

Odyssey Warriors 2017-2018



Wards Creek Elementary

“Lighting the Way to Leadership” through Creative Problem Solving

Dear parents/guardians,

If your child is interested in becoming part of an Odyssey Warrior team this year, there are a few important things you should know before he or she fills out the application:

- **Odyssey of the Mind is a TEAM. Attendance for every team meeting is VERY IMPORTANT.** More than 3 unexcused absences before Winter Break will result in dismissal from the team.
- Parents will need to provide transportation to and from meetings, occasional weekend practices, workshops (St. Aug. or Jax) and our Regional Tournament in Feb/March 2017 and possibly State Tournament in April 2017 at UCF in Orlando.
- Teams meet at least once a week. Closer to tournament, teams may meet multiple times a week, including weekends. Meeting days and times will be based on student/coach availability. Please be sure to include any scheduling information in the application.
- Parents are needed as coaches. Coaches will be provided with support and training through teacher-sponsors. The student participation fee will be waived.
- Additionally, other parents may need to act as experts in special areas (i.e., sewing, carpentry, engineering, etc.) to help support teams, volunteer at events (each team is required to provide volunteers for tournament day), and most importantly – act as our greatest cheerleaders!
- **There is a \$60 fee per student to participate.** This covers the cost of national and regional membership/tournament fees for each member, project (long-term problem) costs, team member t-shirts, and other Odyssey Warrior event costs. Please email me if there is a financial need, as scholarships may be available.
- Space is **very** limited. Our membership includes five teams with seven students on each team. Space will be even more limited if we don't have 5 coaches.
- **Applications are available and are due Friday, September 8. No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.**
- Teams will be assembled based on the information provided in the application.
- The last page of this application includes a checklist and a place for you to sign.

Thank you for your support of the Odyssey Warrior Program!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Yvonne Drost and Mrs. Jill Kamm, Odyssey Warrior Coordinators

Patricia.Drost@stjohns.k12.fl.us or Jillian.Kamm@stjohns.k12.fl.us

2017-2018 Coaches Sign Up

Parents,

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

What does it mean to be an Odyssey coach?

- Each team must create an eight-minute performance that solves the chosen problem (problem descriptions are attached). Students must create the script, costumes, props, and set, in addition to other requirements in the problem outline. It is the coach's job to oversee this process by asking guiding questions. You are a facilitator and not expected, or allowed, to solve the problem.
- Coaches will also help students prepare for the spontaneous portion of the competition. Example problems and additional training will be provided.

We, as teachers, cannot do this alone. **We need parents to coach!** Parent coaches will be given the following:

- Space at school to practice and store some materials
- Teacher support for team management and guidance on structuring practices
- Teacher support for team paperwork and emails
- Teacher support for spontaneous practice
- Access to materials in Odyssey storage

Benefits of parent coaches:

- Become a certified coach by attending our Regional Coaches Trainings
- More flexibility of schedule
- Easier to practice on weekends
- More time with your child
- The opportunity to see your child and their team grow through the process
- See your child perform the Long-Term problem
- Student participation fee waived

Thank you for your help and support!

I would like to coach an Odyssey of the Mind team this year: Yes! No

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone #s: _____

2017-2018 Odyssey Warrior Application

To be completed by parent/guardian:

Basic Info

Student Name: _____ Teacher: _____

Student T-Shirt Size: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

To be completed with the help of a parent/guardian:

Schedules:

What days of the week can you stay after school? M T W Th F

Which day is your first preference? _____

Which day is your second preference? _____

Regional Tournament attendance in February/March is **mandatory**. We will let teams know the date as soon as it is announced. In the past, it has been held at Pacetti Bay MS. It is an all-day event. It takes place on a Saturday.

To be completed by the student only!

Problem Preference

Please carefully read the attached list of 2017-2018 Odyssey of the Mind Problem Synopses. Please let us know which problem you would like to participate in by ranking them from 1 to 5, using each number once with the number 1 as your first choice. Please understand, you may be placed on a team based on your availability after school.

_____ Problem 1: vehicle problem

_____ Problem 2: technical problem

_____ Problem 3: classical

_____ Problem 4: balsa wood

_____ Problem 5: theatrical

Essay Questions

– To be completed by student only! No outside assistance.

Please answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What does teamwork mean to you? _____

2. Odyssey is about risk-taking and creativity. Give an example of something creative you have done. For example: a story you wrote, fort you built, or problem you solved in a creative way. _____

2017-2018 Odyssey Warrior Teacher Recommendation

Dear Teachers,

Please fill out this form and place it, folded or in an envelope, in Mrs. Drost's or Mrs. Kamm's mailbox by **Friday, September 8th**. This information will be kept confidential.

Odyssey Warrior Candidate: _____

Teacher: _____

Please rate the candidate on the following categories: (5=Excellent, 1=Poor)

Attendance	1	2	3	4	5
Responsibility	1	2	3	4	5
Teamwork	1	2	3	4	5
Shows a high level of creativity	1	2	3	4	5
Shows a desire to learn and to improve	1	2	3	4	5
Handles feedback well	1	2	3	4	5
Persistence in problem solving	1	2	3	4	5
Practices self-control	1	2	3	4	5
Has an overall good, positive attitude	1	2	3	4	5

Other comments you would like to share about this candidate:

Thank you!

Mrs. Drost and Mrs. Kamm

Application Checklist

I have completed the following:

Coaches Sign Up

Basic Information

Schedules

Problem Preference

Essay Questions 1-2

Teacher Recommendation

○ I gave my recommendation form to: _____

Students who make the team, will receive an invitation by September 12th. Our first practices will begin the week of September 18th.

All Odyssey Warriors will be required to have a behavior contract and a media release form on file for the Tournament.

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____

Student Signature _____ Date: _____