

Template for Local Newspaper Story

On Saturday, February 29nd, two XXXXXX school teams competed at the San Francisco Bay Odyssey of the Mind (OotM) tournament, held at Concord High School in Concord. These two teams advance to the Northern California Association tournament by placing among the top three teams in their divisions at the SF Bay Regional Tournament. XX City or School Name teams, representing all XXXXX School District (USD) elementary schools, as well as XXXX Middle School and XXX High School, competed at the Regional Tournament. XXXXX participation in OotM is coordinated by ENTER COORDINATORS NAME, a role/parent at XXX Elementary.

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. While teams have adult coaches, the students are responsible for all planning, collection, and construction of materials, and writing of the presentations, which often include humor and musical elements. Coaches and parents are not permitted to offer suggestions or to opine on the team's ideas. Strict penalties are assessed for any adult assistance. Team members apply their creativity to solve "long-term" problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics, as well as "spontaneous" problems presented on the spot at tournaments and solved as a team in a very limited time. Performances in both long-term and spontaneous problems are graded on multiple elements. Teams with the two highest combined scores in each division go on to compete in the World Tournament against other teams from the US and about 25 other countries. Find SF Bay Odyssey of the Mind at www.sfbyaodysseyofthemind.org.

The first team representing XXXX at the Northern California Tournament consisted of XXXXXX members from XXXX Middle School and XXXXX Elementary: sixth-graders teammember1, team members 2, Teammember3, Team member4, and team member 5, and fifth-graders team member6 and team member 7. This team, XXXXXenter team NameXXXX, was coached by Coach Name and Assistant Coach Name. The team competed in the category of ENTER PROBLEM NAME in which the long-term problem was the creation and performance of an original musical

performance that included important elements of the problem EXAMPLE: three works of art that disappear mysteriously, two characters on a quest to find them, the incorporation of the works of art into the architectural replica, and two original songs with choreography. All of this to be completed by seven children, with no adult assistance other than time-management, and performed in front of judges and an audience for eight minutes.

Examples from Local Press in past years:

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/9679094-181/chris-smith-what-an-odyssey>

<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0901/Several-Lamorinda-Teams-Head-to-Odyssey-of-the-Mind-State-Tournament.html>

<https://patch.com/california/benicia/bp--odyssey-of-the-mind-benicia-sends-two-teams-to-state-finals>

<https://patch.com/california/fremont/fremont-unified-students-representing-california-odyssey-mind-world-finals-0>

<https://www.chron.com/neighborhood/bellaire/schools/article/Presbyterian-School-Odyssey-of-the-Mind-Teams-win-12732094.php>

Nationwide News for OMER:

<https://www.odysseyofthemind.com/odyssey-in-the-news/>