

Chippewa Valley Imagine! FAQ

What is CVI? CVI, formerly known as CV Odyssey of the Mind, is a district-wide program that works to promote creative problem-solving and teamwork skills in students. Our local group participates in the international program, Destination ImagiNation (www.idodi.org). Challenges can involve design, drama, research, building, improvisation, etc. or any combinations of those skills. Competing teams (grades 3-12) of up to 7 students choose one of 5 long-term challenges and work together as a team to solve the challenge and formulate a presentation of their solution. Volunteer team managers keep the team organized as they do all the research and work, with no help from non-team members, to prepare for competition. TMs cannot participate directly in solving the challenge. Research is encouraged, as is experimentation. CVI! is part of Region 8 in MICA, our state DI affiliate (www.micreativity.org). Teams also prepare for the Instant Challenge portion of competition. Look for information coming home from your school for September information nights for sign-up.

Who Can Do DI through CVI? Participants are self-selected by interest in the program. Although some districts limit participation to gifted and talented students, all Chippewa Valley students are welcome and have enjoyed growth and success. Each team provides 1 or 2 parents as team managers who assist the team in learning how to problem-solve. Teams also need to provide someone willing to train and serve as an appraiser for a different challenge at competition. There is a nominal participation fee to help defray costs.

How Does a Team Work? Teams consist of 5 to 7 students from across the district and Elementary teams can have students with any combination of students in grades 3, 4 and/or 5. Middle school students are on across-district teams of students in any combination of grades 6, 7 or 8. High school teams consist of students from grades through 12 and compete at the secondary level. Teams choose their own time and place for meeting that is convenient for that team. Teams can meet in district buildings, the library or in a team member's home, depending on the preference of the team.

When Do We Meet/Compete? Teams usually meet once a week, depending on their preference. The time of day and day of week is chosen by the team. Regional competition is usually held in early March, with state competition for qualifiers in April, and global finals for qualifiers in May at the University of Tennessee. Teams generally start meeting in October to prepare for competition.

What About Students in Kindergarten Through Grade 2? DI has a separate program for students K-2 called *Rising Stars*. RS teams can be a bit larger, if necessary. They have only one challenge, and it is easier to solve with less requirements. The RS Information Night is generally in late November, with teams starting to meet in January. They solve the challenge and present it to judges in March at regional, who give them positive oral and written feedback. RS teams are not scored or ranked and thus do not advance to state or global tournaments.

Benefits: DI participation fosters the development of creative thinking skills, problem-solving skills, interpersonal skills, self-discovery, independence, confidence and enjoyment in a supportive, but challenging atmosphere. The state and international organizations offer college scholarships, and 2 CVI! members have been recipients in this decade. Colleges and employers are interested in former DI participants, recognizing the value of this extra-curricular activity.