

Rationale for participation in *Odyssey of the Mind*

Participation in Odyssey of the Mind provides the student with both cognitive and affective experiences. Students are challenged to develop their critical thinking potential and their divergent thinking skills through creative problem solving. They are encouraged to plan, organize and set long-range goals. During this process, they gain sensitivity and experience with group dynamics. Learning to take risks allows the students to become more self-confident and independent thus making successes and defeats easier to place in perspective. Experiences with OotM problems prepare students to solve real-life problems using specific skills and behaviors.