

RMS PTO Sponsored

Odyssey of the Mind

The after school education program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for RMS students Grades 6 through 8

RMS is sponsoring Odyssey of the Mind for the 2008-2009 school year for students in grades 6, 7 and 8. This international educational program lets kids apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. Students bring their solutions to competition on the state and world level.

Teams of 5 to 7 students choose from 1 of 5 pre-determined problems. This year's problems are attached to this flyer for your review.

The OM problem is solved entirely by the kids—every idea, design and prop must be produced by the team. Adult coaches serve merely to stimulate the thought process without influencing the team's thinking.

Students learn to:

- think creatively
- respect the ideas of others and work as a team
- examine problems and identify challenges without limiting the possible solutions and their potential success.

Plus have lots of fun in the process!

Parents Volunteers Needed to Coach!

In order to offer this program to RMS students, we need parents to volunteer to coach teams of 5-7 students. There are limited spaces available on existing teams. *New teams can be formed if at least 5 children sign up and parents volunteer to coach.*

To Learn More About OM

1. Read the additional literature attached including [FAQ](#) and the [2008-2009 Problems](#)
2. Visit www.odysseyofthemind.com (international site) and www.ctom.org (CT site)
3. Call Nan Dorsey at 203-262-4135 or email nandorsey@sbcglobal.net.
4. Speak with the children and parents that have participating in OM for the last 3 years at PES.

3 Ways Reserve a Space on a Team for Your Child Deadline 10/03/08

To reserve a place for your child on an OM team:

1. Email nandorsey@sbcglobal.net with the information on the attached [Reservation Form](#) or,
2. Call Nan Dorsey at 203-262-4135 and provide the information on the attached [Form](#) or,
3. Fill out the attached Form and drop it in the mail box at 140 Sleepy Hill Rd. by 10/03/08.

The deadline is 10/03/08. Available team slots are filled on a first-come basis.

Cost to Participate

The cost of membership is covered by the PTO. However, the state competition fee of \$35 and modest supply costs are paid by the families. Additional costs may be incurred if the students win the CT competition and choose to participate in the world competition.

RMS PTO Sponsored

Odyssey of the Mind

The after school education program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for RMS students from Grade 6 through 8

Deadline 10/03/08

2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR RMS OM RESERVATION FORM

Yes! I would like to reserve a spot for my child on a RMS Odyssey of the Mind team. (If enough children apply and parents can be found to coach, a team will be formed. You will be contacted either way.)

Grade _____ (Open to children in grades 6-8)

Today's Date _____

Student's Name _____

Birthday _____ (for competition registration)

Mother's Name _____
(or Guardian)
Email Address _____
Home Address _____
Home Phone _____
Cell Phone _____
Business Phone _____

Father's Name _____
(or Guardian)
Email Address _____
Home Address _____
Home Phone _____
Cell Phone _____
Business Phone _____

- I'm willing to be a head coach.
- I'm willing to be an assistant coach.
- Please contact me to discuss the possibility of coaching.

Please place my child on the team with this coach (optional): _____

Please place my child on a team with the following children. (Optional if you have a preference.)
(Teams cannot exceed 7 children.)

Child's Name _____
Child's Name _____
Child's Name _____
Child's Name _____
Child's Name _____
Child's Name _____

3 Ways to Reserve a Space on a Team for Your Child Deadline is 10/03/08 (Spaces are filled on first-come basis)

1. For fastest delivery, email nandorsey@sbcglobal.net with the information on this form or,
2. Call Nan Dorsey at 203-262-4135 and provide the above information over the phone or,
3. Drop this form in the mail box at 140 Sleepy Hill Road (off Bullet Hill Rd.) by 10/03/08.

For information on the RMS OM program see the attached flyer. For broader information, on the international program go to <http://www.theodysseyofthemind.com>

Odyssey of the Mind

2008-2009 LONG-TERM PROBLEM SYNOPSES

All problems have an 8-minute time limit.

Problem 1: Earth Trek Divisions I, II, III, & IV

This problem requires teams to design and build a small vehicle that will visit four locations. The locations will be different places within one or more team-determined environments. Each time the vehicle leaves a location it will look different in appearance, and after leaving one of the locations it will appear to be a group of vehicles that are traveling together. The team's performance will incorporate the visits to the locations, the environments, and the changes in

appearance of the vehicle. **Cost limit: \$145 USD.**



Sponsored by NASA.

Problem 2: Teach Yer Creature Divisions I, II, & III

Teams will create a humorous performance about a mechanical creature that acts like a real mammal or bird and learns lessons. The creature will act like the real animal by performing tasks the way it would, including traveling, eating, and turning its head. It will be taught two lessons by a Creature Teacher and will "accidentally" learn a behavior by observing others. During the performance the creature will surprise the audience by demonstrating the "accidental" behavior it learned.

Cost limit: \$145 USD.

Problem 3: The Lost Labor of Heracles Divisions I, II, III & IV

Teams will create and present an original performance about the ancient Greek hero Heracles. In Greek Mythology, King Eurytheus ordered Heracles to perform 12 labors. The team will reenact Heracles performing one of the 12 labors, as well as a Lost Labor--a team-created thirteenth labor forgotten in history. The performance will also include a god or goddess from Greek Mythology, an original mythological creature that plays a role in the Lost Labor, and the team's version of why the Lost Labor was forgotten in history. **Cost limit: \$125 USD.**

Problem 4: Shock Waves Divisions I, II, III & IV

The problem is to design and build a structure out of balsa wood and glue that will balance and support as much weight as possible while absorbing shockwaves. The team will test its structure by placing weights onto it. During specific intervals the team will place one or two spacers on the top weight and will then place a weight on them. The team will remove the spacers so the top weight falls onto the stack causing a shockwave. The team will add weight until its structure breaks or time ends. The team will also create and use an original method to place its structure onto the tester and will incorporate the testing of the structure into a performance.

Cost limit: \$140 USD.

Problem 5: Superstition Divisions I, II, III & IV

The problem is to create and present a performance that includes two documented superstitions, an original superstition created by the team, and the events that caused the original superstition to come to be. The performance will also include a funny narrator, a costume that is worn by two or more team members at the same time, and a stage set. During the performance the same stage set items will be used to change from one setting to another.

Cost limit: \$125 USD.

RMS PTO Sponsored

Odyssey of the Mind

The after school education program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for RMS students from grade 6 through 8

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Odyssey of the Mind?

OM is a creative problem solving competition for students. Kids select a problem, create a solution and then bring their solution to competition against other teams in their age category. Kids work in teams of up to 7 members under the guidance of adult coaches. This international program was established in 1978.

Who will be on my child's team?

The teams are made up of students from RMS grades 6 through 8. The teams are formed on first-come basis when coaches are found. Students can indicate when they sign up for the program on the Reservation Form if they want to be placed with a particular coach or group of students.

Which children do well in OM?

OM is a team-oriented, creative problem solving activity. Just like an adult team, each child brings their own unique qualities and strengths to the group. OM encourages the children to share their knowledge and learn from each other. That being said, a child that joins an OM team should have age-appropriate desire to cooperate and problem solve with others.

How much time will my child need to devote to OM?

Each individual team coach works with the team to set a regular schedule. The teams meet at least once a week and sometimes twice a week from the fall until the competition in March. The days to meet are set by the individual teams. It is important that your child attend the majority of meetings barring unforeseen circumstances. With teams maxed at 7 members, each child is essential to the team's success.

What is the coach's role?

OM is a "hands-on" activity for kids and "hands-off" for adults. The team creates their solutions without the help of others. The coach offers guidance and encouragement, and teaches team members how to open their minds to new ideas, listen to others, and evaluate solutions effectively. The coach also handles logistics like scheduling meetings, filling out paperwork, getting the team to competition, etc.

How many coaches are needed per team?

It's ideal to have at least two coaches per team but not essential. Just as with the children, the coaches draw on each other's strengths. Other parents can help by teaching a skill to the children or volunteering to help or be a judge on competition day.

What qualifications are needed to be a coach?

Any parent or teacher can be a coach. One day of training is provided by CTOM, the Connecticut Chapter of OM, in the fall. New coaches will be given program guides and other resources. In addition, experienced coaches transferring from PES to RMS this year and coaching their established teams will be available to lend assistance.

What does OM cost?

The team membership fee is covered by the RMS PTO! In addition, it costs from \$35 to \$40 per child to participate in the March competition. Your coach may also ask for a small contribution for supplies. The entire team can spend no more than \$145 on supplies. But often there's no need to purchase these supplies as items can frequently be found at home. Fees are collected by the coaches. In addition, if the team wins the CT competition, there are additional costs if the team chooses to participate in the world competition

Where can I learn more about OM?

Read the attached RMS OM Flyer, visit <http://www.odysseyofthemind.com> and <http://www.ctom.org>, and/or contact Nan Dorsey, the RMS OM Coordinator, at nandorsey@sbcglobal.net or 203-262-4135.