

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

CCSD Students Shine at Odyssey of the Mind

Office of Strategy and
Communications

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Charleston, SC — Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce three schools placed in the Top-3 in each level of competition at the Odyssey of the Mind state competition March 17, 2018 in Columbia, SC. Teams from R.B. Stall High School finished in first and third place, West Ashley Advanced Studies Magnet (ASM) won the middle school title for the second year in a row, and Lambs Elementary School was the runner-up in its division.

Teams that finish in the top two spots qualify for the World Finals, which are scheduled to be held at Iowa State University in Ames, IA May 23-26, 2018.

According to the organization's [website](#), Odyssey of the Mind is an international creative problem-solving program that engages students in their learning by allowing their knowledge and ideas to come to life in an exciting and productive environment. The state competition involves Spontaneous, a segment in which the teams have to answer a question or solve a problem on short notice, and a Long Term problem, where the students put on a performance to address a topic they received before the competition.

This was R.B. Stall's first year participating in Odyssey of the Mind; the Warriors only had one student who had been a part of this program before this school year. They sent two teams, and brought back first and third place trophies. Georgetta Simmons, the lead coach of the winning team, said they successfully created and operated a vehicle in an "Odyssey Triathlon." Gwendolyn Smith served as an assistant coach and was also heavily involved in the teams' preparation for the state tournament.

"The students are super excited, and are trying to get use to the fact that they will be going to Iowa to compete in the World Finals," stated Simmons. "One of my students said she cannot believe that they won after participating for the first time, and that she still feels the excitement from this past weekend."

Jeff Beauchamp and Michael Marsico, teachers at West Ashley ASM, put together what they described as an all-star team of 6th grade students for this year's competition. Students made it through several rounds of auditions that tested their acting, artistic, creative, and writing abilities. The end result was a reimagined, modern, and well-received adaptation of Lewis Carroll's beloved classic "Alice in Wonderland." They placed first in the Division II Mockumentary category in Columbia, and now look to build on the HarborCats' 36th place finish in last year's World Finals.

"Odyssey of the Mind is an inspiring experience. It opens many opportunities to make new friends, think creatively, and challenge your problem solving skills," said 6th grader Kallie Klugman. "I will never forget this exciting journey!"

Lambs is also invited to the World Finals in Iowa in May. The coach for Lambs, Danielle Behn, said her 4th and 5th graders composed and revised their play, constructed their sets, and practiced three times a week leading up to the competition.

"This is our second year participating in the Odyssey of the Mind program," stated Behn. "Our students took the lead on putting together their version of Alice in Wonderland. We are so proud of their hard work!"

For more information about the success of these three schools at the Odyssey of the Mind state competition, please contact the Office of Strategy and Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.