

September 8, 2009

Dear 4th, 6th, and 8th Grade Parents,

Father Andrew White has been offered the opportunity to participate and compete in two STEM after school programs through the Department of Defense. We need 1 team of 6 to 10 students for each of the programs. Below is information on both. We are offering this opportunity to the 4th, 6th, and 8th grade students only. The 5th and 7th grade students will be participating in another STEM robotics program in the spring called “Math in Real Life”.

- 1) **First Lego League (FLL) After School Program:** This program will start right away and will run until December. The students will be required to perform several specific robotic challenges. A culminating competition will most likely take place in December. Father Andrew White has been awarded a very generous grant by the Department of Defense for this program.
- 2) **Save the Bay After School Robotics Program:** This program is sponsored by the National Defense Education Program (NDEP) and the Naval Science & Technology for American Readiness Program (N-STAR). This program is also in conjunction with the College of Southern Maryland. The program will start mid – late September on Tuesdays after school from 2:45 – 4:45. The first 12 weeks will focus on a research project. The research project will use a digital video camera and video production software to create a 5 minute video report of the students’ research. In addition to the research, each team will compete in 8 robotics challenges. The culminating event for this program has not been set yet, but will take place sometime in mid April. We have been told that we will have access to the robots during the research project portion of the program to let the kids have a little fun with the robots before the actual robotics portion of the program begins.

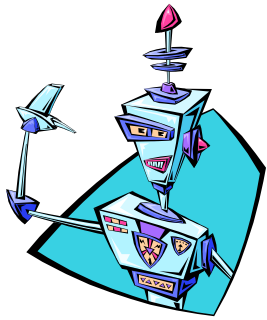
Mrs. Rowland and Mrs. Sarlo have offered to be coaches for the Save the Bay After School Robotics Program. **HOWEVER, we need a parent volunteer to take the First Lego League program.** This would involve meeting with students once a week for about 2 hours. Towards the competition date, meetings may be more frequent depending on how the team is doing. Only parents who have gone through the child protection process are able volunteer for this. Mrs. Rowland will be available to help out with this program occasionally. If you are interested in this exciting opportunity, please volunteer.

Please fill out the form on the back of this paper and return to school no later than Friday, September 11th. We will try to grant requests for specific programs, but may contact you to see if your child can do the alternate program. Because so many of our students in 6th and 8th grade have robotics programming experience from last year’s STEM program, we would like to “spread the wealth” to both programs. Selection for these programs will be on a first come first serve basis (unless you volunteer to be the coach, then you can have your pick of programs!)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Rowland at fawsalgebra@adwschool.org or 301-997-0256.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Maloney



FAW Robotic Programs Sign-Up Form

My child, _____ would like to participate in either the FLL program or the Save the Bay After School program.

My child, _____ would like to participate in the FLL program.

My child, _____ would like to participate in the Save the Bay After School Robotics Program.

I, _____ would like to be a hero and coach the FLL Team!

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent Signature