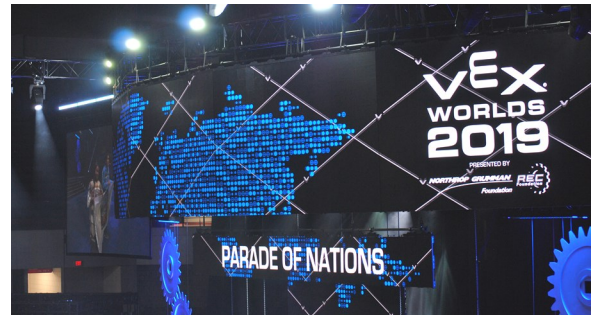


ROBOTICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2019



In the early hours of April 27th, the Divine Mercy Catholic School and Bethlehem Academy middle school robotics team drove out of Faribault on their way to Louisville, Kentucky. After an overnight stay in Illinois, the team arrived mid-day on the 28th to participate in the VEX IQ World Championship. Over 400 teams from around the globe had gathered there to compete, mingle, and learn. Our students had opportunities to meet and interact with a world outside of Faribault and outside of Minnesota. With our nine students came a big network of supportive parents and guardians and the hopes and well-wishing of the two other school sponsored teams back in Minnesota.

Over the next two days our students competed alongside the best middle school robotics teams in the world. In the crucible of competition, our team has emerged stronger than ever. Placed into a tough division, our team brought in impressive scores that shattered our previous program records for the season.

On behalf of the team, the school, and myself, THANK YOU so much to the parents and guardians that traveled with us to this event. Our trip went as smoothly as any venture of this scale possibly could go because we had such overwhelming support from parents to make sure the team was taken care of and could focus on their matches. All of our chaperones, parents, and team members put in a huge number of hours this week in terms of competition time, driving, and behind the scenes effort. Everyone had a great experience because we were there with great people. Our success is built on all of you!

Thanks and a heap of praise also to my team. Our students were amazing all week, demonstrating their passion for robotics as well as kindness, care, teamwork, and above all, a level of professionalism towards their teammates and the competition. It deeply humbles me every time I work with them. Throughout the event, our students cheered on our drivers and supported each other through the highs and lows of world championship competition. The manner in which these students represented our schools, community, faith, and state should make everyone very proud of them. A lot of thanks to our three drivers who shouldered a lot of responsibility this weekend. Michael, Joseph, and Sae all drove amazing matches in the past two days, out-scoring the entire state of Minnesota's regular season in the process. Our drive team brought in a high score for the championship of 38 points in a match, where they worked with one of the two now world champion teams from our division. Although we aren't the world champions, I am fiercely proud of my team's performance in their first trip to World Championship competition. To go in our first year is a monument to their capability, competence, and bonds of friendship.

With the conclusion of the world championship comes the release of the 2019-2020 challenge, with new requirements, new challenges, and a new chance to plan, refine, build and compete. I will be sending out interest letters next Thursday so I can start seeing the potential interest for next year. Please return the letters as soon as possible so the team captains and I can start to lay the groundwork of a second and even better year of DMCS & BA robotics. We are laying the groundwork for another summer camp in the first half of August for both new and returning students and will have more information on that soon.

This program has been among the best experiences I have had in any part of my life personally and professionally. Thank you to everyone who participated, donated, supported, cheered, and believed in the team this year. I am so very happy to be a part of the journey our students are on through robotics and I hope to see as many of our students return next year as possible.

Matthew Robinson

DMCS/BA Robotics Coach





The DMCS/BA Robotics team ranked 66th out of a total of 81 teams in their division.

