



Our Mission, Guiding Principles and Purpose

MISSION The Mission of Ocean Studies Charter School is to offer a quality public education based on the best practices in accelerated learning and reflecting the diversity of the children of Monroe County. OSCS will offer a rigorous academic program, producing students who meet or exceed the Sunshine State Standards in English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. While nurturing curiosity, creativity and imagination, we will encourage children to become independent, responsible and self-motivated learners. Through a uniquely prepared environment and the use of special didactic materials, the students progress through individual educational programs centered on the fascinating marine environment surrounding their community.

In addition to its stated mission, Ocean Studies Charter School's main priorities are:

- To provide the families of the Upper Keys with a broader accelerated-learning experience than that available through the traditional public school system for their young children.
- In a small school environment, with a maximum of 116 students enrolled, to promote enhanced academic success and financial efficiency by aligning responsibility and accountability.
- Meet high standards of reading and mathematics performance using Montessori methods, the Singapore Math curriculum, the SRA reading comprehension program, and a variety of innovative phonics-based learning materials, which accelerate reading skill development.
- Expand the capacity of the public school system with an alternative program and provide professional opportunities for highly-qualified Florida certified teachers to expand their skills learning from time-tested Montessori lesson plans and methods of individualized teaching.
- Provide an enhanced Ocean Science curriculum, introducing students to an in-depth study of our local marine environment and the wonders of nature around us.
- Provide low-performing students and struggling readers with daily one-on-one lessons and enhanced phonic and sight-reading materials and techniques, as well as individual materials to boost vocabulary development
- Assess and monitor the progress of each individual student, measuring learning outcome through standardized proficiency testing proposal and assessment tools.
- Keep parents regularly informed of the results of initial screenings and end of year follow-up screenings of reading progress as well as results of standardized achievement testing as recommended by the school district.