

Hello GHS families!

This is Germantown Hills' second year of participating in the Odyssey of the Mind program. Last year was extremely successful, with all three participating GHS teams receiving top scores at the state level and being able to participate in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at Michigan State. This year, the program is expanding to allow interested 3rd-6th graders to participate, with the potential of 5 teams in each of 2 divisions. We are excited to start building this year's teams!

Odyssey of the Mind is an international competitive problem-solving educational program. From Illinois Odyssey of the Mind: "Each academic year, five new 'problems' are released (Vehicular, Technical, Classical, Structural, and Theatrical), and teams select one problem to 'solve' for that year. Solving a problem consists of writing an 8-minute skit, building backdrops, props, and costumes, and sometimes building a car, constructing a balsa wood structure, or working and performing a song and dance depending on a specific problem's requirements. Teams are encouraged to think creatively, to take risks, and to work together with their own style or flair! Going beyond the traditional classroom experience, Odyssey of the Mind prepares students for real world problems and societal challenges in a fun, engaging way while incorporating STEAM education principles."

If you have a student in grades 3-6 who would be interested in participating in Odyssey of the Mind, or if you would be interested in coaching an Odyssey team, please join us for one of our information nights. These information nights will be held on October 17, 18, and 19 from 5:45-6:45 pm in the chorus room. We will discuss the Odyssey of the Mind experience, overview this year's long-term competition problems, cover the expectations for team members, coaches, and their families, and answer any questions you have about our teams and program.

For more information about Odyssey of the Mind, you can visit the official website at www.odysseyofthemind.com or the Illinois Odyssey organization at <http://il.odysseyofthemind.org> , or you can email me at odyssey@ghills69.com .

For more about the history of Odyssey of the Mind:
https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odyssey_of_the_Mind

An article about last year's GHS teams:
<http://www.pjstar.com/news/20170519/germantown-hills-students-to-solve-problems-at-world-finals>

And to see a solution in action: <https://youtu.be/POwhimIM8uw>

Thanks, and we hope to see you at one of our information nights!

Ellen Krasin

GHS OotM Coordinator