Menchville Robotics Team
FIRST Fast Facts

- *FIRST* is an acronym that means 'For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology'
- *FIRST* was founded by inventor Dean Kamen in 1989
- *FIRST* runs four robotics competitions geared towards different student age ranges
  - Junior *FIRST* Lego League (JFLL) for 1st through 4th grades
  - *FIRST* Lego League (FLL) for 4th through 9th grades
  - *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) for 8th through 12th grades
  - *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) for 9th through 12th grades
- *Triple Helix*, The Menchville Robotics Team was formed during the 2007 – 2008 school year. The team competes in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) as team 2363, and is the only FRC team in Newport News
- Dean Kamen received the Lemelson-MIT Prize in 2002 for inventing the Independence™ IBOT™ Mobility System – a wheelchair that can stand and climb stairs. He donated the entire $500,000 prize to *FIRST*
- An average FRC robot can weigh as much as 150 lbs and may incorporate dozens of sensors, including vision sensors, to efficiently perform its tasks
- Dean Kamen is best known for being the inventor of the Segway Human Transporter
- In 2012, over 48,000 high school students from over 2,300 teams are participating in the FRC
- FRC teams currently represent 49 out of 50 US states and eleven foreign countries
- FRC attracted over 14,000 mentors and 11,000 volunteers in 2012
- FRC has been called the "hardest fun ever" and the *FIRST* Championship the "Superbowl of smarts"
- At East Technical High School in Cleveland, Ohio, more students try out for the FRC team than the football and basketball teams combined
- The FRC Kick-Off Event, in which *FIRST* announces the new game for the year, is held each year in January
- A student who participates in *FIRST* is twice as likely to major in science or engineering and more than three times as likely to major specifically in engineering
- Over 3,000 companies sponsor FRC teams
- The typical budget for an FRC team ranges from $12,000 to over $50,000 annually
- In 2012, the *FIRST* Robotics Competition has 52 regional competitions, 15 district competitions, two state championships, and one world championship
- In 2012, nearly $15 million in college scholarships will be awarded to students who participated in *FIRST*
- *FIRST* encourages "gracious professionalism" in which students compete hard, but treat each other with great respect
- FRC teams have only six weeks following the announcement of the new game to design, build, and program their robots
- In 2011, the FRC champion was decided from a field of 344 teams. The event was held in the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis
- An FRC robot is capable of autonomous or student-operated control
- An FRC competition is a 3-day event
- FRC teams are encouraged by *FIRST* to engage in community outreach programs
- *Triple Helix* has received the following awards and recognition
  - 2008 NASA/VCU Regional *Rookie Inspiration Award*
  - 2009 NASA/VCU Regional *Underwriters' Laboratory Industrial Safety Award*
  - 2009 State Fair of Virginia *Robot Rumble* Champions
  - 2010 Washington DC Regional *Underwriters' Laboratory Industrial Safety Award*
  - 2010 Virginia Regional *Motorola Quality Award*
  - 2010 *Robot Rumble* Finalists
  - 2011 Palmetto Regional *Engineering Excellence Award*
  - 2011 Palmetto Regional *Winners*
  - 2011 Virginia Regional *Finalists*
  - 2011 Virginia Regional *Industrial Design Award*
  - 2011 Virginia Regional *Woodie Flowers Finalist Award* (Matt Wilbur, Head Coach)
  - 2011 Virginia Regional *Dean's List Award* (Michael Snider, Software Subteam)
  - 2011 *Robot Rumble* Champions
  - 2012 Virginia Regional *Dean's List Award* (Rachel Wilbur, Mechanical Subteam, Team Captain)

TRIPLE HELIX

Menchville High School
Newport News, VA

www.menchvillerobotics.org