



Dear Parents and Students,

The Holy Ghost Prep VEX ROBOTICS team is preparing for another exciting season, and we are hoping that you will be a part of it! We are **Team #242: The Firebirds**. We currently consist of HGP students from all grades, and have also invited students to join us from *Villa Joseph Marie*. If you are interested in learning the engineering design process, and learning how to apply that skill to the creation/programming of a competitive robot, then this club is for you! You do not need any prior robotics experience (although that always helps) -- we are simply looking for individuals who are excited to learn this skill and to be a part of the team.

The following are answers to a few frequently asked questions:

What does it look like to be on the team?

Students form teams of 3-5 members, and work together during the season to design/build/program a robot. It is a fair amount of 'learning the ropes' through trial and error, which is highlighted in the engineering design process. The team meets on Mon/Tues/Thursdays in the Brennan Family Innovation Center at HGP, from 2:30 to 5 PM. Students from other schools typically need to find transportation to and from the lab after school. Competitions are held on Saturdays, from October through February, culminating in the state championship in March, and National/World championships in April.

What are the requirements for being on the team?

Before the school year begins, students will be sent an availability questionnaire. Each student needs to commit to at least two separate months in which they will contribute to their team. Ideally, students would choose to commit more time than that, but we don't want to discourage students who participate in other sports and clubs. All ages are welcome, from incoming freshman to seniors. There is also a \$150 club participation fee for all club members. This covers all expenses for the *regular* season, including transportation and registration fees, all robot parts and tools that the team will use, and also a team jersey (that the student gets to keep).

What can I do now?

Visit <http://cs.holyghostprep.org/robotics> to join the HGP Robotics email list. This will provide you with monthly updates from the team. We are also starting to compile a to-do list for all members on the Robotics website linked above.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the head coach directly, Mr. Brandon Petcaugh (bpetcaugh@holyghostprep.org). We look forward to hearing from you!