



**Pine View Middle School**

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(813) 794-4800

Jennifer M. Warren, Principal

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**Enjoy thinking "outside the box"? --- Join Odyssey of the Mind at PVMS**

**Odyssey of the Mind** is a creative problem-solving program for students K-12 and college. It provides participants with the opportunity to learn creative problem solving, teamwork, brainstorming, self-reliance, and respect for individual strengths -- unique, unforgettable experiences that will serve them in every aspect of their lives now and in the future.

Teams of five to seven students meet after school for several months, guided by an adult coach (usually a parent), to develop solutions to one of six Long Term Problems, while also practicing for a Spontaneous Problem. Teams, problems and competitions are organized into five divisions by age groups. In Florida we have Regional competitions and the higher scoring teams advance to State Finals. The top teams from the State Finals go on to the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals.

In the Long Term Problem teams develop a theatrical and engineering solution to a specific situational problem over several months. Solutions may range from building mechanical devices to presenting interpretations of literary classics. Just as much fun are the Spontaneous Problems, where the students develop brainstorming skills to solve problems given to them at the competition.

**Sign-up Today!**

If you and/or your child are interested in participating in Odyssey of the Mind this school year, please complete the form below and return it to the school as soon as possible. Sign-up for team participation will be on a first-come/first-served basis, as the number of team slots are limited and dependent on the number of coaches we have.

**If you are interested in being a coach, your assistance is greatly needed! Without coaches we will have no teams!** You do not have to be a professional educator to get involved and no prior OM experience is necessary. Children of parent coaches are guaranteed a spot on a team. For each team, we need at least one coach.

For more information please contact Pine View's OM coordinator Nilsa Calabria, by email at [ncalabri@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:ncalabri@pasco.k12.fl.us), or by phone at (813) 794-4800, (813) 618-8995(cell) or (813) 996-3806 (home).

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in being a coach? Please circle: Yes / No

Past OM coach? Yes / No

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Past OM team member? Yes / No

**Additional information about Odyssey of the Mind can be found at:**

<http://www.odysseyofthemind.com>

### **Why Odyssey of the Mind?**

*“Odyssey of the Mind is an international creative problem-solving program that engages students in their learning by allowing their knowledge and ideas to come to life in an exciting, productive environment. Participants build self-confidence, develop life skills, create new friendships, and are able to recognize and explore their true potential. OM proves that students can have fun while they learn.*”

### **Innovative Problems that Teach Creativity**

Odyssey problems have challenged students to design mechanical dinosaurs, invent new factory machinery, build working vehicles, write a new chapter to Moby Dick, put a twist on classic artworks, turn Pandora’s Box into a video game, and so much more.

Since 1978, OM problems have challenged students to go beyond conventional thinking and incorporate creative problem solving in learning. Creative Problem Solving is a skill that needs to be nurtured and developed. While a conventional education is important, learning to solve problems creatively and confidently gives them an important edge in their education and career goals. There is creativity inside each of us and OM teaches how to tap into it so it can be applied to real-world problems.

### **Pioneers in Education Standards...**

From the start, OM recognized the importance of many of the skills now emphasized in education today such as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The program combines that with history and art and has encouraged learning these subjects through the Classics and performance problems.

### **...With a twist**

All OM solutions require students to perform, not just the sciences, but the arts as well – whether it be set-building, costume-making, creating props, acting, singing, or playing an instrument. These skills are important to create a balanced education. Because they are doing something fun, students are eager to perform and develop self-confidence and public speaking skills along the way. Many participants credit their success to Odyssey of the Mind. Because different elements are involved within each problem, OM brings together kids with varying interests that often form life-long friendships.”

and

<http://www.floridaodysseyofthemind.org>

**Information about our regional organization can also be found at:**

<http://www.gcodyyssey.com/>