

2197 Newsletter

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Coming Back

We are back in action! As New Prairie allows teams and clubs to begin meetings under social distancing guidelines we are having weekly meetings to continue work. We are already continuing work on our robots for next season along with working on our t-shirt printing business for our teachers back to school shirts. To continue our community safety culture Sydney Varnak wrote a grant to the Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte that allowed us to provide an AED to the local STAR center that has offices for and hosts meetings with non-profit organizations such as Unity Foundation, United Way, and Healthy Communities of LaPorte County



Over Quarantine

Our team didn't let the cancellation of our robotics season due to COVID-19 hold them back from achievement, hard work, and outreach. As some awards were still to be judged through essays and zoom meetings, Las Pumas participated in these with equal enthusiasm and commitment as they did at the in-person judging processes in the past. Sydney Varnak and Micah Bauer competed as Dean's List Semifinalists, which awards exemplary students and dedicated team members, through Zoom interviews. Through the judging of an essay, we won one of FIRST's highest honors- a regional Chairman's Award through the Perry Meridian Competition! This award recognizes outreach programs and allowed us to compete at the State competition where a presentation team presented via Zoom. We are pleased to announce another win at the regional competition when our head mentor Mr. Hobart won the Woodie Flowers Award that celebrates influential mentors in FIRST. We still continued to support our community with team members helping make masks for a local hospital from their homes. During this time a flag raiser was also designed for a wheelchair-bound classmate. As quarantine restrictions began to ease up, we met safely with a community member to help plan digital signs for a conservation trail at a local elementary school.

Our Seniors

We are so proud of our graduating seniors; Skylar Denton, James Goodlink, Brian Hardison, Christopher Huhnke, Julia Jones, Sydney Meyers, Zach True, and Alex Tuszyński. Here's a bit on what they have done for the team and what their plans are for after high school.

- Skylar is a mechanical team member. She will be attending Purdue University.
- James is an electrical co-lead. He will be attending Bethel College.
- Brian is a mechanical team member. He will be attending Ivy Tech.
- Christopher is a mechanical team member. He will be attending Purdue University.
- Julia is the Business, Awards, Media, and Marketing lead. She will be attending University of Notre Dame.
- Sydney is the team captain. She will be attending University of Wisconsin Madison.
- Zach is vice captain. He will be attending Purdue University.
- Alex is a CAD member. He will be attending Purdue Fort Wayne

Going Forward

Las Pumas is anticipating this coming season to be great. We have been tentatively informed our robot will be able to be used in the 2021 FRC game, so despite having finished it before quarantine our mechanical team is hard at work planning improvements and modifications to the robot. While we are sad to know our graduating seniors will not get a final season we are excited to see what our incoming freshman can do. We plan on participating in many promotional opportunities to tap into this pool of talent this upcoming year. This also means a new group of freshman in our three FTC classes, which New Prairie will continue to be hosting league meets for this coming fall under a slightly modified format for health purposes.



Thanks to our Sponsors!



