

# **ERHS Robotics 2012-13**

I'd like to welcome the parents of our new and continuing students to another year for the ERHS Robotics club. The school and club mentors have put together a list of activities for an exciting year that will be fun and engage our students. Parents play a critical role in our success and we need your help. As a parent, I understand the commitments that membership to this club brings as well as the educational, competitive and leadership opportunities this brings to our children. We cannot do this alone and with your continued support we hope to make this year even better. We've scheduled a Parents Meeting for September 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-10:30, immediately following the ERHS Back to School Night.

Building upon previous years, we're returning to another robotics competition, VEX, which is managed by the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation. For more information see their website at: <http://www.robotevents.com/> not to mention the annual First Robotics Competition (FRC) which starts up in January.

There are a few deviations from previous years as well, starting with a club application process which is being implemented to encourage and reinforce team commitment; this is not being implemented to discourage students from participating. A similar application process will also be applied to the completion teams.

There are also a number of roles that we also need parents for:

- Mentors: Parents don't need to have a background in engineering or programming to have a positive influence. Considering the large number of students we've seen in the past, simply keeping the students on task, helping them organize their projects, time management and observing that best safety practices are used is always helpful.
- Text or email notification list to parents of unscheduled changes to the meeting schedule.
- Fundraising coordinators: Unlike other clubs, robotics (metals and materials, electronics etc.), in addition to completion registrations is very expensive. The past few years we have had the unique opportunity of two FRC regionals within driving distance to us: Baltimore and Washington. We would like to continue to compete at these events; however the estimated cost of competing in both of these events is ~\$12,00.00. The majority of our funding has come from sponsors. Included is a form to help us identify sponsors and their contact information. Please return these forms to me.
- Transportation coordinators: Since the cost of scheduling buses to attend competitions would be a great help, especially for FRC which is a multiple day completion.
- Lunch coordinators for Saturdays during the FRC build season: Every year we've attempted to have lunch at the school. When student leave for lunch, many don't come back in a timely manner and due to the short time we have to build, precious time is wasted.

If you're available to volunteer please let me know.

Undoubtedly there will be additional announcements forthcoming throughout the year and every effort will be made contact you in a timely manner. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me any time.

Patrick Healey

ERHS Robotics Coordinator

Email: [stimey13@yahoo.com](mailto:stimey13@yahoo.com)

(301)-219-3653