**What is Odyssey?**

**Odyssey** is a four day per week 35-minute class for all students at Belle Isle Enterprise Middle School. Students are assigned or choose classes during this class period for 3-week blocks of time. Students who need remediation in language arts and math are assigned to intervention classes, students who are not completing assignments are assigned to a monitored study hall (ZAP), and students who are in good standing may choose from a variety of enrichment activities such as symphony orchestra, computer coding, Lego building, reading, sports and games, costume design, zumba, origami, print-making, and many more. The class is called Odyssey because an odyssey is defined as a series of adventures that give knowledge or understanding to someone.

Belle Isle staff recognized the need to establish a time for additional time and support for our struggling students. It was a constant challenge for teachers to get students who needed help, who were behind on assignments, or who needed to retake assessments to come in before or after school. Students who ride busses usually could not meet before and after school. The staff also wanted to provide enrichment activities for students who were in good standing, expanding students’ educational experiences and boosting their engagement in school.

Feedback from parents and students about the Odyssey program has been extremely positive. The enrichment classes allow teachers to share their hobbies and interests with students across all grade levels. One eighth grade teacher said she especially enjoyed one class this year that had all sixth grade students enrolled. A seventh grade student told his mother, “I always do my homework, because I don’t want to miss Odyssey. Best of all, students in need of remediation received 12 extra weeks of intervention in those subjects. (480 words)

Specific educational needs or problems we hope to address with this program?

* Tutoring and intervention for insufficiencies in Math and Reading
* Missing assignment recovery and intervention
* Enrichment programs geared towards student interest