

Robotics Welcome Letter 2020-2021

Happy Friday DCHS Robotics Club Parents,

We hope this finds all of you doing well and healthy. Please read the following regarding this year's plan for Robotic meetings, competitions, and volunteer opportunities.

SAFETY

Your child's safety is of the utmost importance to DCHS. During these unprecedented times, the DCHS Robotics club will be meeting on alternating Saturdays to minimize student exposure. During all Robotic meetings and competitions, students will practice social distancing, wear masks and be separated by individual teams in SEPARATE classrooms. We will minimize interactions as appropriate while the club members design and assemble robots for upcoming competitions. Hand sanitizer will be readily available and classrooms appropriately sanitized before and after all meetings.

MEETINGS

This year's meetings will be held on roughly alternating weekends. The first big event is this Saturday, September 12, from 8:30 – 5:30. This particular meeting will be the Kickoff where students will get their first look at this year's game and begin designing/ discussing their robots game plan. We have been discussing this in our Slack group and had a brief meeting earlier this week virtually. If your student was not aware of this, please have them ensure they are a member of the DCHS Robotics Slack group and have their notifications turned on. If not, have them reach out to Mr. Adams. Lunch will be provided at all meetings and snacks will be available for purchase. Future meeting will alternate Saturdays and will run from 10:00-4:30. A full schedule can be found at www.adamschemistry.com/robotics along with some blog posts from Mr. Adams. Please check it once every week or so to stay in the know. Please note that some meetings may be back to back with competitions and full participation is highly encouraged.

COMPETITIONS

This year's game/ competition has been designed to allow all respective Robotics clubs to compete remotely if they are unable to participate in traditional ways. Almost all the leagues in GA will be starting off in this Remote Format with the hopeful goal of transitioning back to the Traditional Format by the end of the season. For now, what this looks like is each team will compete from their home environment on a half-sized field. They will then submit their scores through an online system to the League Coordinator (Mr. Adams for us). This will help minimize interactions and is best practice for student health and safety.

DUES

In regards to the economic impact the current pandemic has created for many families, this year we are implementing a “pay what you can” model. Traditionally, dues are \$60.00 and are used to

pay for Robotic Club polo shirts, new mechanical parts, end of year banquet, national and state registration fees and student meals during meetings/ competitions. To give you a better idea of what our yearly budget looks like, take a look at the “Needs, Wants, and Dreams” document sent along with this email. We recognize that not everyone may be in an ideal financial position right now we we are only asking you to pay the minimum of \$20.00 and are further asking for donations up to the traditional \$60 dues if you are able to pay more. Dues can be paid via the same website mentioned earlier using the Paypal “Donate” button. Please add a note so we are aware of which dues go where. Thank you in advance.

VOLUNTEERS

Most importantly we are soliciting you, the parents, to get involved. While this year will be less taxing for volunteers since concessions and set up will be minimal, we are in need of volunteers to assist in picking up meals and setting up playing fields during competitions as possible. Furthermore, the Robotics Booster Club is in need for positions within the booster club to assist in keeping the club operating due to losing some parents of seniors. Currently we are operating with Jim Miller as a Treasurer (his son is a senior) and Mr. Adams as the Secretary. Please consider joining us for this year to help us ensure continuity for next year so that we may continue to serve your children.

SPONSORSHIPS

As you can see from our “Needs, Wants, and Dreams” document, dues alone will not enable us to fully reach our potential. If you belong to a company that is in a position to possibly sponsor us this year, please let us know what we can do to earn that sponsorship. One of the club goals this year that the students came up with is to increase their online presence through sites like YouTube and Instagram. Sponsors would of course be acknowledged in such pieces of publicity and we will also be coordinating with our Maker’s Club to perhaps offer some unique thank you presents for sponsors.

This year has been challenging for all and finding normalcy has been difficult for everyone. Keeping the Robotics Club operating and continuing to participate further allows your child the opportunity to advance his/ her learning in the field of robotics, programming, team competition and opportunities in volunteerism opportunities within our community. We thank you for you continued support in keeping the Robotics Club's progress in these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Jim Miller, Treasurer

Drew Adams, Secretary