

ITA 6th and 7th Grade Young Engineers STEAM Club - Odyssey of the Mind Report

This year, the ITA 6th and 7th Grade Young Engineers STEAM Club, sponsored by a generous grant from General Motors, elected to participate in the Odyssey of the Mind (OM) creative problem-solving program. Through participation in the international OM program, students were able to gain experience in a multitude of 21st century workforce skills, such as teamwork, communication, collaboration, creativity, design processes, criteria and constraints, critical thinking, budgeting, record-keeping, and problem-solving. In addition to these practical skills, the ITA club and OM program provided students the opportunity to grow friendships and relationships that will hopefully last throughout their time in the Pontiac School District and beyond.

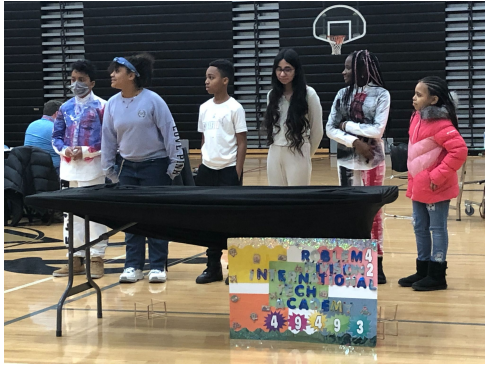
These amazing 6th and 7th grade students worked tirelessly with their respective grade cohorts, and in a committed fashion, for two and a half months to prepare a highly-detailed solution to a problem generated by OM. On Saturday, February 11, 2023, their hard work culminated in a field trip where the students presented their solutions to the long-term problem, and also competed in a spontaneous problem-solving session. Several ITA family members attended the competition to show their support and volunteer at the event. ITA is proud to say that the 6th grade team and 7th grade team both placed 1st in their respective categories at the Region 5 Michigan Odyssey of the Mind Tournament on February 11th at Corunna High School in Corunna, MI.

Staff: Jaime Owen - Young Engineers STEAM Club Leader and Lead OM Coach
Jessica Abdo - OM Co-Coach
Paris Conquest - OM Co-Coach
Brooke Copland - OM Volunteer OM Competition Judge
Martin Davis - OM Volunteer OM Competition Judge
Julie Williams - OM Volunteer OM Competition Judge

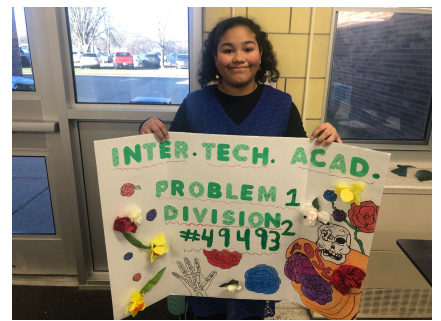
6th Grade Team Members: Amora Collins, Isabella Daumont-Orza, Janae Dewberry, Alexa Esparza-Chacon, Vaden Haddon, Emanuel Lopez-Rosario, Jeusial Quintana Rosario

7th Grade Team Members: Horizon Bolden, Jorge Esparza-Chacon, Ruby Guerrero Guzman, K’Nijah Morway, William Perhay, Divine Thomas

6th Grade Long-Term Problem: Where’s the Structure?: “The Spirit of the Problem is for the team to design, build, and test a final structure that is made up of three separate components. When time begins the components will be hidden and then revealed to the judges and audience. After they are revealed, they will be assembled to create the final structure that will be weight tested. The performance will also include a poem about searching for something and a magician character that performs two magic acts including one that will explain what is taking place with weight testing. There will also be an additional character that is part of an act.” -OM



7th Grade Long-Term Problem: Pirates and the Treasure: “The Spirit of the Problem is for the team to perform an original performance about a group of pirate characters that reclaim stolen treasure and return it to the Queen’s Kingdom. It will design and build a ride-on vehicle that is presented as a pirate ship. A Captain Character and an additional rider will maneuver the ship on a course and perform different functions. It will battle a sea monster and sustain damage before recovering and returning the Queen’s treasure. The performance will also include a song performed by the pirate characters, and an original pirate ship flag.” -OM



Report Prepared by Jaime Owen, 02/13/2023