

Welcome to Santan Competition Robotics

Dear Students and Families,

Are you ready to dive into the world of high-stakes engineering and teamwork? We are thrilled to introduce you to Santan Competition Robotics. This program offers a unique opportunity to learn technical skills, forge lasting friendships, and apply real-world engineering through the lens of VEX Robotics.

More Than Just a Club

It is important to understand that the VEX Competition team is a year-long commitment. This is not a casual hobby or a standard elective—it is a recognized competitive sport.

Our program is student-led and teacher-facilitated. We expect our members to maintain a cooperative, positive, and respectful attitude at all times. Whether you are working in the lab or representing our school at an event, you are an ambassador for excellence.

Academics and Practice

Students who earn a spot on the team will be automatically enrolled in the Automation & Robotics elective class for the full school year. This ensures that teams have dedicated time to master the "ins and outs" of competitive robotics.

- **In-Class:** Students will spend the academic year learning the rules of the game, cooperatively working in teams to design, build and code their robots and creating a high level notebook that shows the design process and tracks the teams growth.
 - **After-School:** Teams will meet 1 to 2 days a week for one hour after school to build, code, test, and drive their robots in preparation for competition.
 - **Self-Motivation:** Outside of the classroom, students are expected to be proactive. This includes researching VEX forums, watching tutorial videos, and staying updated on the latest game strategies to become true experts in the sport.
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Competition Life

The season is rigorous and rewarding. Students will compete in large-scale tournaments approximately 3 to 5 times per year.

- **Schedule:** Competitions take place on Saturdays and typically last about 10 hours.
 - **Travel:** Students and families are responsible for transportation to and from various locations across the valley.
 - **Commitment:** Attendance at class, after-school builds, and competitions is mandatory. Unexcused absences may result in removal from both the team and the elective class.
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Program Fees

Because we participate in numerous high-level tournaments, there are associated fees. These costs cover competition registration and the specialized supplies required to keep our robots competitive. Final fees will be determined based on the total number of events attended and the specific needs of the season.

Note: A correction to the provided text—while we share a competitive spirit with our neighbors, please ensure all students focus on representing Santan with pride during all events!

We look forward to seeing what our future engineers can build!

Competition Robotics Team Tryout Information:

Space on the robotics team is limited to just 16 students. Because of the high demand for such a limited number of spots, students must participate in a selection process. At tryouts, students are expected to demonstrate responsibility, maturity, and the ability to follow all directions from the coaches.

Horseplay will not be tolerated and students will be removed from the tryouts.

↓↓ IN ORDER TO TRY OUT FOR THE SANTAN VEX COMPETITION TEAM, THE 2 ITEMS BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE MAY 4TH 2026 ↓↓

1. The student must fill out the online SJHS VEX Robotics Application (Google Form).
Click [Santan Junior High Competition Robotics Team Tryout Application](#)
2. The students must have two current teachers send an email of recommendation stating
 - How they perform in their classes.
 - How well the student works on a team.
 - Current grades.
 - Why they believe the student should be on the competition robotics team.

Email to: gardner.jen@cusd80.com with a SUBJECT LINE of Robotics Rec

TRYOUT DATES ARE May 6th and 7th from 4:15PM – 5:15PM

The tryout information is listed below.

1. **Students must attend both tryout days listed above. Tryouts will be held in Ms. Gardner's Room 50** Students from other schools must check in through the front office to get onto the school campus. Only those students who completed the Robotics Application and have two emails or recommendations **prior to May 4th** will be allowed to attend tryouts. **Parents cannot attend tryouts.** Students will need to be picked up promptly at 5:15PM in front of the school by the main entrance.

Tryouts will consist of:

a. **Written test:** this test will have questions about the prior **VEX VRC PUSHBACK** challenge which is located on the official VEX Website:

<https://www.vexrobotics.com/v5/competition/vrc-current-game>

-Students need to click the link, download the new game manual located at the bottom of the screen, and **study Sections 1-4** of the manual **prior to the test** in order to gain a general understanding of the current game and be able to answer questions correctly from those sections.

- b. **Building test:** this test will consist of constructing a robot using current VEX V5 equipment, appropriate tools, and teamwork.
- c. **Driving test:** this test will consist of driving a VEX robot in order to complete a task.

The purpose of these rigorous tryouts is to determine which students will be the most dedicated, the best team players, and the most qualified for this demanding and challenging team sport. Prior knowledge of robotics is not necessary, but I suggest studying VEX robot design and parts prior to tryouts. Here is a link you can start with: [Purdue Sigbots VEX Wiki Page](#).

Good luck, and we hope to see you attend the tryouts!