

Hi Parents, Justin here with an update about the status of WestMech and our plans for this coming season.

Cleaning up after Worlds:

To start off, let's talk about what we plan on doing over the summer. Before leaving for the World Championships, the teams spent a lot of time working on their robots. This in turn led to a pretty big mess at the WestMech club. Due to several instructors contracting COVID the past few weeks, we have only now been able to get back into the swing of things. However, before the members can start to work on their prototypes for Spin Up, we need to make sure that WestMech is clean and organized. This is something that all clubs around the world do. After a big tournament, teams cannot build or work on their next robot until the club/workspace is cleaned up. This is an entire team effort, as we want to make sure that their robots and work environment are performing as best as they possibly can.

Please Note: No robot building will happen until the club is fully cleaned up. The faster the members organize and clean the parts, the sooner we will be able to get back to the fun robot building. We expect that the club will be fully cleaned and organized by Thursday, June 9. (Subject to how well people clean up and stay on task)

Post Worlds Team Celebration:

To celebrate the teams' accomplishments over the World Championships, we will be having a small celebratory dinner at WestMech on Saturday, June 11 from 5:00 - 8:00 PM. **This is for the students only.** We will be providing dinner as well as congratulatory speeches for all participants on their strengths, as well as what we can all improve on as a team. **Parents are welcome to join us at 7:00 PM for the final congratulations.**

Summer Camp and Leadership Opportunities:

With the Western Mechatronics Summer Camp coming up in July and August, we will be providing the teams with several opportunities to lead and teach other students. The times will be staggered so that teams will get to work on their own robots, but also mentor and lead the summer camp students during the summer camp weeks of July - August.

We are still finalizing the summer camp roles but in summary, the members will have opportunities to do the following and more:

- Teach lessons on basic robotics principles (building, programming, designing, etc.)
- Provide assistance with summer camp questions (problem-solving and general help)
- Referee and judge competitions (Score change-up games, score battlebot challenges)

We will provide more information later in June so that teams will know what their responsibilities are.

Spin Up Prototypes and Building:

Once the club is cleaned up, teams will start working on their first initial robot for the new season game, Spin-Up. We will help teams come up with different solutions and methods for all

aspects of the game. The game elements that we pre-ordered should arrive late June (compared to normal orders shipping in August) so we are confident that this will give the teams a very valuable jump-start to the new challenge.

Programming Lessons:

Jonathan is planning to record/video all of his programming and coding expertise for the black teams. This includes how to integrate high-level algorithms into your robot to ensure that everything becomes more consistent and reliable. These videos are in development and will be released at a later time. In addition, in-person assistance on how these programs work will also be discussed with the teams.

Building Lessons:

In addition to Jonathan recording videos, Ian will also be making videos that cover CAD design and how to utilize the design method. This includes everything that you need to know to build and create a robot on CAD tools, how to include the kinematics (making stuff move in CAD), and other high-level design techniques. These videos are also in development and will be released in the future. Furthermore, the design methods will also be recorded and presented in person with the teams.

Future Plans:

We have a lot of exciting things coming up for WestMech, and I would like to share some of the projects that we are working on.

We have gotten the green light on hosting a Signature Event in Calgary, this event from Feb 3-5 will be a massive 120-team tournament featuring competitors from all over the World. The point of this tournament is to give teams a World's level experience, as well as introduce them to high-level competition. We will provide more information as we continue to work on tournament planning. Let us know if you want to help and volunteer for the event!

In addition to the signature event, we have several more tournaments planned for the season. We want to provide teams with as many competition chances as possible, so teams will be fully prepared for the Alberta Provincials, as well as the World Championships if they qualify. With the departure of 210Y, 210X, and other grade-12 teams in Alberta, we see a clear path for Western Mechatronics to take over Alberta.

While tournaments are fun and exciting to go to, we do need to ensure that our teams are properly represented and in appropriate attire. As such, we will be working to provide teams with additional WestMech apparel for them to wear at events (hoodies, hats, jerseys, etc.). These are still in the development phase and once we get more information we will inform you of any updates.

The return of 210

Finally, we are excited to announce that black teams effective this season will be rebranded from 2088 to 210. This means that teams 2088F and 2088Z will become 210F and 210Z. Not

only does this give their teams a high reputation, but they will represent the best that Western Mechatronics has to offer. Teams will also be given the chance to design their own team logos, similar to the 210Y logo, so encourage your kids to help design their team logo!

Thank you for reading through this long update, we plan on providing one every month so that the teams and parents can stay updated and know what the current status is with WestMech. These will also be posted on an unlisted URL on our website here:

<https://www.westernmech.ca/monthly-updates>

Let us know if you have any questions, and I will see you again in the next update!