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## **ECSD NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament Results**

*ECSD Teams Dominated Their Events!*

Escambia County School District is very proud to share the results from the recent Odyssey of the Mind Virtual State Tournament. Teams from ECSD took first place in all five competitions in their Division.

Ferry Pass Middle School's teams excelled in this competition, taking first place in the state of Florida in four of the five problems and one of Brown-Barge Middle School's Odyssey of the Mind competition teams took first place in the fifth!

***Every ECSD 2021 Odyssey team qualified for the World Finals!***

“Our teams have worked very hard, they did an incredible job and we are so proud to share these accomplishments!” said Ferry Pass Middle School’s, Principal Juanda White.

Both schools competed in Division 2 and due to Covid safety concerns, the teams all competed virtually. The awards were also announced virtually. The announcement video can be seen here: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/?tab=cm#inbox/FMfcgxwLtQVkpXgfSPVFmPSjQwSrFMJL?compose=GTvVlcSBmlqFxZszRBjrrrTGQwQkQPvwXScLRmGBSsmRcHmNbfDtdlbvcHkKQmctBFqRWbBPmstkst&projector=1>

Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem solving competition that was designed under the principle that creativity can be taught.

FPMS Coach Melissa Hughes provided this explanation: Students compete on a team of 5-7 members against teams from across the area. Our students competed this year in the virtual state competition. To compete, students submitted a video where they presented their solution in a performance that could last up to eight minutes. They could append video to explain how they designed their solution, so the complete video could not run more than fifteen minutes.

Hughes added that teams also had a cost limit that varied per problem, but was close to \$140 per team, which covered the costs of everything they used in their

solution. To encourage creativity and resourcefulness, recyclables and "trash" items had no cost associated and things like musical instruments had a relatively low fixed cost, so they would feel able to include these elements. Students were scored on the required parameters, as well as style, which was their own special flair they added to the problem solution. They also completed a "spontaneous" problem online where they had to come up with creative words or phrases to describe a given photo or written prompt.

The Odyssey of the Mind World Finals will be held June 11-12 in Orlando, but there is a virtual option, as well. Teams will begin to prepare right away because video submissions are due the end of April.

Here are details about each of the five problems or competitions.

Problem one was to design and run a vehicle through a course. FPMS's all sixth grade team was the state champion (1st place) in that problem. Members were Damian King, Dallas Martinez, Kyla Paxton, Rickey Paul, Chloe Rookey, Micha Salomon, and Bobby White.

Problem two was an open-ended engineering problem where students had to create a virtual world and a real world and then shift between the two with special technical effects. FPMS's team was named the state champion (First Place) in that problem. Team members were Patrick Beeman, Teagan Brown, Beatrice Bunnell, Aiden Ripley, Tremiah Wilson, and Kynnedi White. The Brown Barge Middle School team of 6th-8th grade students finished third. Team members were Maribella Golson, Alexander Sipperly, Victoria Sipperly, Sarah Tanveer, Riley Valdez, Abigail Whitley, and Aiden Williams.

Problem three was a problem from the classics. This year the students had to adapt two folk tales for an exploratory journey. FPMS's team was the state champion (First Place) in that problem. Members were: Arriana Allison-Williams, Damian Bieber, Penelope Emerson, Gabrielle Faulkner, Danica Mirkin, and Sophia Richards.

Problem four was a structure problem. The team had to design and build a structure from balsa wood and glue that would support as much weight as possible while telling the story of an oblivious character who had to avoid traps. FPMS's team was the state champion (First Place) in that problem. Members were Leela Battista, Annalina Easley, Aimee Hall, Kaylin Stoker, Serena Townsend, and Abigail Urnowey

In problem five, Superhero Socks: A Cliffhanger Beginning, the Brown Barge Middle School team of 7th grade students finished as the state champion (First Place) in their division. This theatrical problem pitted superhero against super villain, with a special pair of power-enhancing socks. Team members were Stefano Bitjoka, Ananya Chaki, Kaleigh Deese, Carly Gray, and Christian Myles

McArthur. Also competing in problem five, FPMS's team placed second. Members were: Matthew Allison-Williams, Brooke Baggett, Dominic Coles, Dwayne Francis, Rylee Garman, Charlie Hackmann, and Brody Rhodes.

The FPMS coaches included: Melissa Hughes, Scott Wittstruck, Jessica Hall, Cheri Stoker, Cindy Boles, Rebecca Van Fleet, and Phoebe Allen. Both Brown Barge Middle School teams were coached by Carrie McGugin.

Photos will be posted in an album of Facebook, on the page Escambia Schools Public Relations.

Media queries about Escambia County School District topics should be directed to Kim Stefansson, at (cell) [850-393-0539](tel:850-393-0539) or [kstefansson@ecsdfi.us](mailto:kstefansson@ecsdfi.us). Like and share posts about ECSD found on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ecsdfi](http://www.facebook.com/ecsdfi) Go to the Escambia Schools Public Relations page on [www.facebook.com/ecsdfi/public](http://www.facebook.com/ecsdfi/public) to see pictures of recent events. Visit ECSD's web page at [www.escambiaschools.org](http://www.escambiaschools.org)  
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