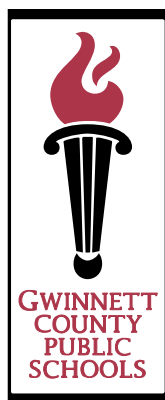


# NEWS RELEASE



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## **Gwinnett schools excel in international creative problem-solving competition: Simpson Elementary takes 1<sup>st</sup> place in its division at world finals**

Students from Simpson Elementary School and Trickum Middle School proved they are among the smartest and most creative minds in the world, after competing in the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Odyssey of the Mind (OotM) World Finals. Simpson Elementary won 1st place in their division while the team from Trickum Middle finished as one of the top 35 teams in its division.

OotM is an international creative problem-solving program for students in kindergarten through college. Simpson Elementary's winning team was comprised of **Emma Betteridge, Briggs Dommert, Kylie Dommert, Addie Ebert, Claire Ott, Ellie Simmons, and Sophie Dommert**. This group practiced for 10 months, resulting in 1st place finishes in their region, the state, and finally at world finals. Simpson Elementary outperformed 70 elementary schools from 11 countries on the way to winning its division.

Competing teams were asked to create a humorous performance centered on an intergalactic hangout where creatures from different worlds stop, eat, refuel, and relax. Each performance was required to have original creatures, foods, and a search for space treasure, while also integrating stage and drama elements including lighting effects, puppetry, and elaborate set changes.

The 2019 OotM World Finals involved more than 830 teams from 33 states and 13 countries competing to solve one of five questions. More than 20,000 people attended this year's competition.

***\*Pictures available upon request***

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