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REL Robotics Teams Excel at VEX Robotics Competition



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On December 7, 2024, the REL Robotics Teams showcased their engineering prowess at the VEX Robotics Competition held at Lewis Career Technical High School in Pasadena. Competing against numerous teams from the region, several of our groups competed and we had one achieve top 10 placement, reflecting their dedication and innovative skills.

The VEX Robotics Competition is renowned for challenging students to design, build, and program robots to compete in various tasks, fostering critical thinking and teamwork. Our students' impressive performance underscores their commitment to excellence in STEM education.

Our students have demonstrated exceptional talent and perseverance," said Johan Richards, the robotics team coach. "Their achievements at this competition make us incredibly proud and excited for their future endeavors."

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all team members for their hard work and success. Their accomplishments not only bring pride to our academy but also inspire fellow students to engage in STEM activities.

Cosmetology Program Hosts Annual "Princess and Prince Spa Day"

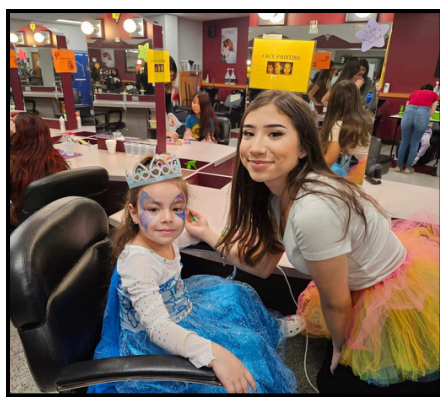
The REL Cosmetology Program brought joy and glamour to the community with its annual "Princess and Prince Spa Day" event. This cherished tradition provided students with the opportunity to practice their cosmetology skills while spreading happiness to children aged 3 to 12.

Throughout the day, aspiring cosmetologists offered services such as manicures, makeup, braiding, and temporary hair coloring. Each child left feeling pampered and proud, crowned with a tiara or crown and presented with a personalized certificate declaring them a "Princess" or "Prince" for a day.

"Our students not only gained valuable hands-on experience but also witnessed the impact of their skills on others," said Lisa Hatman, program instructor. "Seeing the children light up with joy is what makes this event so special."

This outreach event continues to serve as a meaningful way for the Cosmetology Program to give back to the community while helping students hone their craft in a real-world setting. A heartfelt thank-you to all who participated and supported this wonderful event!

We look forward to hosting even more smiles and style next year!



Ganderneer Annual Boat Races: A Splash of Innovation and Teamwork



The Ganderneer Annual Boat Races, held in partnership with ExxonMobil, showcased the creativity and engineering skills of our STEM Academy students. This exciting event marked the culmination of weeks of hard work, during which students designed and constructed boats under the mentorship of ExxonMobil engineers.

Drawing on principles of physics, buoyancy, and structural engineering, students crafted vessels that were both functional and innovative.

The competition featured two main awards: Best in Show, awarded for outstanding craftsmanship and innovative design, and First to Finish, earned for remarkable speed and stellar performance on the water.

Congratulations to the teams pictured below!

"Collaborating with professionals from ExxonMobil gave our students a real-world perspective on engineering," said TaMara Price, Academy Principal. "The guidance and expertise provided by the engineers were invaluable in turning their concepts into reality."

A special thank-you to ExxonMobil for their continued support of our program. We can't wait to see what next year's races will bring!

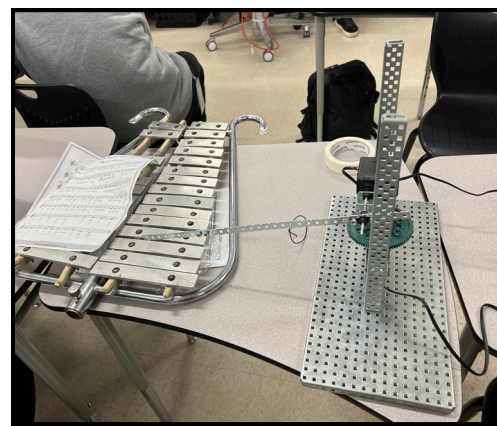
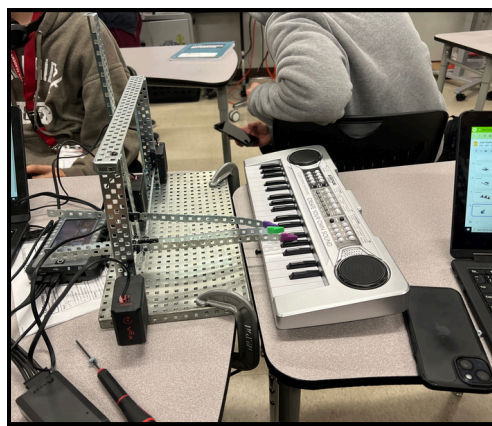
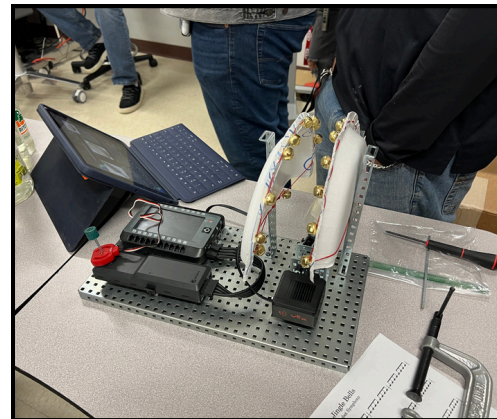
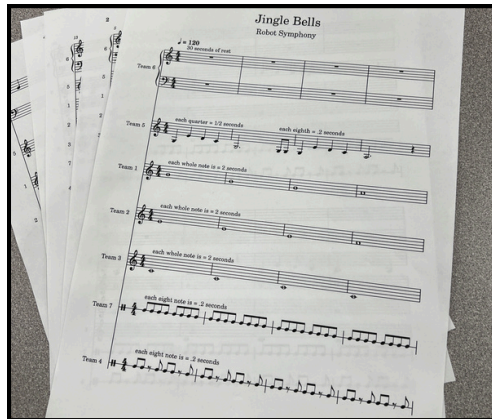
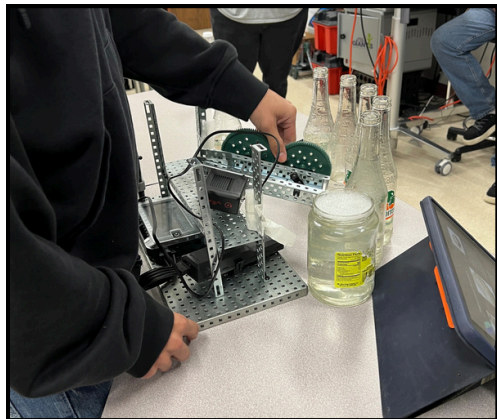


Maritime Field Trip Offers Students Hands-On Learning Experience



Our maritime students embarked on an educational journey aboard the M/V Sam Houston, Port Houston's public tour vessel in operation since 1958. This 90-minute round-trip tour along the Houston Ship Channel provided students with a unique waterborne perspective of port operations. Throughout the voyage, the captain offered insightful narration, enhancing the educational value by detailing the various sights and operations along the channel. This firsthand observation allowed students to witness international cargo vessels and the port's Turning Basin Terminal, deepening their understanding of maritime commerce and logistics. In addition to the boat tour, the Port Houston Maritime Education Program arranged a visit to the nearby fire station and fire boat. This segment of the trip provided students with an up-close look at the vital safety and emergency response services that are integral to port operations. "Experiences like these are invaluable," remarked Sara Malloy, CTE Specialist, who accompanied the students. "They offer practical insights that classroom instruction alone cannot provide, igniting a passion for maritime careers among our students."

Engineering Students Perform "Jingle Bells" with Robotic Symphony



Innovation met music this holiday season in Mr. Brookreson's 6th-period Engineering Science class, where students presented their Robotics Symphony. This cross-curricular project blended engineering, programming, and the arts as students designed and programmed robots to play various instruments.

The performance featured an array of creative instruments, including a tuba, xylophone, bells, and even jars filled with water to create unique tones. The highlight of the project was a lively rendition of "Jingle Bells," beautifully arranged by student Noah Lopez.

"This project challenged students to think beyond traditional engineering applications," Mr. Brookreson said. "It was amazing to see their creativity and technical skills come together in such a harmonious way."

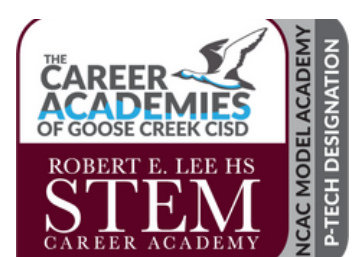
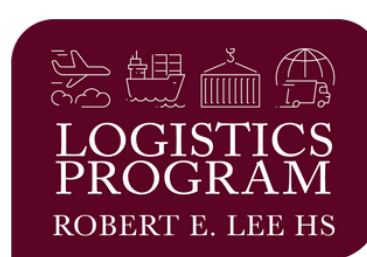
The Robotics Symphony not only showcased the students' technical expertise but also demonstrated the power of cross-curricular learning, where STEM meets the arts. Congratulations to these talented students for bringing holiday cheer in such an innovative way!

Upcoming Events

January							
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Notes
			1	2	3	4	
PR = Progress Report			Holiday				
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
	Teachers Return		First Day of School	RC2 Grades in Portal			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	San Jac Maritime Classes begin		Ganderneers Spring Project Kickoff			VEX Robotics Tournament	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
	Holiday		STEM Advisory Board Meeting				
26	27	28	29	30	31		
					PR 5 Ends		Jan 30 - STEM Academy/Power UP - STEM Family Night at Highlands ES.
STEM			Cosmetology				Maritime

Academy Handbook

Academy Administration Team



<https://schools.gccisd.net/page/cte.Academy.STEM>

<https://schools.gccisd.net/page/cte.Academy.Maritime>

<https://schools.gccisd.net/page/cte.CosmetologyProgram>