



MELBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL
2017 - 2018 School year

FIRST TEAM 386 <http://www.TeamVoltage.org>
Robotics Official Site <http://www.firstinspires.org>

Dear Parents/Guardians of Interested Students:

Your son/daughter has expressed interest in participating in FIRST - The Competition, a national creative engineering contest featuring school, business, and university partnerships. The purpose of this program is to bring together the nation's leading companies and universities in a united effort to win over young minds to the wonders of science and technology.

Teaming up with professional engineers, students get a hands-on, inside look at an engineer's profession. This starts with 12 weekly hands-on training workshops in the fall semester covering a full range of topics related to robot construction and the FIRST competition. Six action-packed weeks begin in January with the announcement of the actual competition during which our team of students and engineers will work together to brainstorm, design, build, and test our "champion robot." At both regional and national competitions, this remotely controlled and autonomous vehicle will compete against others from teams across the United States in tournaments complete with referees, cheerleaders, and time clocks.

The result is a fun, exciting, and stimulating environment in which students can discover the important connection between classroom lessons and real world applications. History of the program has shown that through this program both students and engineers gain valuable knowledge, insight, and experience. We are confident that our team effort, and previous success, will produce similar results.

Our business partners have contributed a sizeable amount of funding to provide for event registration, purchase of materials, travel, and other expenses. Unfortunately, there is still a registration fee required of each participating student. This fee will allow your student to participate in the initial training workshops, six-week robot fabrication, and both regional and national competitions.

Your son/daughter needs your permission, since most of the activities will occur during after-school hours and on weekends (time is of the essence). In addition, we will need your permission for your son/daughter to travel to the construction and competition sites.

A variety of forms will be provided to the participating students that will require your careful review and appropriate signatures. In-state transportation will be the responsibility of the students/parents/guardians for most events leading up to the completion of the robotic device and the regional competition. We do have a \$200.00 registration fee.

Parents/guardians are welcome to attend any/all of our meetings or events. Volunteers wishing to assist with team organization and arrangements would be greatly appreciated. If interested in assisting, contact DeAnn Davila at dkdavila01@gmail.com. Feel free to contact me (Tom Gabeler) if you have any questions about this program. I can be reached via email at Gabeler.Tom@Brevardschools.org or by phone at (321) 952-5880 ext 3821.

Sincerely,
Tom Gabeler
Team 386 Teacher/Mentor