

September 19, 2016



Dear Prospective *FIRST* LEGO League Team Member and Guardians,

Welcome to the Fall 2016 *FIRST* LEGO League (FLL) season at the Bache-Martin School! This year will be the second year Bache will participate in FLL. We eagerly look forward to a busy and exciting year!

FIRST LEGO League is an international engineering competition sponsored by the non-profit organization *FIRST*, For Inspiration in Research and Technology. Teams consisting of no more than ten team members compete in tournaments worldwide, designing and programming an NXT or EV3 Mindstorms robot to manipulate LEGO models on a 4'x8' map, and creating an innovative solution to a real engineering problem of their choice. This year's theme is "Animal Allies" in which teams will identify a problem when people and animals interact, and then design an innovative solution to the problem that makes the interaction better for animals, people, or both, and share this solution with others.

Get ready. Get set. Roar! Or you could bark, quack, or squeak, because the 2016 ANIMAL ALLIESSM season is all about our furry, feathered, and finned friends. In the 2016 FIRST[®] LEGO[®] League Challenge, more than 28,000 teams of students age 9 to 14 will look into the eyes of our ANIMAL ALLIES. What might become possible when we learn to help each other?*

FLL emphasizes friendly competition, teamwork, creative problem solving, and Gracious Professionalism[®] through the FLL Core Values. Teams are encouraged to compete in a cooperative manner, helping to build up other teams while striving to put on their very best performance; FLL values this "cooperation"[®] immensely and a team's demonstration of these values are included in their total score at competition.

All prospective team members must fill out an application form to indicate commitment. Each team can have up to ten participants (ages 9-14) at competition. The Bache team will have 7-8 students due to the limitations of having only one Lego Mindstorms kit. There will be a lot of work to do in a short time frame. Therefore, **team members will be required to meet most Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:05 until 4:30. Families are responsible for determining how their student will get home at the end of the day.** Please take your time commitments into consideration when applying for the team. It is a big, but worthwhile, commitment!

A student information meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2016 in the elementary science room #131 from 3:05 – 3:45. Families are responsible for determining how their student will get home. Students who are interested in the program are encouraged to attend! Applications are due to Ms. McCracken on Thursday, September 29, 2016 by the end of the school day. Students can turn their applications in to their homeroom teachers. Team members will be announced on **Thursday, October 6, 2016** on the Bache announcements. Our first FLL meeting will take place on **Tuesday, October 11, 2016** in room #131 from 3:05 – 4:30.

If parents or guardians (with experience with robots, programming, or general engineering) wish to assist as a mentor, please contact Ms. Charlotte McCracken at cmccracken@philasd.org.

We are looking forward to a great season of engineering with you!

Sincerely,
Ms. Charlotte McCracken
Bache-Martin FLL Coach
cmccracken@philasd.org



Bache – Martin FLL Expectations

National FLL <http://www.firstlegoleague.org>

The University of Pennsylvania FLL

<https://alliance.seas.upenn.edu/~pennfll/wiki/index.php?n=PennFLL.PennFLL>

1. Students are expected to attend all meetings. If a student must miss a meeting, Ms. McCracken (cmccracken@philasd.org) should be informed of such an absence as soon as possible. Missing too many meetings or meetings with unexcused absences could jeopardize a team member's standing on the team.
2. Students are expected to follow and practice the FLL Core Values during all FLL sessions. In competitions students are judged heavily on their interactions using the Core Values. (<http://www.firstlegoleague.org/mission/corevalues>) A student failing to practice the Core Values could jeopardize his/her standing on the team.
3. Meetings will be held as follows during FLL season
 - a. Tuesdays, 3:05 -4:30
 - b. Thursdays, 3:05-4:30
 - c. Meeting times may be extended until 5:00pm with notice
 - d. Possibly other days as announced, especially as we get closer to competition
4. The Fall 2016 FLL season is relatively short considering the amount of work to be done.
 - a. A scrimmage event in late November. Date and place to be determined.
 - b. Bache FLL is hoping to attend a qualifying event at Central High School on January 14, 2017
5. **Bache-Martin will make an attempt to provide busing to events. However, parents/guardians may be asked to assist in transportation and chaperoning.**
6. Although students may work on one particular mission or field more than another, ALL team members are expected to know about all aspects of FLL. Competition requires that ALL team members be able to competently answer questions regarding all FLL areas.

**Bache-Martin School *FIRST* LEGO League
Application for Fall 2016 Season**

Name: _____ Homeroom Teacher: _____

Please circle one on each line: (teams to be balanced based on the following):

1. Grade: 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th
2. Male or Female
3. FLL experience or No FLL experience

If you answered 'FLL experience' in #3, please state your experience here:

Explain, in a few sentences, why you would like to be part of the Bache Martin FLL team.

Extra-curricular activities in which you plan to participate during Fall 2016. Please include school sports, gym/park sports, after school activities both on and off campus including Scouts, dance, church groups, etc. _____

Do you feel your extra-curricular activities would interfere on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:05 - 5:00? If yes, please explain. _____

ALL members will participate in ALL aspects of the FLL preparation. ALL members attending the qualifying and competition will participate in ALL aspects of FLL experience. Even knowing this, please rank, in order, your interest in each area with 1 being the most interest, 2 being moderate interest, and 3 being the least amount of interest. (You must have a 1, 2, and 3.)

_____ Mechanical (building robot)

_____ Programmer (computer programming the robot)

_____ Researcher (researching the problem, solution, and finding/interviewing the experts)

Bache - Martin FLL AGREEMENT

A successful team depends on the commitment of all of its team members. Applicants, please initial next to each of these statements to indicate your agreement.

_____ I will support my team by attending every team meeting I possibly can. I will let the coach know if I must miss one.

_____ I will support my team by working on project and mission assignments outside of team meeting times.

_____ I will both contribute my ideas and listen to the ideas of others at meetings. I will show respect for the ideas of other team members.

_____ I will make a commitment to attend the qualifying competition.

_____ I will make a commitment to attend the regional competition for my team if we qualify.

_____ I will use all of the team meeting time productively.

_____ I will show respect and Gracious Professionalism® in all of my activities.

_____ I will follow the Core Values required by FLL.

_____ With my team I will give my best effort to solve challenging problems. I will cooperate with the team in finding a solution and carrying it out.

_____ My team is responsible for creating all of the materials for the problem, solution, and presentation, and doing all of the programming and building for the robotics.

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

Printed Applicant's name _____

A successful team depends also on appropriate parental support. Guardians, please initial next to each of these statements to indicate your agreement.

_____ I agree, in the proper spirit of FLL, not to interfere with the team's solutions. All creations, inventions, and ideas must come from the team members.

_____ I agree to make every effort to have my child attend every team meeting. If there is a conflict, either my child or I will notify the coach as soon as possible. I understand that my child has a commitment to his/her team.

_____ I agree to discuss all items listed above with my child.

Guardian's signature _____ Date _____