Odyssey of the Mind

The beyond the box experience.

Odyssey of the Mind Supports Education Initiatives: Core Curriculum

Odyssey of the Mind and Educational Initiatives: Core Curriculum

Core Curriculum is aligned with:

- Includes rigorous content and application of knowledge through higher-order skills
- Built upon strengths and lessons of current state standards
- Informed by top-performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy
- Evidence and/or research-based
- Aligned with college and work expectations

English/ Language Arts	Odyssey Teams
Key Ideas and Details	• **All problems require team members to read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it.** • **Cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.** • **Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.**
Craft and Structure	• **Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.** • **Analyze the structure of texts. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.**
Integrations of Knowledge and Ideas	• **Team members analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text.** • **Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.**
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity	• **Each problem requires students to read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently in order to solve the problems.**

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Math	Odyssey Teams
Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them	• Team members start by explaining to themselves the meaning of a problem and looking for entry points to its solution. • They analyze givens, constraints, relationships, and goals. • They make conjectures about the form and meaning of the solution and plan a solution pathway rather than simply jumping into a solution attempt.
Reason abstractly and quantitatively	• Quantitative reasoning entails habits of creating a coherent representation of the problem at hand; consider the unit/parts involved; attend to the meaning
Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others	• The student must understand, and use stated assumptions, definitions, and previously established results in constructing arguments.
Model with mathematics	• Utilizing problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace, students model mathematics in many phases of the problems.
Use appropriate tools strategically	• Utilizing problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace, students model mathematics in many phases of the problems.
Attend to precision	• Students, as team members, try to communicate precisely to others. • They try to use clear definitions in discussion with others and in their own reasoning. • They calculate accurately and efficiently, express numerical answers with a degree of precision appropriate for the problem context.
Look for and make use of structure	• Students look closely to discern a pattern or structure within a given problem. • They also can step back for an overview and shift perspective. • They can see complicated things as single objects or as being composed of several objects.
Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning	• Students notice if calculations are repeated and look both for general methods and for shortcuts.

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Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technology Subjects	Odyssey Teams
Write arguments focused on a discipline-specific content	• Many teams write a script to address the specifics of their solution.
Produce clear and coherent writing appropriate to task, purpose, and audience	• Teams are encouraged to focus their script and their performance on a specific task, purpose, and audience.
Conduct short as well as sustained research projects to answer a question	• Many aspects of Odyssey of the Mind require teams to conduct research to answer specific questions.
Gather relevant information from multiple sources	• Odyssey teams gather material from multiple sources.

Reading Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies (RST)	Odyssey Teams
Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source	• Team members work together to analyze both primary and secondary sources as they work with the problem and access resources as they search for a solution.
Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text	• The meaning of words and phrases in the Odyssey of the Mind problems has an impact on each solution
Integrate visual information	• Visual information can become an integral part of an Odyssey solution.
Distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment	• As teams search for a solution, the ability to distinguish between fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment can be critical.
Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media in order to address a question or solve a problem	• Teams integrate information from a wide variety of sources into their solutions

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Reading Standards for Literacy in Science and Technology Subjects (RST)	Odyssey Teams
Follow precisely a multistep procedure when carrying out experiments or performing technical tasks	• Team members start by explaining to themselves the meaning of a problem and looking for entry points to its solution. • They analyze givens, constraints, relationships, and goals. • They make conjectures about the form and meaning of the solution and plan a solution pathway rather than simply jumping into a solution attempt.
Translate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text into a visual form	• Quantitative reasoning entails habits of creating a coherent representation of the problem at hand; consider the unit/parts involved; attend to the meaning
Compare and contrast findings presented, noting when findings support or contradict previous explanations	• Students work as a team to compare and contrast findings as they develop their solutions.
Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media	• Students use multiple sources of information including a diversity of formats and media in their quest for solutions.
Evaluate the hypothesis, data, analysis, and conclusions found in science, verifying the data when possible and corroborating or challenging conclusions	• Students naturally use the scientific method as they work through their long-term solutions.
Synthesize information from a range of sources into a coherent understanding	• The synthesis of information from a range of sources comes together in a coherent presentation of the team's solution.

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Next Generation Science Standards of Science and Engineering Practices	Odyssey Teams
Analyzing and Interpreting Data	• Throughout the problem-solving process teams continuously review, analyze, and interpret data as they develop their solutions building on past experiences and knowledge and seeking new information.
Asking Questions and Defining Problems	• Questioning and defining problems is an integral part of the problem-solving process.
Constructing Explanations and Defining Problems	• Odyssey teams collaborate to define problems and construct and often reconstruct explanations supported by multiple sources of evidence consistent with scientific knowledge, principles, and theories.
Developing and Using Models	• Students develop, design, and use models to predict, explain, or collect data to test ideas and develop solutions.
Engaging in Argument from Evidence	• Using both oral and written arguments, teams use empirical evidence and data to design and support their solutions.
Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information	• Odyssey teams generate, synthesis, communicate, and critique methods and designs as they seek solutions.
Planning and Carrying out Investigations	• Students plan and carry out investigations that use multiple variables and provide evidence to support solutions.
Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking	• Teams use mathematical and computational thinking to support solutions.

Next Generation