

STUDENT – PARENT WWHS #1389 ROBOTICS CLUB PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Walt Whitman High School

Philosophy

Clubs supplement and support the academic mission of the school system and assist students in their growth and development. WWHS Robotics Team #1389 assists in promoting the importance of teamwork, effort, goals, and commitment. Our team is highly competitive, but winning is not the primary measure of success. Sportsmanship, gracious professionalism, respect for participants, and dignity in the face of adversity are more important than the outcome of the contest. All team members do not perform at the same level, but all can demonstrate effort, dedication, and fair play.

FIRST Robotics Competition Team #1389 is a student-led team. This means that students are the leaders and key decision makers regarding the design and fabrication of the robot. The roles of adults are to advise and to mentor the students, to work with the students to ensure that the work environment is safe and sound at all times, to assist the students in acquiring raw materials and to manage team finances.

Gracious Professionalism and Sportsmanship

An important mission of the Robotics program is to teach and reinforce values relating to gracious professionalism, sportsmanship, competition, and fair play. It is expected that team personnel, parents, and spectators respect this mission by exhibiting appropriate behavior at FIRST competition events. Team and school awards are presented to teams whose mentors, students, and fans, demonstrate a high degree of gracious professionalism and sportsmanship.

Student Eligibility Requirements

Students must meet the following requirements to be eligible to participate in FIRST ROBOTICS TEAM competitions. Participation of ineligible students shall result in team sanctions, including forfeits for the team.

1. All participants are required to have a valid annual MCPS Club Medical Liability Waiver, Machine Safety Test, Robotics Team Member Sign-Up Form, on file.
2. Students must submit a current *Medical Card Form with a copy (front and back) of current Medical Insurance Card* before being allowed to participate.
3. Students team members must be completely registered in FIRST INC. *STIMS*.
4. Parents must have completed FIRST Inc. **online** consent form and provided current contact information.
5. Students must achieve a minimum 2.5 grade point average for the most recently completed marking period, with no more than one failing grade. Academic eligibility is determined on the date report cards are issued, and remains until the next report card is issued.
6. Students must attend all of their scheduled classes in order to participate in a competition on that day. If the principal or designee grants an excused absence in advance for a prescheduled activity, or an unforeseen emergency, the student may participate on that day.
7. If during the semester, a student has an unexcused absence, he/she may not compete in the next competitions until after the violation has been verified.
8. Students who are 19 years old, or older, as of August 31 of the current school year are ineligible.
9. A student may not participate when he/she is serving an in-school or out-of-school suspension. The student becomes eligible to participate on the next school day following the suspension.
10. Students must satisfy Robotics team, school and school system Participation Standards.
11. Students and their parents must sign the school *Student-Parent WWHS ROBOTICS TEAM #1389 Participation Contract and Parent Permission* form.
12. Students should refer to *A Student's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities* for additional guidelines and regulations related to eligibility.

Assumption of Risk

Participation in Robotics Team #1389 activities and competitions often includes, but is not limited to, working with machine tools, intense competition and poses the potential for serious, catastrophic, or life-threatening injury. Participants and parents are urged to consider that there are inherent risks and hazards associated with Robotics team participation. Risks vary from activity to competitions and can occur under direct supervision and with use of proper safety equipment.

Hazing

Hazing is prohibited at all times. Hazing involves any act that subjects teammates to mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. In some instances hazing constitutes a criminal act. At a minimum, hazing may lead to immediate dismissal from the team.

Communication with Parent Mentors

Parents should feel free to communicate with mentors. However, they should not attempt to address mentors immediately during or after competitions. Mentors have many responsibilities, including supervision of team members. Also, the post competition period is often emotionally charged, and not conducive to productive discussion. If a parent feels a need to communicate a concern, the parent should contact the mentors or parent chaperones to arrange a later meeting.

Participation Expectations and Standards

Participation in WWHS Robotics Club is a privilege. Accordingly, students must meet certain standards in order to earn the privilege of participation. At a minimum, the following standards are required of all student-team members.

1. Exhibit public behavior that will reflect positively on the team, school, and community.
2. Exhibit responsible, respectful, and trustworthy behavior to teammates and the coach.
3. Exert efforts to maintain a high level of academic achievement.
4. Comply with all team, school, and school system rules, regulations, and policies.
5. Exhibit appropriate behavior at all team and school-related activities.
6. Attend all team functions unless ill or given prior permission in advance to be absent by the parent mentor.
7. Respect and comply with decisions made by the mentors and game officials.
8. Display gracious professionalism and good sportsmanship at all times.
9. Report to the parent mentors any issues or developments that may affect eligibility status.
10. Comply with safety and health precautions distributed Robotics Team and emphasized by the school system.

Illegal Substances/Alcohol/Tobacco/Steroids/Controlled Substances

MCPS regulations state that any student with verified use, distribution, or possession of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, and/or controlled substances on school property or at a school-sanctioned event, shall receive a minimum ten-consecutive school day suspension from all athletic activities. Participation in activities will not resume until the school day following completion of the suspension. Individual schools may adopt a more-stringent regulation or penalty than that stated above.

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STUDENT/PARENT WWHS ROBOTICS TEAM #1389 PARTICIPATION CONTRACT and PARENTS PERMISSION FORM

Montgomery County Public Schools- Walt Whitman High School

Student: _____ Student ID: _____

School: Walt Whitman High School Team: Robotics #1389 School Year: 2014-2015

Parent and Student-Team Member: Review this contract carefully (front and back), complete information as requested, affix signatures, and return the completed contract/permission form to the school.

Stipulations

The student–team member and his or her parent/guardian have received and read the *Student-Parent Robotic Team#1389 Participation Information*. Based on this information, the student and parent/guardian understand and stipulate to the following:

1. I/We understand the eligibility regulations required for participation and affirm that all eligibility requirements have been satisfied, including age, registration, online consent, medical waivers, and academics.
2. I/We understand that participation of ineligible players will result in individual and team sanctions, including forfeits for the team.
3. I/We affirm that the student will exert effort to maintain a high level of academic achievement.
4. I/We understand there is potential for serious, catastrophic, or life-threatening injury associated with participation in a Robotics Team activities and competitions.
5. I/we have reviewed safety and health-related information made available by the Robotics team, school system, including information regarding proper use of machine equipment.
6. I/We affirm that the student will not participate in hazing at any time, of any nature.
7. I/We, as a participant or spectator, will exhibit a high level of gracious professionalism and sportsmanship at all times.
8. I/We will follow appropriate procedures in communicating concerns to parent mentors.
9. I/We affirm that the student will abide by all team and participation standards.
10. I/We affirm that the student will remain in their designated hotel rooms after mentor bed-check and arrive at competition each day on time and be ready to participate.
11. I/We affirm that the student will only leave the premises with a parent or in a student group accompanied by an adult mentor chaperone.
10. I/We affirm that the student will not use steroids, illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco unless medically proscribed for a specific condition or illness.

Gracious Professionalism, Sportsmanship, and Citizenship

The Whitman Community fosters the Pillars of Ethics: *caring, cooperation, moral courage, honesty, fairness, trust and responsibility*. The Pillars serve as underpinnings of our academic, extracurricular, and service missions. All Whitman students are expected to demonstrate the highest level of conduct, sportsmanship, and behavior whenever they represent the school and the community. All members of the Whitman community must consider their actions carefully and be responsible for them. Students at all times are expected to do their best to uphold the Pillars of Ethics.

Zero Tolerance Policy (WWHS Policy)

Walt Whitman's Zero Tolerance Policy applies to any student who brings alcohol/drugs/ controlled substances and/or weapons onto the school grounds or to a school-sponsored activity, or who is under the influence of alcohol/drugs/controlled substances at any time on school property or at a school-sponsored activity. Possession encompasses students' vehicles, book bags, lockers, or on their persons. If it is determined that a student is involved with alcohol/drugs/controlled substances/weapons or there is reasonable suspicion that the student is involved in or under the influence, the student is to be referred to an administrator immediately. The administrator will confer with the student to determine if there is just cause to investigate further and may call the police to verify a reasonable suspicion. If it is confirmed that the student was involved with alcohol/drugs/controlled substances or is in possession of a weapon, the student shall be suspended for ten days; the parent/guardian informed; the police notified. The student shall be denied the privilege to participate in any school-sponsored activity, either as a spectator or member of a school-sponsored activity, on or off school property, for the period of six months from the date of the infraction. The principal may review the privilege to participate after three months if the student has

completed 150 hours of community service approved by the principal. This includes: sports teams, prom, banquets, class/club officer, dramatic roles or attendance at activities sponsored by the school and other such activities, on or off school grounds. Students may be required to attend AA meetings or show evidence of counseling. The intent of this policy is to have students think seriously about deciding to come onto school property under the influence of alcohol/drugs/controlled substances/weapons or to have such in their possession, on their persons, or in their lockers or their vehicles.

Substance Abuse/Use

Students using alcohol or other illegal substances (not including tobacco products) violate county, state and national law. By using or abusing substances, a student puts his/her life in jeopardy as well as disrespecting the other members of the community.

Consequences of Substance Use/Abuse:

NOTE: ON SCHOOL GROUNDS OR AT SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

Under the Zero-Tolerance Policy of Walt Whitman High School, a student who is in possession of, or under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or other illegal substances (not including tobacco products) on school grounds or during a school-sponsored activity will be subject to the Zero Tolerance Policy.

NOTE: OFF SCHOOL GROUNDS OR AT A NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITY

- First Offense: Upon verification* parent/guardian will be notified. Coach/sponsor will hold a counseling session with student and the student will be referred to MSAP (Maryland Student Assistance Program). The student will be required to complete 10 hours of community service within a thirty-day period. The athlete will also be subject to at least a one contest suspension.
- Second Offense: Upon verification* parent/Guardian will be notified. Administrator will hold a conference with student/guardian and the student will undergo a professional assessment. The student must complete twenty additional hours of community service in a thirty-day period. The athlete will also be subject to at least a two contest suspension.
- Third Offense: Upon verification* student will be removed from all stipend extra-curricular activities (listed on reverse) for the remainder of the school year (this may include classes that involve extra-curricular participation for a grade). In addition, a parent/guardian conference with administration and sponsors will be held and up to 30 additional hours of community service may be assigned.
- All students who are subject to these rules will receive an informative packet containing information pertaining to Alcoholics/Narcotics Anonymous. Students who are second-time offenders must give signed verification to their coach, sponsor, or counselor of having attended at least five meetings.

***Verification**

For the purpose of this code of conduct, the term "verification" is defined as any of the following:

- Self-admission of involvement by the student
- The student's own Parent/Guardian admission of student involvement
- Observation of involvement by the sponsor, coach, any Walt Whitman staff member, or the police

Permission to Participate

I/We hereby authorize and consent to our child's participation in the WWHS Robotics Team # 1389 activities and competitions. We understand that the activity in which our child will be participating is potentially dangerous, and that physical injuries may occur to our child requiring emergency medical care and treatment. I/We assume the risk of injury to our child that may occur in an Robotics activity.

In consideration of the acceptance of our child by the Montgomery County Public Schools in its Robotics Team program, and the benefits derived by our child from participation, I/we agree to release and hold harmless the Board of Education of Montgomery County, its members, the Superintendent of Schools, the principal, teachers, all mentors, chaperones, and any and all other of their agents, servants, and/or employees and agree to indemnify each of them from any claims, costs, suits, actions, judgment, and expenses arising from our child's participation in Robotics Team activities and competitions.

I/We hereby give our consent and authorize the Board of Education of Montgomery County and its agents, servants, and/or employees to consent on our behalf and on behalf of our child, to emergency medical care and treatment in the event we are unable to be notified by reasonable attempts of the need for such emergency medical care and treatment.

Each year the Board of Education makes available a Student Accident Policy at a nominal premium. This insurance is secondary to the family's own insurance. Because accidents will inevitably occur despite our best efforts to maintain a high level of safety in all student activities, this insurance coverage is recommended unless the family deems that other insurance coverage (in force) will meet the needs of the student. The Board of Education Student Accident Policy is available at the beginning and throughout the school year. The coverage may be obtained from the insurance carrier. Forms are available at the school.

I, _____, and I, _____
(parent's name) (student's name)

have carefully reviewed the *Student-Parent Walt Whitman High School Robotics Team #1389 Participation Information* and the *Student/Parent Participation Contract and Parent Permission Form*. I/We understand the conditions for participation in the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Walt Whitman High School Robotics Team #1389 program, and we understand there are inherent risks associated with participation.

I/We agree as follows:

- My son/daughter has my/our permission to participate in WWHS Robotics Team #1389

At Walt Whitman High School and at all WWHS Robotics Team activities including FIRST Inc. competitions.

- I/We understand and conform to all of the statements in the Stipulations portion of the Contract.

Please affix signatures below.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

Signature of Student

Date

**In the event that both parents retain legal guardianship of the student, the signatures of both parents are required.*