



# ROBOTICS LIVING IN A VIRTUAL WORLD

This past year has been like no other for the Camdenton LASER FIRST robotics teams. Team meetings, the build season, and competitions don't look like they did in the past due to the global pandemic. Adapt, innovate, and collaborate are not new ideas to any LASER team member, no matter in what age division you compete. From PreK to 12th grade, teams have adjusted how they design, collaborate and innovate not only within the confines of their own teams but across the state, nation and, yes, even around the world!

Teams have continued to meet and thrive, although numbers had to be significantly scaled back due to the COVID protocols. LASER has three elementary divisions that inspire youth to experiment and grow their critical thinking, coding, and design skills through hands-on STEM learning and robotics.

This robotics season, elementary team members stepped into the world of sports, play, and fitness - moving, collaborating, competing, and celebrating. In RePlay FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge, students explored the activities we can do in different spaces for play and how we can ensure that our games and activities are fun and accessible for everyone involved.

LASER FIRST LEGO League Challenge participants harnessed their natural curiosity and used their critical thinking and imagination to explore what future spaces for play will look like. Guided by coaches and working as a team, students applied their STEM skills to participate in an Innovation Project to solve a real-world problem, build and program a LEGO® robot, and compete in an exciting,

mission-based Robot Game. Competition took place in January at Osage Beach Elementary. Thirty-six teams from central Missouri competed in a tournament run by the Central MO FIRST affiliate, LASER 3284.



The Camdenton LASER teams were honored with the following awards:

**Core Value Award 2nd Runner Up:** Osage Beach Elementary Camdenton LASER Team 565

**Innovation Project Award 2nd Runner Up:** Oak Ridge Intermediate Camdenton LASER Team 568

**Robot Design Award 1st Runner Up:** Hurricane Deck Elementary Camdenton LASER Team 564

**Judges Award:** Osage Beach Elementary Camdenton LASER Team 571

The Camdenton Middle School FIRST Tech Challenge teams are starting official virtual competitions the first of March and the high school FIRST Robotics Competition LASER 3284 team is currently wrapping up their build season to compete in the inaugural "FIRST at Home" challenge and game design challenge. The Camdenton High School team will compete for the prestigious Chairman's Award virtually in mid-March. The Chairman's award is the most prestigious award that FIRST honors teams can earn.

If you are interested in learning more about FIRST LASER please visit [www.laser3284.org](http://www.laser3284.org).



LCTC has been working collaboratively with Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation, Missouri Job Center, and Preferred Family Healthcare to be part of a fantastic opportunity for students to apply the skills they have learned at LCTC. This pilot program is an opportunity for students to utilize and develop their skills in the workplace setting. Students will be working with area employers to provide a Work-Based Learning Service for middle-skill jobs. The basic concept is ensuring that the qualified students and employers receive what is referenced as "wrap-around services" to assist both student and employer with any barriers they may experience. LCTC has identified students who have been enrolled through the sequence of classes in their chosen career interest area. LCTC will be one of two area career centers that will be participating in this pilot. We are excited about this opportunity that aligns with the new district strategic plan regarding student success and business/community partnerships.



March 22-26th is HOSA's virtual State Leadership Conference with 41 students competing! We are very proud of all of our members and their competitions, but

we want to particularly shout out to two teams that have taken on major projects that contribute to the wellbeing of our community: **Ellie Webb, Ryah Moore, and Faith Johnson** are bringing much-needed attention to human trafficking, and **Neli Rodriguez, Nora Powers, Julia Curley, Ayden Meckley, and Alexis Stroup** are teaching Dogwood Elementary students the benefits of brushing and flossing teeth and making healthy food choices.



**Travis Ferguson and Eric Lent** won 1st place in the FBLA District competition. They competed in Digital Media Production-Public Service Announcement, where they wrote and produced a 30-second animated video about the effects of vaping.