Title of Session: FIRST Robotics
Moderator: Patricia Chen
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Room: Robotics (K-12) Group

PatriciaCh: Hello

BJB2: hi, Victoria and welcome back, Stephanie!

PatriciaCh: Welcome...we will start introductions in a few minutes

BJB2: welcome to today's Robotics discussion

MarjorieSh: so how many people usually come to these things?

BJB2: Pat is the discussion leader today. She has some resources in this room, so you might want to come back here later and take a look

PatriciaCh: usually a few.

PatriciaCh: let me introduce myself ....

BJB2: we start all Tapped In discussions with introductions. After Pat introduces herself, please let her know where you are located and what brings you to the discussion.

PatriciaCh: I am a middle school math teacher ...also a mentor for robotics for 8 years

PatriciaCh: I am from Florida

VictoriaG: Hi, Steph and I are writing a paper on the benefits of on-line communities for teachers. We thought this discussion would be interesting and that we could benefit from it.

StephaniHa: Vicky and I are from PA

BJB2: I am a remedial communications teacher and find that the robotics program provides a lot of cross curricular opportunities

BJB2 . o O (I'm also in PA)

MarjorieSh: I'm Marjorie from NC, I just quit my job of second grade but am interviewing for 5th grade math tutor tomorrow... I always liked electronics

PatriciaCh: for elementary school level...it is LEGO robotics

MarjorieSh: ok

PatriciaCh: in certain ways..... the robotic community is an on line one

PatriciaCh: the organization is FIRST ....

PatriciaCh: it will be easier if you tell me what you want to know or learn

MarjorieSh: I just came to listen actually... know nothing of the topic

VictoriaG: We did do some research on FIRST and spoke briefly about it.

MarjorieSh: sorry that doesn't help you

StephaniHa: How can we use robotics in the classroom...that is what I want to know

PatriciaCh: what grade level do you teach?

MarjorieSh: how can you tie it to math science etc...

StephaniHa: I teach 4th grade

VictoriaG: I teach 5th grade language arts. I have 7 students with special needs. We are always trying to discover new ways to promote learning.

PatriciaCh: in elementary level..... the competition requires students to build a robot out of legos....program it to do certain task.

StephaniHa: One of my students does this already

PatriciaCh: the programming part involves the mathematical - logical thinking

StephaniHa: Today he brought in a robot that he built with gears, a motor, and a bicycle pump

PatriciaCh: part of the competition involves researching the topic ... this involves writing or other LA skills

PatriciaCh: is this student building on his own or he is on a team?

VictoriaG: Do you mean the students could research the topic and come up with creative ideas for their own learning?

StephaniHa: on his own at home

PatriciaCh: Yes to Victoria...

PatriciaCh: when you are on a team ....you have to learn to cooperate and listen to each other ideas ....

PatriciaCh: teams cannot have more then 10 students

VictoriaG: The research I did was on Tapped In links, it wasn't student friendly. Do you have any sites in particular for students age 11?

PatriciaCh: when students build a robot ....it can be of any configurations

MarjorieSh: what kind of tasks can they do?

PatriciaCh: please give me your email....I will have to search for a particular site I have in mind....and send it to you

PatriciaCh: each year's game is different.....so students will build and program the robot to do specific task

BJB2: something else you can do as a teacher is create a student group for your class and allow them to come to this resource room to research FIRST Robotics

PatriciaCh: if all you want to do is encourage student learning ..you can create the tasks yourselves

PatriciaCh: in other words ....look at past games ...and try to develop it for your classroom

PatriciaCh: you will need LEGO Mindstorms kits ....the site that I have in mind...also helps with the programming aspects

PatriciaCh: when you program...please remember to use the flow chart concept....have the students write down every step they want the robot to do

PatriciaCh: it is like using Inspiration

PatriciaCh: please continue to ask questions...

PatriciaCh: as BJ wrote ..students can ask questions on this site as well

StephaniHa: What type of robotics have the children built?

PatriciaCh: LEGO are used in elementary and middle school...high school ...they have VEX and FIRST robotics

PatriciaCh: Stephanie - any kind of robot they want ...there is no one perfect robot...

PatriciaCh: this is where their imagination can run ..... but they need to remember one caveat...keep it simple

VictoriaG: I am going to start by logging students on to Tapped in to research some of the sites. I'll go ahead and research more on google. They can write about their findings or present them in a Power Point. I'll put kids into teams and challenge them to create something as a team. If students struggle, I'll just take it slow and we'll all work on the same project.

StephaniHa: Impressive idea...Vickster!

BJB2: Victoria, are you creating a K-12 Student group for your students?

PatriciaCh: look in Carnegie Mellon....they have a summer camp program...this might be more helpful to you instead of reinventing the wheel

PatriciaCh: they already have 2 games developed

BJB2 . o O (I don't recommend you bring K-12 students to the main TI campus)

PatriciaCh: Victoria - excellent idea

PatriciaCh: students love challenges

BJB2: if you need help setting up a student group, I'm happy to help

PatriciaCh: my email is chenp@martin.k12.fl.us is you have any questions

PatriciaCh: about setting up the games

PatriciaCh: if you check the FIRST website.....go into FLL FIRST LEGO League...you can check to see if a school in your district participates in FLL

StephaniHa: Could I get some ideas of games that the students have done in the past?

MarjorieSh: what's that website

VictoriaG: I'll either create a student group or just utilize a SMART BOARD where students can view the sites as I go into them. I would only be showing "links".

PatriciaCh: www.usfirst.org

MarjorieSh: tks

PatriciaCh: this year's theme was - nanotechnology

VictoriaG: usfirst is a good link, you can read about the vision statement, individuals involved.....

PatriciaCh: the easy thing to do is find a school that is involved...they have the old game mats ...you can borrow them and create you own mission

PatriciaCh: last year's theme was the ocean ...keep it clean and safe ...so the game board involved ocean themes

StephaniHa: so what did the kids create?

PatriciaCh: I mean mat not board

PatriciaCh: the students ...create the robot to perform the missions on the game mat ...6 missions in all

VictoriaG: what's a game mat?

MarjorieSh: the thing the robot moves around on

PatriciaCh: the game mat contains....the missions ....it is like a monopoly board

StephaniHa: Thanks for the information.

VictoriaG: Thanks for all of the information, I'll start my research and check back next time. Have a good evening!

PatriciaCh: Carnegie Mellon created 2 different scenarios .....but you have to create the game mat....

PatriciaCh: check in 2 weeks and let me know how you are doing

PatriciaCh: if you do a search ...type in the name and lego robotics ...it should bring you to their site

PatriciaCh: http://www-education.rec.ri.cmu.edu/

PatriciaCh: that link is really what you want to check into

PatriciaCh: it is very hard to tell someone ...what kind of robot the student should build.... there is no right answer

PatriciaCh: also building into your curriculum .... it is your call

PatriciaCh: for me ...I have a 43 minute period.... I don't have the time

PatriciaCh: so I do a club - for after school