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Two OM Teams Head to World Competition

For the first time, two teams from the Falls Church City Public Schools will be going to the World Competition for Odyssey of the Mind (OM). The two teams are both from Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School.

Odyssey of the Mind is a competition in which teams of students apply their creativity to solve problems. Teams work on their solution to one of five given problems throughout the school year and then present their solution skits at regional competitions in the spring. Regional winners go on to state competition. This year the state competition was held at Woodside High School in Newport News on Saturday, April 8.

One of the teams traveled to the competition last year as Thomas Jefferson Elementary School fifth graders. Those students are sixth graders Max Kaplow, Jack Trainor, Danny Seidita, Paul Henninger, Kate Sanders, Lia Cattaneo, and Claire Constance. Coaches for the team are parents Becky Trainor and Laura Brady (mother of Danny). The seventh grade team from MEHMS who will be competing in the competition includes students Daniel Fletcher, Rachael Hassan, Mollie Breen, Victoria Pender, Keti Breen and Clark Williamson. Coaches for that team are Lynn Fletcher and Sarah Hassan.

The World Competition will be held in Ames, Iowa on May 24-27. The team coaches estimate that it will cost approximately \$20,000 to send the students and their parent chaperones. Spearheading the fundraising efforts are Sara Hassan and Jennifer Boykin (Clark Williamson's mother). Boykin says "While we are very proud of our kids, we are a bit daunted by the expense of sending them on to this next level of competition ... We need help from our community residents and business to send our kids to Iowa."

Boykin, Hassan, other parents and the students themselves are planning many events and promotions to raise money to help them get to Iowa. For more information about helping the team, contact parent Jennifer Boykin at 703- 237-6951. To learn more about the Odyssey of the Mind program, visit www.odysseyofthemind.org.

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