

Dear Parents,

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and World level. Thousands of teams from throughout the U.S. and from about 25 other countries participate in the program. CT Odyssey of the Mind (CTOM) was organized in 1981 in order to bring the magic of the Odyssey of the Mind program to Connecticut youth.

This year, students from JC once again had the opportunity to take part in the Odyssey of the Mind program thanks to a grant from the Greenwich Alliance for Education. Teams of students competed in the CTOM State Tournament at Southern Connecticut State University. The students were all incredibly excited to participate, and proud to show off the hard work they have put in over the past several months. We had teams compete in two areas - a long-term problem, and a spontaneous problem. Long-term problems are given to teams in advance, and they have the opportunity to work on a solution over time. This year, one team created a vehicle that had to navigate a course in two directions, and told a story of a "forgotten emoji" using no words! A second team created a Stellar Hangout where students created the script, props, and costumes to depict a diner set somewhere in space where creatures searched for treasure. They also faced spontaneous problems where they had no idea what they would be faced with, and had to create a solution (verbal, hands-on, or both!) on the spot.

Although our teams didn't place high enough to earn a trip to World Finals this year, they certainly earned the respect of their coaches and their school administrators for demonstrating all of the attributes of a growth mindset! Their willingness to take on challenges, learn from their mistakes, and persevere is an example for all JC students to follow! We are so incredibly proud of our Excellent Eagles!

Our extremely dedicated coaches this year were John Ehlinger (ALP Teacher), Eileen Brehm (Building Substitute and JC Parent), and Sarah Muir (JC Parent). Many parents also volunteered their time for a variety of tasks from transporting props to providing snacks and moral support! Special thanks to Jared Randall, Alissa Pecora, Ines Ribeiro, Tyra Lopez, Joe Munoz, and Corey Wollins for their assistance - and to the parents of all of the Odyssey participants this year for supporting such a wonderful learning opportunity! Thank you to our dedicated Assistant Principal Mrs. Brenda Brush for donating her time on several Saturdays during the year to support our students and the Odyssey of the Mind Program at our school. . Lastly, I must provide a special shout out to the judges Brenda Brush and Pete Muir (grandfather of Talia Muir). Thank you to those who supported our students and are unnamed because as the proverb goes, it takes a Village!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ENTIRE ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAM!

Your proud principal,

Mrs. Trish McGuire

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