



Dear Clariden Community:

Thank you for your interest in Clariden's Odyssey of the Mind (OM) teams! This document is your "one-stop shop" for all the logistical info that you might like to know about our programming.

Q: When does OM start?

A: An interest meeting will be held on August 23, 2023, followed by tryouts on August 30, 2023. The first practice will take place on September 6, 2023.

Q: When are practices and competitions?

A: Practices will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays throughout the year until the team no longer progresses in competition. Regionals are held in February/March. State competition is held in March/April and may require travel. Finally, the World Finals is held at the end of May and will require travel. World Finals 2024 will be held at Iowa State University from May 22-25, 2024.

Q: Where do practices take place?

A: Practices are held all over campus. Lower School OM students will practice in Sarah Yandow's classroom (Lower School building) and the MS building. Middle and Upper School OM students will practice in the MS and STEAM buildings. Occasional practices will take place in the gym.

Q: Who participates in OM?

A: The Division 1 team (Lower School) is comprised of Grade 2 through Grade 5 students. The Division 2 team is comprised of Grade 6 through Grade 8 students. The Division 3 team is comprised of Grade 9 through Grade 12 students. Students may have the option to compete in a higher division, but never in a lower division. Each team consists of up to seven students. Students are chosen based on their interests, commitment, and willingness to try new things. OM is for engineers, artists, performers, creative thinkers, and those interested in being challenged. Tryouts are an opportunity for students to "try out" OM and for coaches to form teams. Students and parents are expected to sign a contract that outlines dates, expectations, and OM rules regarding sportsmanship and outside assistance.

Q: Who runs OM?

A: OM is coached by faculty members and community partners. Rissa Westerfield serves as the MS and US (Divisions 2 & 3) coach as well as the school/district coordinator. Sarah Yandow serves as the Lower School (Division 1) coach. **All faculty members and partners have undergone background checks and an orientation.** Parents and Clariden alums fulfill required volunteer positions at competitions.

Q: How does my child get to practices?

A: There is a 10-minute gap between dismissal and the start of the programs. During these 10 minutes, your child will be supervised by their classroom teacher and/or program teacher. During this

time, students may take a water break and use the restroom. Division 1 (Lower School) coach will pick up their team from the Lower School building. Division 2 and 3 (MS and US) students will meet in the OM Makerspace inside the Middle School building.

Q: What if my child is hungry after school?

A: Students are welcome to bring/eat their own snacks. Occasionally, snacks or treats will be provided.

Q: Where and how do I pick up my child?

A: All OM students will be picked up from the Middle School building at 5:30 PM.

Q: What is the cancellation policy OM?

A: Please review the following timeline:

- An interest meeting will be hosted on Wednesday, August 23, 2023. Team contract/commitment and applications will be passed out.
- Tryouts will be held on Wednesday, August 30, 2023. Team contract/commitment and application are due **before** tryouts.
- Students invited to join will receive an email invite along with an online registration code by Friday, September 1st. The registration code allows you to enter the OM registration page via the Jumbula registration platform.
- The first practice will be held on September 6, 2023.
- **No refunds will be given 24 hours after registering.** Each team is limited to 7 students and, per OM rules and regulations, students cannot be replaced after dropping out. Please ensure you and your student are fully committed to the program prior to registering, as early termination will affect the entire OM team.

Q: What are the costs associated with OM?

A. The initial fee of \$250 only covers until the regional competition in February/March. The fee for State and World Finals is accessed at each level after the team qualifies to include travel and competition expenses.

In 2022-23, the State Finals fee was \$50, and the World Finals fee was \$1750. Please note that these fees vary from year to year.