Project: THANK YOU!” and “I am signing this card with one of the pens you gave me. Keep up the good work.”



I have witnessed the incredible generosity and helpfulness of each of the children in Odyssey Explorers. Not one child complained that we were giving the candy and chips and supplies away or asked for some for himself. One more reason to be proud of your children!

BEST FRIENDS

Evan Sanchez-Gomez

Marph is my friend. He helps me play soccer.

Roselyn Sanchez-Gomez

I have multiple best friends, but I have one best friend that is my best, best friend. Her name is Zoe. We've been best friends since third grade, and now we're in fifth grade. I remember her birthday easily because we were both born on the 24th. She was born in February, and I was born in April. I think that's one special connection we have.

Another reason why she's my best best friend is that we both have the same interests. For example, we both like to play football (American football), we like the same band, we both like to sing, and even more. Everyone knew us as "the sisters" because we'd always be together. We are inseparable in group projects and during lunch time, EVERYWHERE! These are just a few reasons why we are BFFs.

Ryland English

My best friend is Jack because he plays the same games. Other people are also my friends. We all play football and soccer.



Lanagsha Richmond

My best friend is Kamya because she is a good friend to me. I am a good friend to her, too. I help her when she needs it. She helps me, too. I remember one time in a meeting, there was no spot for me to sit. Kamya scooted over to make room for me. That was very nice.

Alan Mendoza

My best friend's name is Yassin. He is my friend because he plays with me. He plays futbol with me.

Javon McAlister

My best friend is Terrence. We have been friends ever since we were four. He looks out for me, and I look out for him. The reason why Madison is my other friend is because Madison always plays with me.

Elijah Richmond

My friend's name is Ms. Shannon. She is my friend because we both like to play football, and she said she would play catch with me. Yosaki is my friend too at school. We play video games at my house, and it is his day to pick the game. I like GTA5. My character is KingNut06.

Brysen Wills

My best friend's name is Brock Robbins. He is eight years old. He is my best friend because we have a lot of things in common, like we each like flat bills. Flat bills are hats with flat rims. And we each like broccoli. I have two other super, super good friends, too.

Jerry Moore**My Best Friends**

One of my best friends is Colton. He is kind and shows empathy a lot. He believes in me and helps me with writing. Colton and I are in the same class. We get along. We both love basketball. We have similar likes and dislikes. We love to write. In fact, we are making a comic. We both love summer and spring. We like to run, read, and write. We are best friends. We are A.F.F.'s, Awesome Friends Forever. We like reading comics. We like poems and kickball and we love electronics. We like tag and other games.

My other friend is Pat. He encourages me to try harder, just like Max and Ms. Chris. Pat believes in me just like Colton, and we are making a handshake.

My other friend is Brysen. We both like sports. We get along. We both go to U.W. Madison Odyssey.



My last and final best friend is Jordan. We get along. We are brothers. We love fruit and games, and we love riding bikes in our backyard. I like having friends.

Alleannah Hancock

I have a best friend named Emily T. She is my best friend because we agree on things like what we should play at recess or what we should draw. We're also best friends because we both like the same things to eat. She helps me when I'm hurt, and I help her when she is hurt. We both have a dog and we have glasses. That is why we are best friends.

Kamya Davis

My mom is my friend because she is nice and helpful and playful. She is very loving. She is caring. She is amazing.

Nasier Emmanuel

My friends are Zack and Talan. They are nice and cool. We always play football. I have some more friends, and they are Nick and Nolen and Adam and Dalton and Henry. They are all super nice. We all play Five Night as Freddy. We all were friends when we were in 4k and we play soccer. We always have a playdate but only on Friday and Thursday. We do football practice and basketball and we have like 60 football cards and we play



games. It is so fun. Our favorite superhero is Flash.

**Jordan Moore**

My best friend is Ms. Chris and Pat and Max and Shannon and Marian. But my favorite person in the class is everyone. They are all my friends.

ODYSSEY JUMPSTART



Seals on the Bus Rap

The **seals** on the bus are sayin' erp today,



and the **tigers** on the bus are a roarin' away.

The **geese** on the bus are a honkin' today,



and the **rabbits** on the bus are a hoppin' away.

The **monkeys** on the bus are sayin' eeeeh today,



and the **vipers** on the bus are a hiss'n away.



The **sheep** on the bus are sayin' baah today,



and the **skunks** on the bus are a smellin' away.

