

Mrs. Bernard
Gifted and Talented 2021 - 2022

Mindstorm Robotics - Meets from September through December

Each Challenge has three parts: the **Robot Game**, the **Project**, and the **FLL Core Values**. Two teams, of up to [ten children each](#), are formed and participate in the Challenge by programming an autonomous Spike Prime robot to score points on a themed playing field (Robot Game), developing a solution to a problem they have identified (Project), all guided by the [FLL Core Values](#). Teams then attend an [official tournament](#), hosted by one of our Operational Partners. The local competitions take place in November either on Saturday, November 13th, or Saturday, November 20th in Old Lyme. If they win, they will go on to compete at the state level on a Saturday, December 11th at Glastonbury HS.

The Innovation Project for 2021 • Everyone depends on the transportation of goods for their daily needs. As more demands are placed on the transportation systems, we will continue to face challenges unless we find new ways, or improve existing ways, to transport products from place to place. How can you improve the transportation of products? Identify a specific problem within this theme that you want to solve. Then, create or improve a piece of equipment, a technology, or a method of transportation to solve your specific problem.

FIRST® LEGO® League challenges kids to think like scientists and engineers. During the CARGO CONNECT season, teams will choose and solve a real-world problem in the Project. They will also build, test, and program an autonomous robot using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® technology to solve a set of missions in the Robot Game. Throughout their experience, teams will operate under the FIRST LEGO League signature set of Core Values, celebrating discovery, teamwork, and Gracious Professionalism®. Students will choose a problem and create a five-minute play. The team must author, create props and costumes, and perform their solution in front of a panel of judges. This year, we will be working on the newest robot called the Spike Prime. We will know mid-October if it will be virtual.

Stock Market Game - Meets from September through April

Students form teams and research companies, analyze the stock market, and then spend \$100,000 virtual money in a successful manner. The students will continuously check their stocks, buy and sell them throughout the season, and have lessons regarding the ways the stock market works.

<http://www.smg2000.org/> or www.stockmarketgame.org

Read Lit/Quiz - September through January

Students will work to prepare to compete in January, which will test students' knowledge of reading. Students interested in this reading bowl should be reading from different genres as well as focus on classics, folktales, myths, fairy tales, etc. Sixteen students will participate at competition based on a screening test given by the competition. Students spend four hours answering 100 questions broken down into ten categories for reading. Winners receive hard cover books and cash prizes. Overall winners compete in Worlds in July 2022. Start reading now! Competition will be in January during the evening TBA. Worlds is TBD. www.kidslitquiz.com

Odyssey of the Mind - Meets from October through March

The Odyssey of the Mind teaches students to learn creative problem-solving methods while having fun in the process. By tapping into creativity, and through encouraging imaginative paths to problem-solving, students learn skills that will provide them with the ability to solve problems -- great and small -- for a lifetime. The Odyssey of the Mind teaches students how to think divergently by providing open-ended problems that appeal to a wide range of interests. Students learn how to identify challenges and to think creatively to solve those problems. Students will choose a problem, create an eight-minute play of which they must author, create props and costumes, and perform their solution in front of a panel of judges. Competition will be at SCSU on Saturday, March 19th. www.ctom.org and www.odysseyofthemind.com

Mock Trial - Meets October through March

Each year, the Civics First Organization develops a script for the students to follow that will entail going to Mock Trial Court to defend or prosecute. Students will also work with lawyers to prepare for trial. They will give first-hand experience as to how to ask questions, prepare witness, cross-examine witnesses, and write openings and closings for trial. Competition will be at the Kingswood Oxford School in West Hartford from 4:00 – 8:00 pm. www.civicsfirstct.org

Debate Team - Meets February through April

Debate is also run by Civics First Organization. The students will be assigned a topic to research, usually in the spring. They will form teams of two and formulate arguments both pro and con on the topic. Typically, the competition occurs in April TBA. <http://www.civicsfirstct.org/>

Connecticut Invention Convention - September through March

The goal of CIC is to provide the children of Connecticut with meaningful and age-appropriate opportunities to develop and enhance their critical thinking skills using creative problem solving techniques. Students have created new inventions to help make our lives easier. The students are required to create a prototype of the invention, keep a log of progress throughout the inventing process, create a tri-board describing the work involved, and prepare for questions asked by judges and fellow inventors. Our local convention will occur in January or February. Winners from Regionals will move on to the state tournament which will be virtual this year at the end of April or beginning of May on a Saturday TBA. The state winners will move on to Michigan in June. <http://www.ctinventionconvention.org/>

National History Day - September through April

For National History Day students, the 2021 - 2022 academic year will focus research related to the theme in social studies class. **This year's theme is Debate and Diplomacy.** The theme is broad to encourage participants to delve into history, whether it be a topic from the ancient world or the history of their own city. Students need to begin research with secondary sources to gain a broader context, then progress to finding primary sources, and finally make an argument about the effects of a topic in history. We will have a local competition in January. Winners at NHRMS will go to compete at Regionals in February TBD. Winners will move on to States in April on a Saturday TBA at CCSU. Winners from States move on to Nationals in DC in June. Students will create a website, documentary, performance, exhibit, or paper to compete. www.nhd.org