



North Atlanta Warbotz
North Atlanta High School
4111 Northside Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30327
FIRST Team 3694

PARENT INFORMATION SHEET

For Students Participating in NAHS Warbotz Activities

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your student has chosen to be a part of the **FIRST** Robotics Team at North Atlanta. We would like to take a minute to give you a little background on the program, and let you know what to expect in the upcoming months.

FIRST stands for “For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology,” and was the brainchild of Dean Kamen, inventor of the Segway, the Portable Dialysis Machine, and the Wheelchair that climbs stairs and stands upright (among many other inventions). His idea was to give high school students the opportunity to be as inspired about science and technology as they were about sports. He wanted them to have the opportunity to look up to engineers and scientists the same way that they looked up to baseball and basketball players. Colleges around the U.S. now provide millions of dollars in scholarships to high school students involved in the program, and as more and more corporations become aware of and support **FIRST** teams, they know the type of students it produces.

The NAHS Warbotz is a program designed to encourage students to study, understand – and possibly – seek careers in engineering, science, and technology related fields. The sponsoring teachers, volunteer mentors, and supporters of the program accomplish this through a series of “six week” robotics competitions in which the team is given a kit of parts and a game like task to perform. Student teams from various schools design, build and then operate their robots in a sports-like competition. The teachers and adult mentors/coaches guide the students in these efforts, but the program emphasizes that it is the students who must design, build, and campaign their team’s robots according to the rules of the specific competition. The Warbotz participate in two specific programs – the **BEST** robotics competition in the Fall and the **FIRST** Robotics Challenge – FRC – in the Winter and early Spring. Both programs follow a basic format of a 6-week design and build season, followed by competition events. In **BEST** the team competes at once at a local “Hub” event, seeking to earn a position in the Regional Tournament, held at Auburn University. In the FRC season, the team will compete in at least two events, seeking to earn a position at the State Championship event. Each of these competitions presents the opportunity to qualify for the State event through winning awards and/or the actual competition. At the State Championship, teams compete to advance to the World Championship event, to be held this year in Houston. The team uses its preseason time for learning the necessary skills, team building and fundraising.

The design and build process for both competitions will involve after school and weekend group brainstorming meetings, design sessions, and meetings to construct various robot components. This may involve potentially dangerous machines for wood cutting, metal cutting and bending, electronic soldering, and related engineering processes necessary to construct a robot. Teachers/mentors are present to instruct and supervise the students in the proper and safe operation of all tools and machines used and in the proper use of personal protective equipment (e.g. goggles, ear plugs, etc.) when in the

shop area. Students will be working on the robot project during after school hours, in the evenings and on weekends.

The NAHS Warbotz have developed a participation waiver that must be signed by the student's parent/guardian along with a student contract that must be signed by the student. Please read through each document so that both parent/guardian and student understand their rights and responsibilities.

An annual registration fee (\$100.00) is charged for each student, depending the student's status – first year or returning student, respectively.

Additionally, the parent/guardian must sign a school provided field trip permission form for each student who participates in a NAHS Warbotz activity, e.g. robotic competition, fundraiser, etc. Students will be required to get teacher permissions if an activity requires missing classroom instruction.

The NAHS Warbotz and the sponsoring organizations for the robotics competitions the team engages in do not perform background checks on teachers, mentors or other participants. Teachers follow the school district policies regarding the involvement of adult volunteers with their teams.

Parents are encouraged to participate and support the team through a parent support group. These efforts may include providing team transportation, chaperoning students, lunch runs, etc. Parents who would like to participate in a more formal manner are encouraged to become team mentors. We have a lot more information to provide you, and would be happy to answer any questions. We will be holding a Parents Info Session/Meeting after the Labor Day weekend, exact date and time TBD, so you can meet the adults involved and gain a greater understanding of the program. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.



Jeff Rees
Mentor
NAHS Warbotz
FIRST team 3694
678-596-1751
georgeburdell71@gmail.com

Nour Elmaliki
Chief Executive Officer
NAHS Warbotz
FIRST team 3694
nourelmaliki@gmail.com