

Chartiers Valley Odyssey of the Mind

Why is OM a Great Thing for CVSD Kids?

Since its inception in 1978, Odyssey of the Mind has been tapping into the organic creativity of students through the encouragement of imaginative pathways to collaborative solutions via open-ended problems that appeal to a wide range of interests. Students learn how to identify challenges and think creatively to solve those problems.

Within the context of a team of 5-7, students develop problem solving through original thinking, experimentation, and responsible risk-taking. This creative problem-solving process rewards thinking “outside the box.”

Students get together, brainstorm, problem solve, create solutions, build structures, test contraptions, write a script, develop costumes and scenery, practice acting, singing, spontaneous thinking. Then in March it is time to present their performance at the regional tournament. State and world competitions follow for advancing teams. Throughout the process, students experience quality teamwork, time management and long-term planning, competitive sportsmanship, and authentic performances.

Primary Division: (K-2) : Feedback is offered without score and ranking

Division 1: (3rd-5th grades);

Division 2: (MS);

Division 3 (HS): Teams have a choice of 5 long term problem types with score and rank.

Timeline

- ❖ CVSD OM Parent/Coaches Information Night @ MS Commons 7 PM - October 3, 2017
- ❖ Coaches' Training @ Keystone Oaks HS - Saturday, November 4, 2017 Keystone Oaks High School 1000 Kelton Ave. Dormont, PA 8:30 AM – 2 PM
- ❖ Team Acting Workshop @ Little Lake Theatre - Saturday, December 3, 2017 *Performance of Yes, Virginia! The Musical PLUS Theater Workshop* 500 Lakeside Drive Canonsburg, PA
 - 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM approx. tickets sell out quickly
- ❖ Judges' Training - RMU - Saturday, January 27, 2018 [Mandatory] Robert Morris University, Moon Twp. 9AM - 2PM *registration required*

❖ Spontaneous Fun Day - Linton MS - Penn Hills SD Saturday, February 10, 2018 9AM

Registration

❖ Western PA Regional OM Competition @ Moon Area SD - March 3, 2018 6:30 AM - 5:30PM

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2017-18 Long-Term Problem Synopses*

Tentative as of April 28, 2017. All problems have an 8-minute time limit.

Problem 1: Triathlon Travels

On your mark...get set...go! In this problem, teams will ride on and drive original vehicles in an Odyssey-style triathlon. They will try to score in “curling,” hit the right targets when “jousting,” and “run track” by navigating a course in two directions. Between these events, the team will entertain the audience and the vehicle will change appearance. All of the action will take place in a team-created performance that features the vehicles’ triathlon travels, a commentator, and a coach. *Divisions I, II, III & IV*

Problem 2: Emoji, Speak for Yourself

Three-dimensional emojis will be used to communicate the life story of a once famous, but now forgotten, emoji. Teams will create a performance where the emojis demonstrate special functions like growing, turning into a team member, and changing into a different emoji. Performances will also include a choreographed dance, a technical representation of texting, and sounds to enhance the performance. The twist? No spoken language is allowed. *Divisions I, II, & III*

Problem 3: *Classics...* Mockumentary! Seriously?

There are often two sides to the same story. In this problem, characters don’t always agree as they recount the classic story where they appeared. The team will select a classic from a list and present different characters in a humorous documentary-style performance where details are added, denied, exaggerated, and disputed. There will be interviews, behind-the-scenes “clips,” and voice-overs that take the audience through the story and help present the events as they “really” took place. Whose side will you be on? *Divisions I, II, III & IV*

Problem 4: Animal House

Over the years, Odyssey of the Mind teams have designed structures that changed into many unbelievable shapes and sizes that balanced and held as much weight as possible. This year, teams will turn their balsa wood structures into animals! Since animals need to eat, they must be fed. The structure will have its appearance transformed and explained during an original performance. During the performance, the structure must hold the team-created food while it supports weights. *Divisions I, II, III & IV*

Problem 5: A Stellar Hangout

In the outreaches of the universe, there is an Intergalactic Hangout where all sorts of creatures from different worlds stop, eat, refuel, and relax. Teams will create a humorous performance centered on this science fiction hangout that includes original creatures, foods, and a search for space treasure. There will also be a worker character, entertainment, and a futuristic map at the hangout. *Divisions I, II, III & IV*

Primary: We’re Cooking Now

Creativity heats up as teams create their own cooking show where a chef gives an original cooking lesson to a special guest. The show takes place from a creative kitchen where balsa wood is used to support a cookbook, a bowl, and an object of the team’s choosing. A special guest will visit and learn to cook from the chef by using team-created representations of food. Performances will also include a name for the show, theme music, and a story about the meal they are cooking. *Grades K-2*

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