

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

FIRST STATE MONTESSORI ACADEMY 2018-19

WELCOME TO ODYSSEY OF THE MIND 2018_ _FSMA'S FIFTH YEAR OF PROBLEM SOLVING!

- **What is Odyssey of the Mind?**
 - OM is a hands-on educational program developed by Industrial Design professor, Dr. Same Micklus. It started off in the 70s as an extracurricular challenge for children in the United States, and has grown to international fame in the 21st century. OM remains progressively engaging to this day, holding the interest of generations of OMers!
- **Some OM Key words:**
 - Convergent/Analytical
 - Divergent/Dialectical
 - Long--term (provided problems)
 - Style
 - Spontaneous (workshops listed on OOTM website)
 - Cooperative, open-ended and relativistic

WHAT DOES OM LOOK LIKE?

- The relevant OM divisions for FSMA are **Primary (K-2)**, **Division 1 (3-5)** and **Division II (5-8)**. While the Primary group has its own particular long-term program, Division I and II have the opportunity to solve the same problems. However, the parameters by which each team must solve the problem become exceedingly more difficult as you jump divisions. All divisions solve a long-term problem and a spontaneous problem.



REGIONAL 2018



DIVISION 1 2017



PRIMARY, 2017



DIVISION 1, 2016

WHAT DOES OM LOOK LIKE?

- A team in Primary is unique, in that there are no size restrictions. With that said, smaller groups of younger children work best! The coordinator attempts to account for individual personalities and group dynamics in all cases. For Division I and II, the team range must be between four and seven members. A team can be made up from a combination of grade levels, or one single grade, depending on the school.
- Video: https://www.odysseyofthemind.com/downloads/a_creative_experience.mp4

WHAT DOES OM SOUND LIKE?

- Problem 2: Something Fishy
 - Divisions I, II, III & IV
 - Teams will design and operate a technical solution that simulates multiple styles of fishing. A Fisher Character will work from a designated area to "catch" three different objects that are outside of that area. The catch will be on the move and will include something expected, something unexpected, and a new discovery. The performance will also include a change of weather and a humorous character that portrays a potential catch and avoids being caught by the Fisher.
- Primary: Stir the Pot
 - Grades K-2
 - Teams will create and present a humorous performance about an object that comes to life when touched by an item that turns out to be magical. While it is alive, the animated object will encounter three other objects that will result in a dramatic change of behavior. There will be a narrator character that explains what is happening and a character that becomes friends with the object. The performance will also include a team-created poem, song, or dance.

WHO ELSE IS A PART OF OM?

- COACHES!
 - What does it mean to be a coach?
 - OM coaches are respectful, patient, intelligent, fun and empathetic support systems for the teams.
 - **NOTE: Coaches do not do the work!**
 - They are sounding boards, redirectors and sympathizers, but they are not the brains behind the operation.
 - The long-term problem is solved by the school team ONLY! Parents, neighbors, coaches, or any other non-team members, as loving and supportive as they may be, are considered *Outside Assistance*. Teams have and will lose points because of Outside Assistance.

WHAT OM IS NOT:



WHAT DOES AN OM COACH DO?

- How much time will you spend as a coach or volunteer?
 - **With group:** Beginning in the Fall, you will want to meet once or twice a week as a team, and the hours are respective to your schedule. Set up a weekly meeting time and space as soon as you are assigned your crew. **NOTE: FSMA does not have space available to teams; make sure you or someone on your team has enough space at home, or a good connection with churches, libraries, etc.**
 - **At home:** As a coach, you shouldn't have to do too much at home, especially for the older students. They should be in charge of writing and sending out notes to teammates, dreaming up creative solutions to unorthodox problems, and feeling the emotions of preparation and competition. **Set a high standard early for communication between you, the team, and team parents.**

WHAT DOES AN OM COACH DO?

- **Before competition:** The coach will decide how much more time needs to be invested into the project to be competition- ready. You can under-prepare, but you can never be over prepared—we've seen it! It helps to have a course of action going into the final two weeks before the March 2019 competition (meeting more, more activities completed at home as opposed to during team meeting, and so forth). You will want to block time to do run-throughs the days before competition.

WRAPPING IT UP

- “You can’t use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.” Maya Angelou
- What do you (the coach) and the team (FSMA school and students) get from all of this?
 - Quite simply, a completely different perspective of problem-solving and a lot of memories! This furthers the Montessori Method as well, utilizing a student led approach to the thought process. OM is an excellent community builder and provides endless opportunities for learning and total enjoyment. Every student finds their role in the team, and it is amazing to watch how every child contributes!