



HS ROBOTICS 2025-2026

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Contact Information

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WHAT IS FIRST?

Founded in 1989 by inventor Dean Kamen, FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a global nonprofit (501(c)(3)) organization that prepares young people for the future through a suite of inclusive, team-based robotics programs for ages 4-18 (PreK-12). Our programs are suitable for schools or structured afterschool activities and receive support from a vast network of volunteers, educators, and sponsor/donors, including over 200 Fortune 500 companies. Because our programs are More Than Robots®, FIRST participants are guided by a signature set of Core Values to conduct research, fundraise, design, build, and showcase their achievements. Our thrilling, sports-like challenges build their self-confidence and collaborative problem-solving skills and have a proven and lasting impact on STEM learning and interest. Our participants and alumni gain access to education and career discovery opportunities, connections to exclusive scholarships and employers, and a place in the FIRST community for life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

FIRST® Tech Challenge students work together with their mentors to design and build robots to compete in a dynamic and exciting challenge released every September. Teams program classroom-scale robots to follow autonomous commands before student drivers take control in two-on-two matches. On and off the field, students develop STEM skills, engage in community outreach, practice engineering innovation, and build confidence to help them succeed.

Every artifact we uncover holds a story. Each tool, each innovation, each work of art connects us to the people and ideas that came before us. Using STEM skills and teamwork, today we can dig deeper into discoveries than ever before. The game this year will be DECODE.

COURSE ACTIVITIES

Below you will find descriptions of the most common activities that students will participate in during the course of each semester. **At each FTC event, ALL students will:**

- Gain a sense of accomplishment and confidence
- Collaborate and share ideas
- Compete with their robots
- Engage with cutting edge technology
- Creatively solve problems
- Have fun!

GRADES - Click here for → [YWLA Grading Policy](#)

Major (Robot Builds, Presentations, Events, Scrimmages)	60%
Minor (Notebook, Marketing, Portfolio, Progress Checks)	40%

CLASSROOM RESOURCES

- Google Classroom: <https://classroom.google.com/> code: 6xrhskqv
- Programming Laptop (provided)
- REV Robotics Kits (provided)

SEASON TIMELINE

	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
Registration Opens												
Pre-Season												
Kickoff												
Build & Practice Season												
Qualifying Season												
State/Regional Championships												
<i>FIRST</i> Championship												

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- This class will adhere to the YWLA Grading Policy. Please ensure that you read and understand the policy.
- **Team Robotics.** The majority of this class will be organized in teams, as all teams will have to participate in FTC. This is a MANDATORY component of the class. One grade will be given regardless of individual student participation/effort, with some exceptions on all work involving the team. If there is a conflict within the team, each student must address it to Zubia personally within a reasonable amount of time. All students are expected to participate in class activities. Please do not be the student that did not contribute to the team. Please do not hog the work; every student can contribute in one form or another.
- **Programming Laptops/ Robotics Equipment.** Each student will be assigned an engineering laptop with a number. Please follow the MISD Code of Conduct regarding computer usage. Any violation will result in privileges suspended. Food/Beverages are not permitted while using the laptop/equipment. Be careful with the engineering equipment! Do not break it! Sorry video gamers: students are not allowed to play computer games including, but not limited to: Minecraft, retro game emulation, or any other internet game.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!

Mr. Zubia