Cadillac Connectors Robotics 5086 | January 13, 2017

ROBOWEEKLY

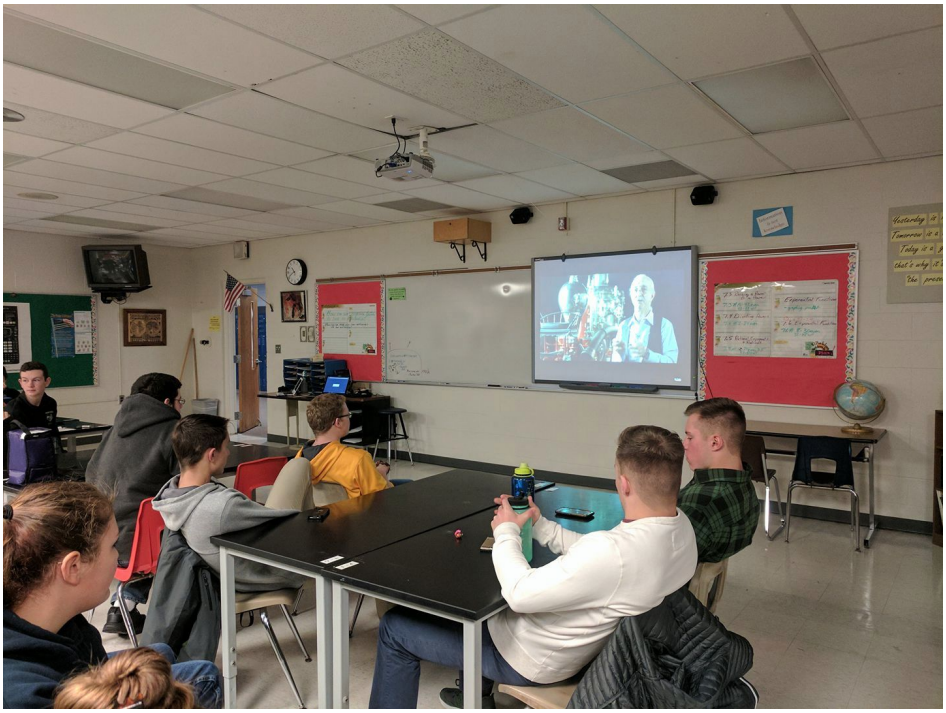
It's That time of Year Again

CADILLAC- With the end of the geeky remix of "Moves Like Jagger," a group of inspired youths begin to gather around the board in Mr. Whipple's classroom Saturday morning. Nervous chatter fills the room as the last few minutes tick down on the clock. What could drag 25 teenagers out of bed before the ungodly hour of 10am on a Saturday morning? The 2017 *FIRST* Robotics season kickoff.

To start off the season, *FIRST* broadcasts a live video to all teams that explains what this year's robot will be expected to do as well as the rules and regulations of the game. While the theme changes from year to year, basic mechanics stay the same. A team composed of three to five students tries to complete various tasks before a three minute timer runs out. Such tasks involve activating or disabling certain parts of the field, shooting balls into compounds, and breaching your enemies' battleground to earn varying degrees of points.These teams of students work with two other teams from a different school, forming an alliance. The alliance with the most points at the end wins. In a tournament-bracket style, teams slowly get eliminated, with the remaining forming alliances and opposing other teams until the final three-on-three match when the victor is crowned.

We have continually advanced further in the tournament each year, getting as far as state semifinals during the 2016 STRONGHOLD season. This year our mission is to go through states and then hopefully nationals. In order to do so we need to meet and hopefully exceed our budget of $20,000. Feel free to contact us via any of our social media. All donations are welcome.

This year's theme is centered around the Victorian steampunk era which is characterized by its use of retro steam-powered machinery.



Team members Elise Windover, Kendra Jakubos, Leif and Seth Olsen, Jacob Vandrie, Andrew Peters, Matthew Burns, and Kyle Pike watch Saturday's kickoff video.

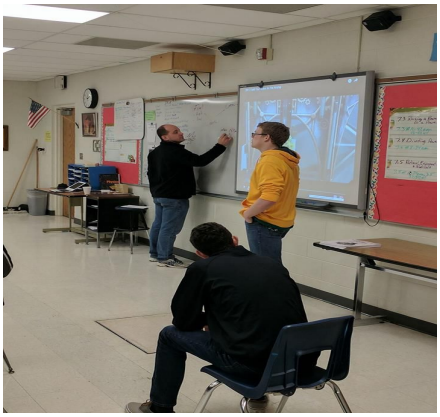
What IS *FIRST* Robotics?

"Combining the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology."

FIRST Robotics is a worldwide organization created by inventor Dean Kamen and Woodie Flowers that encourages kids to become interested and engaged in the world of science and technology. Beginning its 26th year of competition, this program has recorded 3,128 participating teams with approximately 75,000 students with 19,000 mentors originating from 24 different countries; this is no backyard organization.

It's a chance for kids to explore the wide range of technology in our world, away from the pressures and limitations of school. Kids widen their understanding of the science world and become leaders as they are challenged to create a manageable budget and build a functional robot within the harsh six week time frame, along with competing for various rewards that help advance a team further in their districts.

"It's aspirational, not required," Kamen explained in an interview, "You don't get quizzes and tests, you go into competitions and get trophies and letters. You don't have teachers, you have coaches. You nurture, you don't judge. You create teamwork between all the participants. We justify sports for teamwork but why, when we do it in the classroom, do we call it cheating?...Most of all, it (is) a nonjudgmental space, where in contrast science and math in traditional educational settings had been soured with embarrassment and uncertainty."



Team captain Andrew Peters and fellow member Kyle Pike listen to coach Andrew Whipple as he draws an idea up on the board during Saturday's kickoff.

Our goal this season is to make it through states, a first for the team as we have only gone as far as semi-finals in 2016 season with the robot Centurion. To do this we would like to openly invite all members of the community to contribute to our cause. Our numbers and outreach into our community have grown tremendously since our humble beginnings in 2014. With these added statistics, our dreams have come closer, but in order to reach them we desperately need funding to help build our robot as well as cover fees for programming and competition traveling. To any interested, our Grant form, Sponsorship pamphlet ,and Sponsor Information Packet are available through these links. If interested, or if you know someone who would be, please contact us at any one of our social media sites or to Shannon Metzger at shametz578@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Like us on our social media pages!

Cadillac Connectors @Team5086

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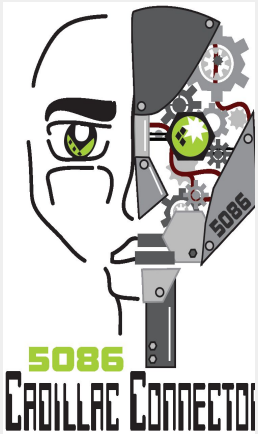
Cadillac Robotics Team @cadirobo

Who is team 5086?

Officially known as the Cadillac Connectors, team 5086 was founded in 2014 with the mindset of linking students to the wondrous field of engineering, to fellow students, and with their surrounding community. From our humble beginnings of 16 kids and 5 mentors we have branched out to include over 24 actively participating students and 9 mentors who come from wide variety of professions and knowledge bases.Student numbers range across the high school grade level with 4 freshmen, 6 sophomores, 12 juniors, and 2 seniors. This year has been especially blessed with a large group of eager newcomers who have quickly and easily slid into our various build, business, and media teams. Our mentor program currently includes several engineers, administrators,and teachers who all graciously spare their time daily to teach our students the various aspects of their profession as well as work alongside and guide them as they strive to complete their goal.

So What Now?

Now it's work, work, work! As previously mentioned teams only have a 6 week time period to complete their robot. All building must stop February 23 at 11:59pm. After that time the robot must be bagged and hands off until the various competitions beginning in early March.Our teams are already hard at work. To conquer this a huge task under this time constraint, students have created and branched off into several individual groups each with a different mission. Besides the obvious build team, which has been hard at work brainstorming strategies, building prototypes, and most recently developing an infeed system, multiple media and business sectors must be included as well. Multiple awards that help a team advance to states must be submitted on time in order to qualify. Some of these awards include essays or business plans that outlines a team's goals, histories, and current working state. Our various media teams have been broadcasting our message and informing our community on our recent developments and future plans.



Fact of the Week

Albert

Albert is the name of our mascot. Created by Mikah Whipple in 2014, Albert is and has always been the team's official mascot. He ties into our theme of connecting each student to each other, the robot, and the community by being a physical fusion of human and robot. Found on all of our social media sites, t-shirts, and banners Albert is a huge part of this team's culture. This year the team hopes to have a physical mascot to have walking through the competitions raising team spirit. So keep your eye out for our Albert; he's heading your way.

Our team would also like to thank Ms. Olson for generously providing lunch during Saturday's kickoff, and to the multiple organizations who have agreed to sponsor us:

Supporters ($50-200)**:** Lifetouch, Bandeen, Driver's Choice Auto & Truck, Networking butler, BC Pizza
Advocates ($200-500)**:** Cadillac Computer
Sustaining Sponsor ($500-1000):Stagg Machine Products, Godfrey Chevrolet, Exxon Mobile
Executive Sponsors ($1000-2500)**:** *Rexair, BorgWarner, Baker College, Kendall Electric*

Thank You *!*