

## Robotics Team!!

Again this year North Dearborn Elementary will have a robotics team! New this year there will actually be 4 teams, which will allow opportunities for approximately 20 students to participate! The teams will be utilizing the VEX IQ robotics materials and competition program. Each team will consist of approximately 5 elementary students who will work together to design and build a robot suited to meet specific criteria, document their process in a robotics journal, learn to program their robot through coding, and compete in at least one, possibly two or three robotics competitions this winter. I am very excited to lead this team, with the support of some wonderful volunteers, as we expand the program this year!

We have been awarded grants from TechPoint Foundation and the Sunman-Dearborn Endowment Grant, which have provided us with the robot kits and registration fee to have our teams participate in robotics events. Now is the time to form our teams. Please know that this team will require members to be available for weekly after school practices, twice per week for most of the season. The season will run late September-Jan./Feb. (depending on which competitions we attend, we will try to attend those that are closest). Based on our experience as we began this last year, this is a wonderful opportunity to introduce students to robotics, learn teamwork skills, and experience team competition in a supportive environment. Students do not need any prior robotics experience to participate.

Please feel free to contact me by phone or email with any questions.

-Mandy Stenger  
School Counselor  
mstenger@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us

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- Practices will be **after school until 4:30 on Mondays and Tuesdays**, starting September 30th.
  - Parents are invited to attend practices but there are some basic rules regarding adults at practice, including that they may not touch the robot. This is really to be a student project, with some guidance/support from adults. We also ask that parents who attend practices have a limited background check. Please let me know if you are interested in helping in any way!
  - **Cost:** because of the grant, costs should be minimal if any, which may include bus/food for competitions and possibly a T-shirt for our team. We will also have one fundraiser.
  - Team members may be assigned different roles on the team. Not all members need to perform all tasks including designing, building, documenting, driving, and program/coding the robot. We will try to utilize everyone's strengths!
  - We are currently offering the program to 4th and 5th grade students

# Robotics Team Application

Students in grades 4 & 5

**\*Please complete and return to Mrs. Stenger by Monday September 16th.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

**Students, please write 3 or more sentences telling why you would like to be a part of the robotics team.**

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**The robotics team will meet two times per week beginning on September 30th and continuing into January (possibly February depending on competition dates). Meetings will be held after school (students will stay after) and end at 4:30. The teams will meet to learn robotics, engineering, and physics principles, will design and construct a robot to perform specific skill challenges, and will learn to drive and program the robot. Teams will participate in a minimum of 2 robotics competitions, chosen based on location, date, and availability. The competition schedule is TBD.**

**My child \_\_\_\_\_ has permission to apply to be a part of the robotics program and if chosen will be able to attend the after school practices. My child will have a ride after practices at 4:30.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**