

## Greece Odyssey gives students supplies

**From left, Valeria Cotarelobrito, Dalilah Addamson and their mom, Darlyn Harris, pick up school supplies at Greece Odyssey Academy.**

MEGHAN FINNERTY/ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

750 students from 6th through 10th grade get binder with free items

### Meghan Finnerty

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle USA TODAY NETWORK

Back-to-school shopping can be costly and time-consuming, but this year Greece Odyssey Academy is helping slash costs and putting more time on the clock.

Greece parent Darlyn Harris said she couldn't believe that there wasn't a school supplies list this year for her seventh- grade daughter.

This year Odyssey is supplying 750 students, from sixth through 10th grade, with a binder packed with free school supplies.

"It's a great thing," Harris said after her 12-year-old daughter, Dalilah Addamson, picked up her binder. Harris estimated that last year's supplies cost \$50 per child.

That means more money for school clothes now, Dalilah said.

School supplies shopping is a headache, Harris said. "I was not looking forward to it, to be honest with you."

Besides the binder itself, students are getting dividers, pens, pencils, high-lighters, a cloth zipper pouch, a tissue box and a package of loose-leaf paper, said Jeff Henley, the acting principal.

"We're just trying to make things easier on families," Henley said. As a father of four, he said school supplies lists are complicated and expensive.

Parents who have multiple children in school came to officials at Odyssey saying that their budgets

are tight, Henley said. Some classes had a large school supplies list and the district decided to make a change.

Let us simplify and make it more affordable, he said. "We brought in this binder system," through AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination program's organizational strategy. The one binder will be used for all classes. AVID is a nonprofit that seeks to close the opportunity gap and prepare students for college.

Students who are not organized sometimes lose homework or notes but this system will now help them stay organized and find what they need, Henley said. The teachers appear to be on board.

All of the materials would cost a family about \$60, but the district was able to cover the costs for less. Henley said the supplies are being paid for through the building budget.

Eleventh- and 12th-grade students will still have to shop for supplies due to the rigor of their courses and the diverse supply needs each class requires, Henley explained.

But maybe in the future, the program will expand to them too, he said.

[MEFINNERTY@Gannett.com](mailto:MEFINNERTY@Gannett.com)



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