



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **2020 Season Kickoff**
- **A FIRST year Students Perspective**
- **FAL FLL Jr. Program & EXPO**
- **Spring FLL Jr Program underway**
- **Coming Events**
- **Support & Mentors Needed**
- **Our Generous Sponsors**

THE SHIELD

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FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Metal and Soul Hosts FIRST 2020 Season Kickoff

by Janet Antilla

At the 2020 FIRST Robotics Kickoff, in Capac on January 4th, 23 teams in attendance learned the details of this year's challenge.....

INFINITE RECHARGE®.

Teams gathered at 8am for morning workshops ranging from Strategy and Safety to Use of the limelight vision system and Awards submissions. Workshops were followed by the game reveal at 10am in the gym, which was packed. Afterwards teams were able to view the field elements they will have to tackle using virtual reality and pick up their kit of parts, provided with their registration, to begin their build for the upcoming competitions.

In INFINITE RECHARGE®, two alliances work to protect FIRST City from approaching asteroids caused by a distant space skirmish. Each Alliance, along with their trusty droids, race to collect and score Power Cells in order to energize their Shield Generator for maximum protection. To activate stages of the Shield Generator, droids manipulate their Control Panels after scoring a specific number of Power Cells. Near the end of the match, droids race to their Rendezvous Point to get their Shield Generator operational in order to protect the city! The team will have only six weeks to design, build, program and de-bug their robot for the upcoming competitions.

The 2020 Game animation can be viewed at:

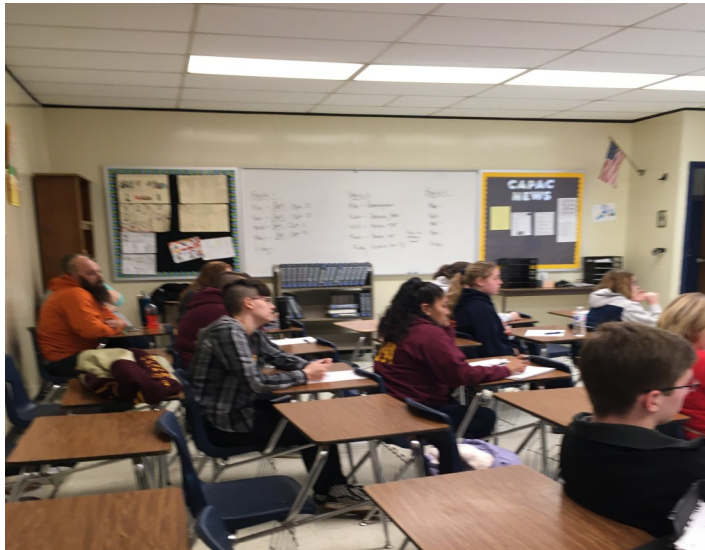
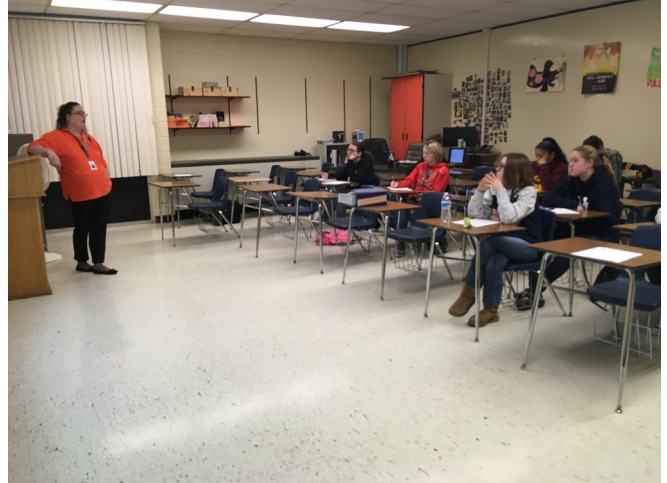
[https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watchtime_continue=5&v=gmiYWTmFRVE&feature=emb_title)

[watchtime_continue=5&v=gmiYWTmFRVE&feature=emb_title](https://www.youtube.com/watchtime_continue=5&v=gmiYWTmFRVE&feature=emb_title)

Our Mission Statement:

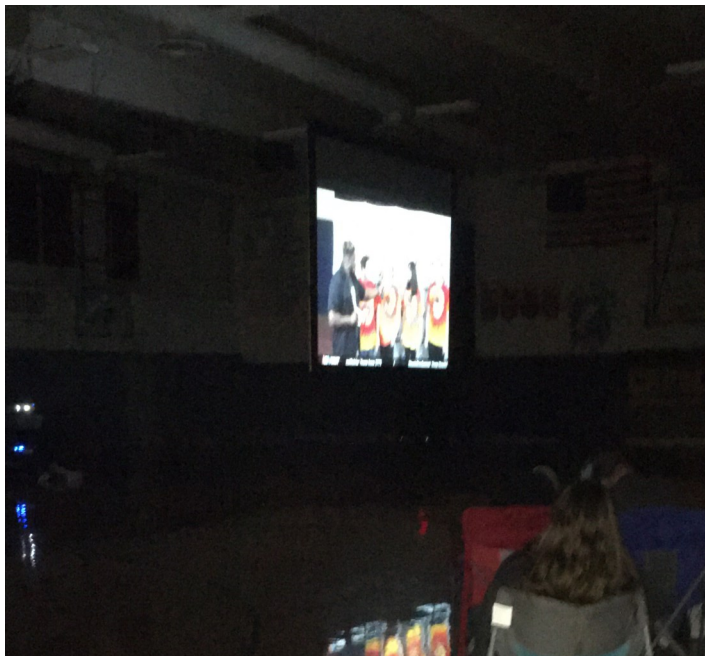
"Team 2604 Metal and Soul . LEARN. DREAM. GROW. INSPIRE."

2020 Season Kickoff at Capac HS



Clockwise from top left:

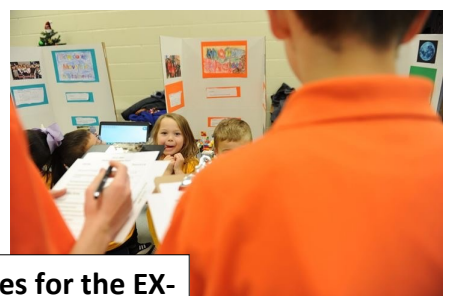
- 1. Guests wait for the reveal to begin.**
- 2. Mrs. Antilla leads a workshop on Awards submissions and details;**
- 3. Guest listen to the details of the 2020 Game INFINITE RECHARGE**
- 4. Guest listen to FIRST Founder Dean Kamen ;**
- 5. Guests Learn about the LIMELIGHT vision system**



FALL Kindergarten and 1st Grade FLL Jr Program & EXPO



Students show off their Robots and Hard work



Metal and Soul Students & Mentors served as Judges for the EXPO. FLL Jr, Students shared and demonstrated their projects



STEAM Teacher, Mr. Whitney, Rallies the kids for the Awards Presentation.



Our Kindergarten Design Award Winners!

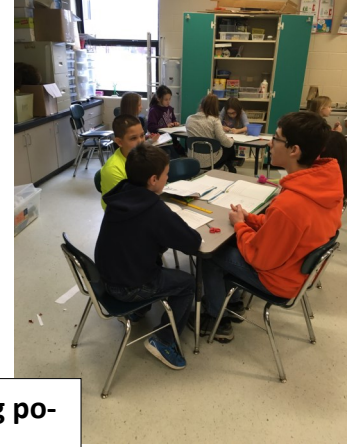
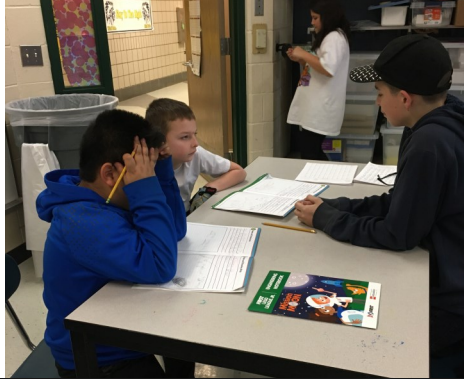


Our 1st grade Design Award Winners!

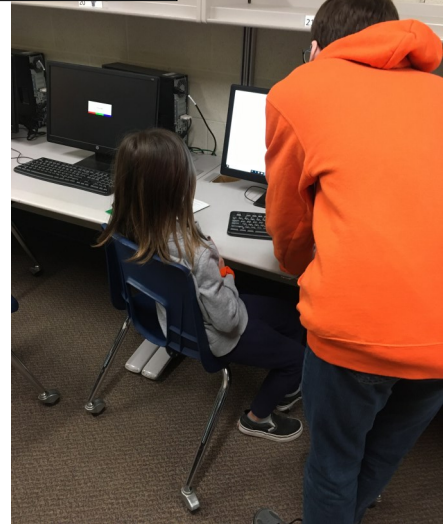
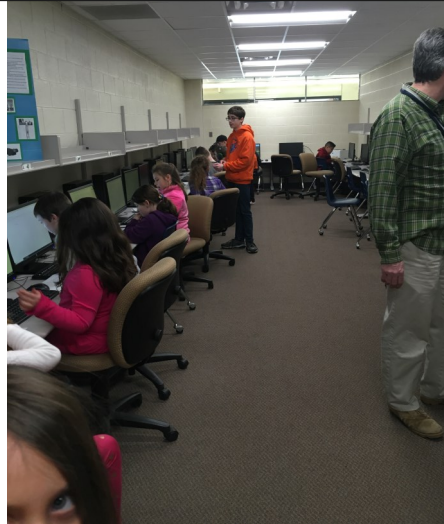


Our EXPO Champions!

SPRING 2nd and 3rd Grade FLL Jr Program is underway!



Team Members assists students with exploring potential problems and solutions



Building!



Discussing possible solutions



Mr. Whitney leading teams in brainstorming!





Robotics from a First Year Student

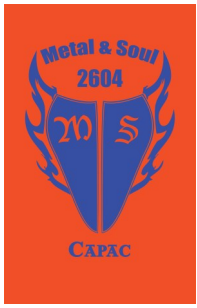
By: *Issy Abu-Joudeh*



Ahh, the life of a first-year robotics member. So much excitement, new technology, new friends! A new competition, and more importantly, a new chapter. With more than 3,500 teams, over 90,000 students, and an abundance of mentors, First Robotics has a place for everyone to embrace their inner engineer. As a robotics novice, my first year has been nothing but extraordinary. With a welcoming team, an open door for creativity, and an overflow of positivity and support, I have felt highly accepted here, and am able to help my team design a robot to demolish (figuratively) the competition.

Coming from such a rural town, I'm very grateful to have this opportunity, and am proud of my little village that hosts such an exceptional team. When I first joined in the summer, I was surprised to hear about all the incredible things this team does for the community. From hosting events for other schools, to monthly road clean-ups, to running school and village events, fundraisers, I've been shown robotics isn't just metalwork. Every event has been worthwhile, and I haven't been disappointed. My first fundraising assignment was to help run stands at the Renaissance Festival, and it was one of the best weekends I've ever had. It felt good to raise money to help my team but to also aid the community and provide a service to them.

Besides learning how to help the community in countless ways, I've also learned so many mechanical skills that I've never had the chance to learn before. Being taught how to design an entire working piece for a robot online was actually surprisingly easy to pick up. Working safely and knowing how to stay protected while handling machinery will serve me well later in life, and the knowledge I've learned here can be spread to others and aid them as well. To find out that making a moving robot was quite simple was especially shocking. I've learned the ins and outs of rivets and bolts, and base knowledge of coding. Being held accountable for attendance and participation in robotics shows through in my school as well. My mentors and family have coached me to be on time at every meeting, and every event I can reasonably attend. The guidance I've received from them has made me more on time in my classes, as I've been prompted to be present in my obligations/responsibilities. They've taught me skills to use in school and the real world. I feel more prepared for higher education because we have great teamwork and problem-solving skills. At robotics, those skills are improved upon and enhanced.



Coming Events



March 6th & 7th— Kettering #2 District Competition

At Kettering University Field House; Flint, MI

April 3rd & 4th— Marysville District Competition

At Marysville High School; Marysville, MI

April 9th, 10th & 11th – MI State FIRST Robotics Championship

At Saginaw Valley State University Field House; Saginaw, MI
(Upon Qualification)

April 30th thru May 2nd – FIRST World Championship Detroit

TCF Center; Detroit, MI
(Upon Qualification)



Contact Mentors:

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The *FIRST* Robotics Program at Capac Community Schools relies solely on Individual and Corporate sponsors and team sponsored fundraisers for their funding.

Donations at any level can be directed to:

**Capac Community Schools
Robotics Team #2604 "Metal & Soul"
403 N. Glassford
Capac, MI 48014**

Inquiries can be made to the mentors listed to the left.

Share What You Know!

We are always looking for professionals to serve as Mentors. Sharing your time and skills with our students helps us sustain and grow our program. If you are interested in being a Mentor, please contact one of the mentors listed above.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!!

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