

Robotics? You may be thinking: Isn't that synonymous with little Lego bots navigating a table of obstacles? Well, not all robots are like that. 120 pounds, 1000's of dollars, 50 hour weeks, 22 members, 3 foot robots: that doesn't sound so small does it? Many of your very own Liberty students are on a local robotics team that meets outside of school to join in an epic journey of imagination, innovation, and creation that pushes knowledge and tools to the limit.

Team 4499, The Highlanders, is participating in their fourth year of FRC robotics. Six weeks ago a challenge was released that catapulted thousands of teams across the globe into a frenzy of rapid prototyping, detailed building, and painstaking redesigning. The Highlanders are ready to rock the competition and come steal to steal with new and old adversaries. The team says goodbye this Wednesday as they fly out to Flagstaff Arizona for a four day competition.

Jack Costello, Ben Trout, John Weins, Jamie Weibler, Zach Harker, Even Walter, Ryan Zonnefeld, Simon Costello, Daniel Scott, Stephen Rencher, Alex Gronlund, Annie Williamson, and Nick Vosseteig have invested so much time into this year's bot, and represent the collective knowledge and prowess Liberty instills in its students. On and off the school grounds students go outside their comfort zones, intellectual levels, and past experiences to try new activities: robotics is certainly one of these worthy efforts. Say good luck to one of these fortunate individuals and ask them how to get involved in such a unique experience.

Thank you to all the support from our sponsors, friends, and families. A special thanks to our mentors **Tim Frye, Barbra Frye, Dean Iverson, Debbie English, and Tony English**. One last shout out to the Englishes for giving the team a second home during robotics season. We can't do it without you guys.

Robotics is more than robots, it's a lifestyle. Here is the 2016 robot:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Dzn5gVodBo>