Maine Odyssey of the Mind

Meeting STEM, Common Core, Arts and 21st Century Skills through Creative Problem Solving



Part 1

Odyssey of the Mind and Educational Initiatives

STEM Initiative



Problem 1 (VEHICLE): Catch Us If You Can

Teams will design, build, and run vehicles from a multi-level Parking Garage to a secret meeting place without being stopped. Vehicles will travel different routes to reach the same destination. During their Odyssey, the vehicles will do something that prevents them from being followed. The performance will include the reason for the meeting, someone that wants to prevent the meeting, a simulation of a scene taking place inside a vehicle as it travels, and a soundtrack to accompany the vehicles' travel.

Science	Technology	Engineering	Mathematics
 Understand the properties of objects and materials, and the changes in properties and matter in order to create one or more vehicles and their method(s) of propulsion. Research/understand energy, its sources, and how it applies to different propulsion systems. Research/understand simple machines, transmissions, leverage, mechanics of motion, inertia, friction, braking. Research/understand the construction and materials in the design of vehicles and propulsion systems. Develop a model using an example to describe ways the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and/or atmosphere interact. 	 Use technology tools to enhance learning, increase productivity, and promote creativity. Research different methods of control, steering, and propulsion in designing and building the vehicle. Research different sources of energy for vehicle's propulsion. Use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources. 	Apply a structured approach to solving problems: define problem, brainstorm ideas, research, identify criteria, explore the possibilities, make a model, evaluate, communicate results,	 Use visualization, spatial reasoning, and geometric modeling to solve problems in the creation of the vehicle and propulsion systems, etc. Utilize estimation, measurement, computational skills, and spatial/geometric relationships in order to: Work within budgetary, time, and space limitations. Analyze scoring criteria to prioritize problem elements such as vehicle and design, and propulsion systems. Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.

Problem 2 (TECHNICAL): Odd-a-Bot

Teams will create a humorous story about a family that brings home an "Odd-a-Bot." Instead of being programmed to perform tasks, this Odd-a-Bot robot learns from watching others. Teams will design, build, and operate an original robot that demonstrates human characteristics when performing tasks. In the performance, the Odd-a-Bot will move and learn human actions from watching characters perform activities such as household chores, creating art, and dancing. The Odd-a-Bot learns more than it was expected to learn, and will confuse its actions with humorous results.

Science	Technology	Engineering	Mathematics
 Understand the properties of objects and materials, and the changes of properties in matter in order to create devices. Research and develop an understanding of how energy may be used to power devices. Research and develop an understanding of simple machines, leverage, laws of motion, mechanics and the effect of applied force on objects to complete the tasks. Research and develop an understanding of various methods of robotic, or autonomous, control both historically and in present day. 	 Use technology tools to enhance learning, increase productivity, and promote creativity. Use productivity tools to collaborate in constructing technology-enhanced models. Employ technology in the development of strategies for solving problems in the real world. Understand and use technology systems. Use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources 	 Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem. Apply a structured approach to solving problems: define problem, brainstorm ideas, research, identify criteria, explore the possibilities, make a model, evaluate, communicate results, and revise to improve performance. Develop an understanding that engineers need to communicate effectively as individuals and as members of a team. Design, create and build a solution that displays robotic behaviors, such as movements, etc. that mimic human behaviors. 	 Use visualization, spatial reasoning, and geometric modeling to solve problems in the creation of devices to complete tasks. Utilize estimation, measurement, computational skills, and spatial relationships in order to: Work within budgetary, time, and space limitations. Analyze scoring criteria to prioritize problem elements such as quality and creativity of the performance, creativity of the overall engineering of the Odd-a-Bot, successful performance of the movements of the Odd-a-Bot.

Problem 3 (CLASSICS): It's Time, OMER

In this classics problem, teams will create and present an original performance about the inspiration for great works of art. The problem will include a list of classic artists and their work. Teams will select two classic works to reproduce and create an original work of their own. Three times time travelers will travel back in time to discover the inspiration for each work of art. The twist is that one of the trips into the past will be into our future. The performance will include OMER, an explanation of how the art had a positive impact on the world, and a visual an audible effect to indicate time travel.

Science	Technology	Engineering	Mathematics
 Understand the properties of objects and materials, and the changes of properties in matter in order to create a sound. Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem. 	 Use technology tools to enhance learning, increase productivity, and promote creativity. Use productivity tools to collaborate in creating a visual and audible effect and produce other creative works. Demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations. Demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology. 	research and development, invention and innovation, and	 Use visualization, spatial reasoning, and geometric modeling to solve problems in the creation of works of art. Utilize estimation, measurement, computational skills, and spatial/geometric relationships in order to: Work within budgetary, time, and space limitations. Analyze scoring criteria to prioritize problem elements. Solve problems involving measurement and estimation of intervals.

Problem 4 (STRUCTURE): Ready, Set, Balsa, Build!

In this problem, teams will design, build, and test a structure made of only balsa wood and glue that will balance and support as much weight as possible. The structure must include sets of balsa pieces of predetermined sizes and quantities as listed in the problem. Some sets must be parts of the structure while others, if incorporated, will receive additional score - the more sets of pieces used, the higher the score! Teams will present a performance with a theme about using what's available and that incorporates weight-placement and assembling original team creations.

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Problem 5 (HUMOROUS): To Be Continued - A Superhero Cliffhanger

Creativity is being taken away from the world, and it is up to Odyssey teams to rescue it! Teams will create and present a humorous performance about an unexpected superhero that encounters three different situations where it must save creativity in some way. The superhero will change appearance when it displays its superpowers and go back to blending in with society when not. The performance will also include a clumsy sidekick, a nemesis character, a choreographed battle, and a cliffhanger ending.

Science	Technology	Engineering	Mathematics
 Understand the abilities of technological design. Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem 	 Use technology tools to enhance learning, increase productivity, and promote creativity. Use productivity tools to collaborate in constructing technology-enhanced models and produce other creative works. Employ technology in the development of strategies for solving problems in the real world, including those related to social situations. 	creative and critical thinking and inquiry.	 Make decisions about units and scales that are appropriate for problem situations involving measurement in order to design a moving set. Utilize estimation, measurement, computational skills, and spatial relationships in order to: Work within budgetary, time, and space limitations. Analyze scoring criteria to prioritize problem elements.

Primary Problem: Movin' Out!

Teams will create and present a performance about a group that is moving out of one place and into another. The performance will include two scenes and items must be transformed from the first scene to the second scene. Team devices will be used to make the transformation. The performance will include a humorous moving character, a reason for the move, and a lost item that is rediscovered in an unusual place.

Science	Technology	Engineering	Mathematics
 Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem. Understand the abilities of technological design 	 Use technology tools to enhance learning, increase productivity, and promote creativity. Use productivity tools to collaborate in constructing technology-enhanced models of various backdrops and produce other creative works. Employ technology in the development of strategies for solving problems in the real world. Understand and use technology systems. 	solving and engineering design. • Use engineering as a vehicle for	 Use visualization, spatial reasoning, and geometric modeling to solve problems in the creation of a backdrop. Utilize estimation, measurement, computational skills, and spatial relationships in order to: Work within budgetary, time, and space limitations. Analyze scoring criteria to prioritize problem elements

Spontaneous

Spontaneous is the "short term" portion of Odyssey of the Mind, in which students are given a problem and must solve it in a given amount of time. Some spontaneous problems build verbal skills, some build mechanical skills, and some build both; all help improve problem solving skills. Spontaneous problems vary from hands-on problems (ex., use materials to build/design/change an item), to verbal problems (ex., name types of trees).

an item), to verbal problems (ex., name types of frees).			
Science	Technology	Engineering	Mathematics
 Use innovation to solve problems. Apply an intuitive understanding of gravity, motion, force and other physics concepts. Apply an understanding of the composition, properties, and creative use of materials. (ex., what can we use to support the structure, what can we use to make it taller, etc.) Test alternate hypotheses. (ex., what is another way to build this?) Evaluate results. 	 Utilize innovation in the creative use of everyday objects (ex., toothpicks, clay, and paper plates) as tools and materials to solve problems. Implement nontraditional communication methods (gestures, tapping on table) to brainstorm and solve problems. 	 Apply knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to define, analyze, and solve problems Utilize engineering design process to define roles of team members (who will build, who will keep track of time), brainstorm (what materials will be used, how will solution be presented), and communicate possible solutions, and to reflect upon outcomes. Develop an understanding that engineers need to communicate effectively as individuals and as members of a team. 	 Utilize estimation, measurement, computational skills, and spatial relationships in order to: Work within time and space limitations outlined in the problem. Analyze scoring criteria (what is worth the most points) to prioritize problem elements (what should we do first to get a higher score?)

Part 2

Odyssey of the Mind and Educational Initiatives

Common Core



Common Core Alignment

Common Core Alignment

- Includes rigorous content and application of knowledge through higherorder skills
- Is built upon strengths and lessons of current state standards
- Is informed by top-performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy
- Is evidence and/or research-based
- Is aligned with college and work expectations

Common Core: English/Language Arts

English/Language Arts	Odyssey of the Mind Teams	
Key Ideas and Details	 All problems require team members to read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it. Cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text. 	
Craft and Structure	 Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words. Analyze the structure of texts. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone. 	
Integrations of Knowledge and Ideas	 Team members analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words. 	
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity	Each problem requires students to read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently in order to solve the problems.	

Common Core: Math

Math	Odyssey of the Mind Teams
Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them	 Team members start by explaining to themselves the meaning of a problem and looking for entry points to its solution. They analyze givens, constraints, relationships, and goals. They make conjectures about the form and meaning of the solution and plan a solution pathway rather than simply jumping into a solution attempt.
Reason abstractly and quantitatively	 Quantitative reasoning entails habits of creating a coherent representation of the problem at hand; consider the unit/parts involved; attend to the meaning
Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others	The student must understand and use stated assumptions, definitions, and previously established results in constructing arguments.
Model with mathematics	Utilizing problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace, students model mathematics in many phases of the problems.
Use appropriate tools strategically	 These tools might include pencil and paper, concrete models, a ruler, a protractor, a calculator, a spreadsheet, a computer, a statistical package, or dynamic geometry software. Proficient students are sufficiently familiar with tools appropriate for their grade to make sound decisions about when each of these tools might be helpful, recognizing both the insight to be gained and their limitations solving the problem they choose.
Attend to precision	 Students, as team members, try to communicate precisely to others. They try to use clear definitions in discussion with others and in their own reasoning. They calculate accurately and efficiently, express numerical answers with a degree of precision appropriate for the problem context.

Common Core: Math Cont'd

Math	Odyssey of the Mind Teams
Look for and make use of structure	 Students look closely to discern a pattern or structure within a given problem. They also can step back for an overview and shift perspective. They can see complicated things as single objects or as being composed of several objects.
Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning	Students notice if calculations are repeated, and look both for general methods and for shortcuts.

Common Core: Writing Standards

Writing Standards For Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects	Odyssey of the Mind Teams
Write arguments focused on a discipline-specific content	Many teams write a script to address the specifics of their solution.
Produce clear and coherent writing appropriate to task, purpose, and audience	Teams are encouraged to focus their script and their performance on a specific task, purpose, and audience.
Conduct short as well as sustained research projects to answer a question	Many aspects of Odyssey of the Mind require teams to conduct research to answerspecific questions.
Gather relevant information from multiple sources	Odyssey teams gather material from multiple sources.

Common Core: Reading Standards

Reading Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies	Odyssey of the Mind Teams
Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source	Team members work together to analyze both primary and secondary sources as they work with the problem and access resources as they search for a solution.
Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text	The meaning of words and phrases in the Odyssey of the Mind problems has an impact on each solution.
Integrate visual information	Visual information can become an integral part of an Odyssey solution.
Distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment	 As teams search for a solution, the ability to distinguish between fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment can be critical.
Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media in order to address a question or solve a problem	Teams integrate information from a wide variety of sources into their solutions.

Common Core: Next Generation Science and Engineering

Next Generation Science				
Standards of Science	Odyssey of the Mind Teams			
and Engineering				
Practices				
Analyzing and Interpreting	Throughout the problem solving process teams continuously review, analyze, and interpret data as they develop their solutions building on past experiences and knowledge and seeking			
Analyzing and Interpreting Data	new information.			
Asking Questions and Defining Problems	Questioning and defining problems is an integral part of the problem solving process.			
Constructing Explanations and Defining Problems	Odyssey teams collaborate to define problems and construct and often reconstruct explanations supported by multiple sources of evidence consistent with scientific knowledge, principles, and theories.			
Developing and Using Models	Students develop, design, and use models to predict, explain, or collect data to test ideas and develop solutions.			
Engaging in Argument from Evidence	Using both oral and written arguments, teams use empirical evidence and data to design and support their solutions.			
Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating	Odyssey teams generate, synthesis, communicate, and critique methods and designs as they seek solutions.			
Information				
Planning and Carrying	Students plan and carry out investigations that use multiple variables and provide			
out Investigations	evidence to support solutions.			
Using Mathematics	Teams use mathematical and computational thinking to supportsolutions.			
and Computational				
Thinking				

Part 2

Odyssey of the Mind and Educational Initiatives

21st Century Skills



21st Century Skills

21stCentury Skills	Odyssey of the Mind Teams				
Global Awareness	 Global competitiveness and understanding. Teams meet other teams from around the world at the annual World Finals. 				
Intellectual curiosity	 Research to find information needed to solve the problem. Choosing a problem and idea that is personally exciting. 				
Interpersonal and Collaborative Skills Communication	 Teamwork: consensus, collaboration, communication. Understanding and valuing the power of diversity within the team. Understanding personal strengths and weaknesses. Practicing active listening skills. Learning to value other team member's ideas and contributions. 				

21st Century Skills

21stCentury Skills	Odyssey of the Mind Teams			
	Analyze complex open-ended real world problems.			
	Identifying challenges within the problem.			
	Brainstorm possible technical solutions.			
Problem Solving & Creative and Critical Thinking	Brainstorm possible thematic and artistic solutions.			
	Evaluate potential solutions – How creative is			
	this solution? Will other teams have thought of this?			
	• Spontaneous: training your mind to generate creative solutions by analyzing and evaluation your ideas and learning to use targeted thinking strategies.			
	Outside Assistance Rules: For scored solution components			
Self-Direction	Planning for tournaments.			
	Team reflection of effectiveness during spontaneous			
Authentic	practice.			
Assessment	Team reflection of tournament results.			
Accountability and Adaptability	Planning and refining for future tournaments.			
	Create-test-improve-retest best solutions.			

Art Standards							
DANCE	MUSIC	THEATRE	VISUAL ARTS	MEDIA ARTS			
 Identify ideas for choreography generated from a variety of stimuli Construct and solve multiple movement problems to develop choreographic content Improve a series of movements that have a beginning, middle, and end Revise movement choices in response to peer feedback and self-reflection to improve a short dance study Demonstrate locomotor and non-locomotor movements that change body shapes, levels, and facings Replicate body shapes, movement characteristics, and movement patterns in a dance sequence with awareness of body alignment and core support Judge spaces as distance traveled and use space three-dimensionally. Perform movement sequences in and through space with intentionality and focus Change use of energy and dynamics by modifying movements and applying specific characteristics to heighten the effects of their intent Dance with sensibility toward other dancers while executing complex spatial, rhythmic and dynamic sequences to meet performance goals 	 Generate a simple rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic phrases within AB and ABA forms that convey expressive intent Generate musical ideas (rhythms, melodies, and accompaniment patterns) Demonstrate selected and organized musical ideas for an improvisation, arrangement, or composition to express intent and explain connection to purpose and context Present the final version of personal created music to others that demonstrates craftsmanship and explain connection to expressive intent Demonstrate understanding of the structure in music selected for performance With limited guidance, apply personal, teacher and peer feedback to refine performances Rehearse to refine technical accuracy and expressive qualities and address performance challenges Perform music for a specific purpose with expression and technical accuracy Perform appropriately for the audience and purpose Evaluate musical works and performances, applying established criteria, and explain appropriateness to the content 	 With prompting, and support, invent and inhabit an imaginary elsewhere in dramatic play or guided drama experience Investigate multiple perspectives and solutions to staging challenges in a drama/theatre work Collaborate with peers to conceptualize scenery in a guided drama experience Visualize and design technical elements that support the story and given circumstances in a drama/theatre work Collaborate to determine how characters might move and speak to support the story and given circumstances in drama/theatre work Develop a scripted or improvised character by articulating the character's inner thoughts, objectives, and motivations in a drama/theatre work Collaborate to devise original ideas for a drama/theatre work Collaborate to devise original ideas for a drama/theatre work Compare ideas with peers and make selections that will enhance and deepen group drama/theatre work Collaborate with peers to revise, refine, and adapt ideas to fit the given parameters of a drama theatre work 	 Demonstrate willingness to experiment, innovate, and take risks to pursue ideas, forms, and meaning that emerge in the process of artmaking or designing Brainstorm multiple approaches to a creative art or design problem Collaboratively set goals and create artwork that is meaningful and ha purpose to the makers When making works of art, utilize and care for materials, tools, and equipment in a manner that prevents danger to oneself and others Design or redesign objects, places, or systems that meet the identified needs of diverse users Distinguish between different materials or artistic techniques for preparing artwork for presentations Analyze multiple ways that images influence specific audiences Develop and apply relevant criteria to evaluate a work of art Generate a collection of ideas reflecting current interests and concerns that could be investigated in art making Interpret art by analyzing artmaking approaches, the characteristics of form and structure, relevant contextual information, subject matter, and use of media to identify ideas and mood conveyed 	Formulate variations of goals and solutions for media artworks by practicing chosen creative processes, such as sketching, improvising, and brainstorming Organize, propose, and evaluate artistic ideas, plans, prototypes, and production processes for media arts productions, considering purposeful intent Experiment with multiple approaches to produce content and components for determined purpose and meaning in media arts productions, utilizing a range of associated principles, such as point of view and perspective Refine and modify media artworks, honing aesthetic quality and intentionally accentuating stylistic elements, to reflect an understanding of personal goals and preferences Demonstrate how a variety of academic arts, and media forms and content may be mixed and coordinated into media artworks, such as narrative, dance, and media Exhibit basic creative skills to invent new content and solutions within and through media arts production			

Art Standards							
DANCE	MUSIC	THEATRE	VISUAL ARTS	MEDIA ARTS			
Dance for and with others in a space where audience and performers occupy different areas Explore the use of simple props to enhance performance Demonstrate and describe observed or performed dance movements from a specific genre or culture Describe, create, and/or perform a dance that expresses personal meaning Observe illustrations from a story. Discuss observations and identify ideas for dance movement and demonstrate the big ideas of the story Observe a dance and relate the movement to the people or environment in which the dance was created and performed	Demonstrate how interests, knowledge, and skills relate to personal choices and intent when creating, performing, and responding to music Present the final version of created music for others Demonstrate understanding of relationships between music and the other arts, other disciplines, varied context, and daily life Using digital tools and demonstrate attention to technical accuracy and expressive qualities in prepared and improvised performances of a varied repertoire of music Assemble and organize multiple sounds or musical ideas to create initial expressive statements of selected sonic events, memories, images, concepts, texts, or storylines	 Refine, transform, and reimagine a devised or scripted drama/theatre work using the rehearsal process to invent or re-imagine style, genre, form, and conventions Develop physical and vocal exercise techniques for an improvised or scripted drama/theatre work Create innovative solutions to design and technical problems that arise in rehearsal for a drama/theatre work Interpret story elements in a guided drama experience Use body, face, gestures, and voice to communicate character traits and emotions Choose a variety of technical elements that can be applied to a design in a drama/theatre work Perform a scripted drama/theatre work for a specific audience Identify artistic choices made in a drama/theatre work through participation and observation Recognize and share artistic choices when participating in or observing a drama/theatre work Consider multiple ways to develop a character using physical characteristics and prop or costume design choices that reflect cultural perspectives in drama/theatre work 	Identify how art is used to inform or change beliefs, values, or behaviors of an individual or society Engage in constructive critique with peers, then reflect on, re-engage, revise, and refine works of art and design in response to personal artistic vision Interpret art by analyzing how the interaction of subject matter, characteristics of form and structure, use of media, art-making approaches, and relevant contextual information contributes to understanding messages or ideas and mood conveyed	 Demonstrate how a variety of academic, arts, and media forms and content may be mixed and coordinated into media artworks, such as narrative, dance, and media Demonstrate adaptability using tools and techniques in standard and experimental ways to achieve an assigned purpose in constructing media artworks Evaluate the results of and implement improvements for presenting media artworks, considering impacts on personal growth and external effects Identify, describe, and analyze how message and meaning are created by components in media artworks Describe, compare, and analyze how various forms, methods, and styles in media artworks interact with personal preferences in influencing audience experience Identify and apply basic criteria for evaluating and improving media artworks and production process, considering context Access, evaluate, and use internal and external resources to create media artworks such as knowledge, experiences, interests, and research Analyze and interact appropriately with media arts tools and environments considering fair use and copyright, ethics, and media literacy 			

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