February, 2020

Dear parents of upcoming 5th grade students interested in Robotics,

With adult Coaches to guide them, *FIRST*® LEGO® League teams (up to 10 members) apply science, engineering, and math concepts, plus a big dose of imagination, to develop solutions to real-world challenges. They design, build, and program LEGO MINDSTORMS®-based robots to perform autonomous “missions” on a playing field. Along the way, they develop critical thinking, team-building, and presentation skills. The start-up cost for the team, which includes the competition kit, materials, as well as registration for the competitions, has been gratefully funded by the PTO. To cover other expenses, the annual participation cost for each participant is $25.

Our team will be comprised of up to 10, fifth grade students coached by Craig Whalen and hopefully, another responsible adult. During the course of 8-10 weeks, beginning the week of August 19, students will learn how to program, design, and make robots, which complete a series of challenges. The team members are responsible for all of the work; they will also have to do a research project as a team, which is centered on next year’s theme, “Force to Change.” The competition will be held in late November or early December.

 We are asking for a very high level of commitment from each of the team members involved. The team will meet twice a week for approximately 1 – 1.5 hours per meeting (TBD). There will also be at least two Saturday events, such as an optional scrimmage and a qualifying tournament, that will run from 8-4pm. Team members will also be expected to do some of their own research at home. Our team will meet in Mr. Whalen’s room (400) from 4:00 – 5:15. As we approach the scrimmages and qualifying tournament, we may have a few Saturday meetings where the materials and support are available at school. We will have very strict behavioral requirements regarding teamwork, attendance, and respect for others and property at our meetings.

 We are asking that any student who is interested in joining this club has his/her parent’s permission as well as a commitment to the requirements of the club.

 To help you decide if this program is right for you, students and parents will be required to complete the attached application and returned to Mr. Whalen through the CCE office. These applications will be accepted until March 27. To ensure that our Robotics Team includes students that are serious about the program, Mr. Whalen will be conducting interviews the week of April 6. After thoughtful consideration, students will find out if they made the team by May 1, if not earlier.

We are also in need of the following:

1. An assistant coach that can attend each meeting.
2. Parents, family members, or high school students who have an interest in mechanical engineering, mechanics, computer programming, research, design, and helping kids learn, to come and provide mentoring support. We are not looking for people to “make them for us,” but more to be willing to answer questions and support the team members who are creating their robots. We would love help from people who can only donate a few minutes, to those who can come and stay.
3. Parents to be responsible for transportation to any scrimmage or qualifying tournament we attend. Likewise, if the team is able to do a field trip to support the project portion of this year’s challenge, parent volunteers will need to help transport the team.

If your child is interested in joining Clear Creek’s FLL team, fill out the information below along with the FLL Application and return to Mr. Whalen through the office by **March 27**.

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have read the requirements and agree to a high level of commitment and to follow the rules outlined in this document.

I would like to join a robotics club:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Student Signature)

My child has my permission to participate in the Clear Creek *FIRST*® LEGO® League team. I understand that if he/she does not attend regularly or does not follow the rules, that he/she will be asked to leave the team.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Parent Signature)

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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Head Coach Craig Whalen: cwhalen@usd232.org.