



DESTINATION IMAGINATION

Destination ImagiNation^(tm) is the world's largest non-profit, volunteer-driven organization devoted to helping kids gain practical life skills through interesting, entertaining and mind-boggling challenges. Both instant and central challenges are designed to follow the educational standards. For examples of central challenges: <http://www.madikids.org/challenges.cfm> By collaborating with volunteers, Florence Roche School would like to develop the opportunity for 3rd and 4th grade students to participate in the program.

Teams of up to seven students choose their challenge and work developing their solution. Volunteer team managers (parents, teachers or community volunteers) are trained to facilitate the group, but cannot give technical or other assistance. Kids are empowered to design, produce and present all of their own work. Teams present their solutions at regional and state tournaments, demonstrating that there are many ways to solve the same problem. The first team manager training session is scheduled for Saturday 10/24. The Florence Roche PTA has generously volunteered to reimburse volunteers for training. Please contact the DI coordinator Kim Duhamel kduhamel@charter.net or 978-448-8193 for more information.

Massachusetts has over 1000 teams of students (k-12) participating from over 300 schools and community groups. There are 10 regional tournaments statewide held each year in March and a State Finals held at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. GDRMS began participating in the program at both elementary and middle school levels last year with over 40 students, 7 team managers and 7 appraisers. The Region 3 tournament in Ayer was a phenomenal experience for all! Groton was proud to be represented at the State Finals by John Thorburn's Operation Cooperation team. For some GDRMS photos: <http://www.gdrsd.org/Schools/MiddleSchool/StudentShowcase.html>

