THE BASICS

Inspired by kids, built by Burns & McDonnell.

The Burns & McDonnell Battle of the Brains is back for a third round!

It's your chance to earn a piece of a $155,000-plus grant by designing the next great exhibit for Science City. Open to all schools throughout the greater Kansas City metropolitan area, the Battle of the Brains has grown into one of the country’s most robust STEM competitions.

This year, there’s a unique new twist: The exhibit is going outside! Union Station is planning a new outdoor events plaza and science center area. This exhibit will be the centerpiece of the outdoor science space, so safety and durability are even more important. Put on those sunglasses, think big and create something amazing!

Battle of the Brains Official Website:
http://battleofthebrainskc.com/

Facebook Account & Resources:
https://www.facebook.com/BattleoftheBrainsKC

Burns & McDonnell STEM Resources & Videos:
http://info.burnsmcd.com/educators-summit-resources

Contact Email: botbkc@burnsmcd.com
Oxford Middle School BOTB Specifics:

- We will be competing in the 7-12th grade division
- OMS will be sending one team from each grade level (6th, 7th, 8th grade)
- Students will choose to participate by Sept 11, brainstorming begins at this time.
- Teams will be made of students from the Guided Discovery classes
- Students will work during their class time in Guided Discovery as well as Thursdays after school from 3:00-4:00 (if students are available). Late buses are available.
- Burn & McDonnell, on their drive to inspire and teach young minds STEM principles and skills will provide an Engineering Mentor for our teams.
  - Answer Qs, Help Brainstorm, Serve as Sounding Board
- Criteria, categories for judging, judging rubric, judging process, key dates, and prizes awarded are listed in the competition packet.
  - -Paper (PDF) about a big idea suitable for outdoor presentation
  - -Sketch of the exhibit floor plan
  - -Video describing the exhibit
  - -Social Media Component
  - -Supplemental Resources Collected
  - -Budget $250,000
  - -Grant money from the Burns & McDonnell Foundation awards $50,000 to the winner of each division. Grand prize is to bring their idea to life. Money is intended to encourage STEM education in schools.
- BOTB competition aligns with Common Core Standards and Next Generation Science Standards

Guiding Questions:

1) What is the exhibit’s main idea?
2) What STEM principles does the exhibit teach?
3) What inspired the exhibit’s design?
4) How will this exhibit remain relevant in the future?
5) How can visitors interact with the exhibit?
6) How will the exhibit make learning fun?
7) What follow up questions will the exhibit lead to?
8) How will the exhibit appeal to different age groups?
9) How will the exhibit take advantage of the outdoor space?
10) How does the exhibit blend the interactive components and the educational information?
Space for New Outdoor Exhibit:

Previous Winners:


Every Last Drop: http://battleofthebrainskc.com/about-us/every-last-drop/

Unlock the Code: http://battleofthebrainskc.com/about-us/genetics-unlock-the-code/


Past Proposals & Video Examples: http://battleofthebrainskc.com/resources/previous-proposals/