Technology Student Association (TSA)
Including Robotics Club & 3D-Design

Information/Application

The extra-curricular club formally known as “robotics club” has expanded! We will now be known as Technology Student Association (TSA). This is a nationally recognized club, and has many opportunities, including the VEX Robotics Competitions. Website for more info: tsaweb.org

ROBOTICS SECTION: The TSA VEX Robotics Competition engages middle school students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education through an exciting head-to-head robotics contest. This club is open to the entire student body of NBMS, but since space and materials are limited, there is an application process that must be completed by OCTOBER 2nd.

This year, the VEX Robotics game is called “Nothing but Net” (you may see more info through my staff webpage). We will be meeting after school, on TUESDAYS, until 4:15pm, at first. We will extend the time as we get closer to competition, and multiple afternoons (adding Thursdays) will be likely. I am looking for dedicated, hardworking students that are eager about design, problem solving, teamwork, and robotics to be a part of this student organization.

Two to four teams will be able to attend the Robotics Scrimmage at Discovery Academy in Asheville. This scrimmage is not an official VEX competition. Two teams will also be able to attend the VEX Robotics Regional Competition at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. Other students may be interested in other aspects of the TSA events in Boone, including problem solving or public speaking events/competitions. Please see tsaweb.org.

3D DESIGN and PRINT:

Some students may be interested in diving further into our Design and Modeling Software, or into Architecture. This is also an option in TSA.
We will use our Autodesk Inventor software to design new innovative prototypes. It is possible that we use our 3D printer to print these out. We DO NOT use any site to simply download files to print. We only print items that are invented, innovated, and designed.

OTHER TSA OPPORTUNITIES:

Please visit the tsaweb.org website, and click on the Middle School Competitions link. More information is provided there.

FOR ALL:

This year, club dues will be $20. Cash or check (made payable to NBMS) are accepted. Please do not send dues until club members are decided upon and club is in session.

It is an outstanding opportunity for your middle school student to participate in TSA, and it enhances their skills in STEM areas. You may keep this letter for your information. Student and Parent, since space and materials are limited, detach and complete the application process by October 2nd.

Our club members will be posted on my door Monday, October 5th. Our first meeting will be Tuesday, October 6th.

Thank you,

Allison McDevitt – NBMS PLTW teacher/TSA Advisor
allison.mcdevitt@bcsemail.org       NBMS: 645-7944, ext. 209

CHECK LIST ITEMS to turn back in to Mrs. McDevitt

☐ Student Information and Parent Permission
☐ Assignment (directions on Student Info Sheet)
☐ 2 Teacher Recommendations: You must give the recommendation forms to teachers, and they will submit them to me.
APPLICATION: TECHNOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION (TSA): Please return to Mrs. McDevitt -- either in mailbox in the front office, or in room 209. Thank you!

Student Information:
Name: __________________________________________ Grade Level: ____ Homeroom: ____________

SURVEY:
Check boxes that apply (checking more than one does not increase chances of being accepted into TSA, so be honest):

☐ I am interested in the VEX Robotics Competition.
☐ I am interested in the 3D Design part of TSA.
☐ I am interested in another middle school event that I found on tsaweb.org
   Name of event: __________________________________________

Which semester do you have PLTW this year (circle)?    Fall/1st or Spring/2nd

If you do NOT have PLTW, what electives are you enrolled in? _________________________________

Why do you wish to be involved in TSA?

What experience do you have with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)? And/or explain a goal you have involving STEM.

Shirt Size: ____________ (adult male sizes)

ASSIGNMENT: CHOOSE ONE and turn in with application:

1. Research tsaweb.org. Watch the “VEX Nothing but Net” video found on the site, Mrs. McDevitt’s website, or youtube. Research and come up with an idea for a robot. Sketch on graph paper. Annotate (make notes) explaining your goal, strategy and design.

2. On graph paper, sketch and design an object you would like to create using the 3D design software. Annotate (make notes) about anything that cannot be conveyed through the drawing itself. Explain this object’s purpose.

3. Research the possible middle school competitions. Choose one you are interested in and explain why you chose this and how you may accomplish this goal.

Read and Sign: I will abide by all TSA/Robotics club/School rules. I will remain do my best to remain safe and productive at all times. If my behaviors are not appropriate, the advisor can suspend or terminate my time in club.

Student Signature: ____________________________ Date: ______________
Parent Information/Permission:

My child, ______________________________________ has permission to be involved in TSA/Robotics Club and stay for after school for meetings. I will pick my child up promptly, behind the building at Mrs. McDevitt’s room.

Directions: Enter through the back gate, behind the gym, park between gym and main building.

Parent/Guardian Name: ____________________________________________
email: ___________________________________________________________
This will be the main way of communication for club info and updates. Please make a note if this is NOT a good way to reach you.

Parent/Guardian Phone: _______________________- (best way to reach)

(Optional) 2nd Parent/Guardian Name: ________________________________
email: ___________________________________________________________
Also include in email list? (Circle) Yes No
Parent/Guardian Phone: ________________________________ (best way to reach)

Pictures of my child CAN or CANNOT (please circle) be posted online. Names are not included.

Allergies/Health concerns: __________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature: ____________________________ Date: ___________
Student Name: ____________________ Grade: _____

Teacher Recommendation for involvement in Technology Student Association (Robotics Club/3D-Design)

Directions: Please fill out the form and give it to Mrs. McDevitt (do not return to student). You may put in my box, hand it to me, or email me. Thank you for taking the time!

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Additional Comments: (optional)

Name: _____________________________________________

Signature: __________________________________________

Student Name: ____________________ Grade: _____

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