

Austin S. Ertelt - Teacher Member (*Incumbent*)

- **What is your connection to Odyssey Academy?**

I have been the music teacher at Odyssey for two years.

- **How will your service with other Board Members help fulfill the mission of Odyssey?**

I believe that my service as a teacher will allow me to see the things internally that we need to work on that I can bring to the board. As a board we will make decisions that will improve the school while still aligning with the mission of Odyssey.

- **What strengths and skills do you bring to the Odyssey community?**

I have one of the few positions in the school that sees all of the Students at Odyssey for multiple years. I get to really see what the strengths are and areas we need to improve in school wide.

- **What is your vision of a “nurturing, innovative, and challenging environment that emphasizes independent thinking, active learning, high academic achievement, and social responsibility?”**

My vision is of a school where students are excited to come in everyday because they know that they are going to be challenged to grow. The teachers will be there to help when students are struggling, but also celebrate the victories with students.

- **How do you see the school administration and Board of Directors working cooperatively to keep alive the vision that started Odyssey?**

The Board of Directors is the decision making group for the school, while the administration is the driving force. The Board passes policies and budgets, while the administration reports to the board that these decisions are being followed. The two groups need to be united in making sure that once a decision is made it is communicated to all parties involved, enacted the way it was intended, and adjusted as needed. This cooperation between the two intentions and ideals that started Odyssey are still maintained.