

CITRUS CIRCUITS OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Workshops
November 14-15

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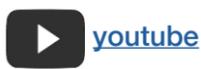
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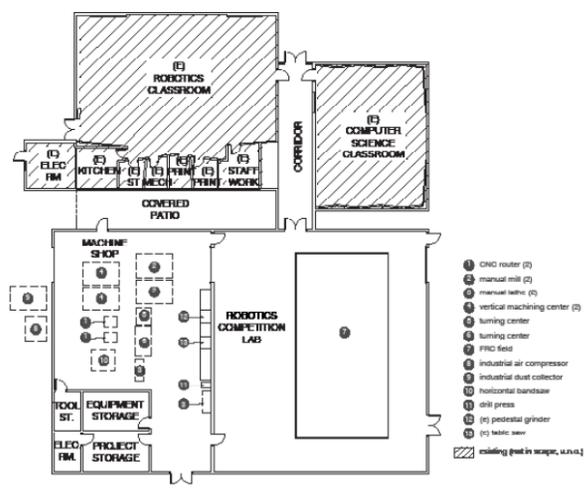
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DHS RECEIVES GRANT FOR NEW ROBOTICS FACILITY

Within the next few years, Citrus Circuits will be working in a new \$6 million facility that will include a full-size practice field, as well as a new machine shop and expanded robotics classroom space. The project is funded by a \$3 million Career Technical Education (CTE) Facilities Grant from the State of California and a matching \$3 million from DJUSD that was made possible through the passage of Measure M by Davis voters in 2018 for district-wide school improvements. Overall, the project will expand the current space in M1 and M2 by over 7,000 square feet and include improvements to the existing shop and classroom areas. The CTE Facilities Grant was made possible through the many letters of support submitted to DJUSD from 1678 parents, students, alumni, members of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, Yolo County Office of Education, and Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry.



floor plan | equipment

GIRL POWERED

For the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we held a Girl Powered Event on Saturday, October 17, on the virtual platform Zoom. Girl Powered Events are geared towards girls of elementary and junior high age, and our Girl Powered Event Coordinator Ellie Bair has stated that they are “to inspire young girls to see STEM as something that is exciting and accessible to them.” During these events, we have various activities that can be carried out with things that are already at home, with guidance from 1678 team members. Attendees at this first event took on STEM related challenges and activities like building bridges, spiderwebs, and candy catapults.

DYR TO HOLD VIRTUAL SEASON

This year’s DYR League Season, like our Girl Powered Event, will also be held primarily on Zoom. Most of this year’s League teams will be meeting virtually, with a few exceptions for some teams that will be meeting with adherence to social distancing guidelines. 1678 students will continue to mentor both in-person and virtual teams this season. Due to COVID, there won’t be any in-person competitions, but 1678 will still be organizing a virtual showcase with design, autonomous, and teleop awards. If the situation changes throughout the League season, we will reassess and adjust the competition accordingly.



FALL WORKSHOPS

On November 14-15, we will be holding a series of online Virtual Workshops with teams 2073 EagleForce and 3859 Wolfpack Robotics as part of Capital City Classic. These workshops and panel discussions are designed to help FIRST teams from rookies to veterans, covering topics that include programming, strategic design, team branding, 2020 robots, and girls in leadership. The links to access these workshops can be accessed here, <https://capitalcityclassic.org/workshops/> or on the Capital City Classic Website.

PARENT INFO NIGHT

We held our Parent Info Night on October 1, where parents joined us for our general and subteam meetings on Zoom, before joining their own informational meeting on the team in general and how we operate. This event was extremely successful, with a high turnout and lots of participation from 1678 parents. The parent presentation covered various topics, including what our normal years look like and what we’ve changed since COVID, as well as ways 1678 parents can support us, such as volunteering and donations.

TEAM BONDING PROGRAM

In the past few weeks, our team leadership has started a cross-subteam bonding program to allow students from different subteams to get to know each other. Each of these smaller teams with members from various specialties will be required to meet at least four times each month. They will participate in various activities, such as playing online cooperative multi-player games, or just introducing themselves and their work on the team to each other.

FIRST SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

FIRST has announced their plans for the 2020-2021 season with additional information regarding their handling of the COVID-19 Pandemic and upcoming competitions. Kickoff this year has been postponed to January 9, 2020, in order to give teams additional time to prepare and adjust, and all in-person competition is being adjusted to digital formats. Despite the lack of in-person events, FIRST has been making an ongoing effort to keep teams connected and engaged through the introduction of new opportunities, which include several new awards and competitions. One of the most notable additions, the Game Design Challenge, asks students to design a possible future FRC game, and winning designs will receive awards and possibly be used in future seasons. Many of the awards from previous seasons will still be recognized this year, such as the Woodie Flowers Award, Chairman’s Award, and the Excellence in Engineering Award, among others.