



Just Think Inc & The Invention Convention
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Parents, Family, and Friends,

Welcome to The First Annual Cleveland Regional Invention Convention!!! The Invention Convention is a program designed to **inspire, encourage, reward, AND recognize** students, K-8, for using their creativity and imagination in developing new solutions to everyday problems. The program has been a mainstay in Columbus area schools for over 10 years – awarding more than \$300,000 in college scholarships, encouraging several students to earn provisional patents, and recognizing Ohio's students in print, on local television shows, and on the national stage – some of our students have appeared on Leno, Nickelodeon, Ellen, and coming in November (during sweeps week) Montel.

The *free* program is run through a non-profit 501 c3 organization, Just Think Inc., which provides complete program materials to schools and students free of charge. We work with local and national businesses to cover the cost of the entire program – materials, assemblies, awards, etc.

So what exactly is The Invention Convention?

The Invention Convention has three main parts – 1) The in-school program where kids use their minds and imaginations to solve a problem; 2) “The Invention Convention” competition and awards ceremony; and 3) Celebrating the great news about local students.

- 1) The in-school program supports teachers by providing them with materials that encourage kids to think about problems that they see or encounter every day in their lives. The material includes information and exercises that help students think about inventions and the process that inventors use. The material is not only designed to encourage students but to show them that children can be and that students, just like them, are inventors! The in-school program is also supported with assemblies which offer a highly interactive – hands-on demonstration and discussion about inventing. Each school district implements the program as it fits their needs. The best inventions are then selected to compete at “The Invention Convention.”
- 2) The Invention Convention (IC) competition and awards ceremony is where all of the regional students come together to compete for college scholarships and awards. The top regional award is a \$2,500 college scholarship. In 2008, as our statewide expansion continues, each regional winner will be invited to compete at the state finals for a \$15,000 college scholarship! At the IC, each student talks with 2 judges – explaining their invention and the process that they used. Once all of the inventions have been evaluated, winners for each grade category are announced along with the grand prize winner. Fifty additional finalists also receive a \$50 savings bond, and one local teacher will be awarded a \$1,500 Teacher of Excellence Award. The First Annual Cleveland Regional Invention Convention will be held on Saturday, February 17, 2007 at The Great Lakes Science Center.
- 3) The third part of the program is to celebrate the accomplishments of our students, teachers, and schools. We actively work with local and national news and talk shows to put good news about local students on the front page and at the top of the news.

The goals of the program are to reward students with college scholarships, to recognize them in the news, and to encourage them to use one of their best asset – their creativity and imagination. Inventing can be fun, and the process provides tremendous benefits to students helping to develop important life skills while build self-esteem, resilience, and optimism. To find out more, visit our website – www.just-think-inc.com. We're excited to bring the program to local students and we look forward to seeing what your child creates.