



AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Dear Student:

Do you think creatively? Are you a good problem solver? Does acting in skits or plays interest you? If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, you might be a good candidate to participate in the Odyssey of the Mind program.

OM is an international creative problem solving program begun in New Jersey in 1978. The purpose of OM is to encourage students to use their creativity to solve a challenging problem. Participants are part of a seven person team who work cooperatively to solve problems using their imagination, ingenuity, and dramatic skills. They then present their solution to the problem at a competition scheduled for February 21 at Grandville High School.

What do you need to do if you are interested in participating in OM? First, you will need to get your parents' permission to try out for a team. A note to them is on the back of this letter (or scroll down if you are reading this electronically) and the permission slip is attached. Next, you will take a very simple test to see how creative you are when it comes to solving problems. The test will be on **Wednesday, Oct. 22 in Mrs. Snoap's classroom**. Please come in at your recess time to take the test and **bring your permission slip with you**. It is your responsibility to remember to come. ☺

If you are selected for the team, you will begin working with your teammates and coaches to solve a problem assigned to you by the OM Organization. It will take several months of practice to create and develop all aspects of your solution. During practices, you will put your creativity, ability to solve problems, dramatic skills and teamwork to good use. Participating in OM will require a lot of **time** and **hard work** on your part. However, I am sure you will also get a lot of satisfaction out of being part of such a unique program.

As always, we are looking for coaches and judges. If you have an adult family member or friend who would be interested, please have them contact me at tsnoap@gpsbulldogs.org. If you think you would like to try out, please have a parent sign the attached permission slip and return it to school by next Thursday at lunch when we meet to take the test.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Snoap

Grade 4– 5 ODYSSEY OF THE MIND OPPORTUNITY

Dear Parents:

Your child has shown interest in trying out for a Cummings Odyssey of the Mind team. I hope you will take a few minutes to read the information below about this unique opportunity.

Students who are creative thinkers, good problem solvers and have a flair for the dramatic are good candidates to be part of an OM team. It is also important that they are able to work well with others. OM teams work very hard together for several months.

How much time does it require to participate in OM?

Teams practice regularly, usually in the evenings at school. The number of practices will ultimately be decided by the team once it is formed. Typically, a team will practice at least twice a week for about two hours each meeting. With times increasing as the competition date gets closer. This time commitment is necessary to be ready for competition on February 21, 2015 at Grandville High School. The state competition takes place on March 21.

Who will supervise the OM team?

Parent/adult coaches are needed for the OM experience to happen. At this time I have one available coach and will be able to place 7 students. We would love to offer this to more students, so please consider being a coach. Regardless of whether you become the registered coach of a team, all the parents of team members will need to be involved to some degree in the practices and preparation throughout the year. Coaches are encouraged to participate in one of the training sessions provided by the local OM organization. Materials to help guide participants through the program are also available.

What costs are involved?

Each team is given a budget to purchase materials needed to solve their problem. This will be provided by the school, as will registration and entry fees. Team t-shirts will be available (\$15 or less). The only other cost to parents and children is time and energy, but the returns are tremendous! Over the years Grandville has produced some very strong OM teams.

What do I need to do now that I am interested in having my child participate in OM? Read this information carefully, then **sign and return the permission slip with your child to Mrs. Snoap on Wednesday, October 22 at lunch.**

PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

I have read the information about Odyssey of the Mind and understand the commitment required for the program. I grant permission for _____ to participate in the try out for a Cummings OM Team. If my child is selected for a team, I am also willing to give my time to help the team be successful.

Parent Name

Phone Number

Parent Signature

Child's teacher

Yes or No **I would be interested in learning more about coaching or assisting an OM team.**
(Coaches must be in place before teams are formed. Coaches' children automatically qualify for a team.)