



What can Parents expect from their Robotics Student? (offseason and during build season Jan.–Feb.)

- **Excitement** – so much energy to be channeled into a productive endeavor. The brain keeps on clicking with ideas and new things to be learned!
- **Frustration** – sometimes things don't go well. Encourage planning ahead and preparation.
- **It will be difficult completing tasks with a diverse team of kids** – but, this is how to learn to work together and practice gracious professionalism.
- **Your student's ideas may not always be accepted or implemented just the way they thought** – be encouraging and advise patience in all things!
- **Euphoria and Depression** – some days are better than others. This is a complicated process they are undertaking – which is why we encourage parents to get involved and offer support where they can.
- **These kids are setting up a small business** – with little experience. There will be mistakes, as well as successes – go for the big picture to maintain perspective.
- **Panic** – even with the best preparations, the last few days are hectic. So much to do, so little time. But at the end of February, the robot is shipped out and nothing else can be done to make improvements. “Do the best you can with what you have in the time you have” and “Get the basics covered before you go for the details” are two pieces of wisdom to share, over and over again.
- **How can you help your student?**
 - ◇ **Get to know more about the Team, FIRST and what the competition is all about.** Check out these websites to learn more: www.usfirst.org, www.virginiafirst.org, www.midlocanics.com.
 - ◇ **Keep asking** – what's new at Robotics? Who is doing what?
 - ◇ **Encourage your student to try new skills** – where else will they have the chance to be involved in fund raising, web design, public speaking and building a robot?
 - ◇ **Talk about opportunities to be exposed to potential career skills!**
 - ◇ **Grades are always a priority.** Encourage your student to keep a balance between their other classes and what's going on with Robotics. Do not let the homework slide!
 - ◇ **During Build season, come in and see what they are doing, especially on Saturdays** – you won't believe it until you see these kids in action! The robots are pretty cool too!
 - ◇ **Just listen** –there will be many excited recaps of the day. This will change from “the robot is really cool” to increasingly technical jargon. Make your student explain what those terms mean.
 - ◇ **Attend parent meetings.** Feel free to make suggestions and ask questions of any other parent.. We are a friendly group and looking for new friends with whom to cheer on the Team!
 - ◇ **Balance in all things** – Sleep, eat, study, family and robotics.

