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Orange Unified School District Gears Up for National Robotics Week

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2013 - 2014

ROBOTICS
CHAMPIONSHIP

ENGINEERING
OUR
FUTURES

Orange, CA April 8th, 2014 – In a year full of robot news and advancements, the fifth annual National Robotics Week is being held April 5-13. As part of this exciting week, Orange Unified School District will be hosting a district-wide Robotics Competition on Friday, April 11th, from 3:00pm to 7:00pm at Yorba Academy of the Arts Middle School located at 935 N Cambridge, Orange, CA 92867.

Established by Congress in 2010 to raise awareness about robots and their important role in shaping the future of education, industry and the U.S. economy, National Robotics Week brings together students, educators and influencers who share a passion for robots and technology. This tech-heavy week is all about:

- Celebrating the United States as a leader in robotics technology development
- Inspiring students of all ages to pursue careers in robotics and other Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) related fields
- Educating the public about how robotics technology impacts society, both now and in the future
- Advocating for increased funding for robotics technology research and development

The Orange Unified School District is joining with organizations across the nation to celebrate National Robotics Week and will be hosting its inaugural Robotics Championship on Friday April 11th from 3p.m. till 7p.m. at the Yorba Academy of the Arts Middle School. Twenty-five teams from across the district will be competing in several robotics activities using the VEXIQ robotics system.

Robotics has taken off since the school district started a pilot program last year VEXIQ; students readily embraced the program competing and garnering honors at the World VEX Robotics Competition at Anaheim Convention Center in April 2013. This year the afterschool program has expanded to include

ten elementary and three middle schools. In addition, Yorba Academy of the Arts Middle School began offering an Advanced Technology – Robotic Engineering Class, created by Mr. Jami Cabase and professors and staff from the **University of Southern California's** Viterbi School of Engineering. In this new class, students learn a variety of tools and programming languages as they program, design and build robots.



“Engineering is the future and our school district has embraced robotics as a tool to help lead our children to a successful life. Our children love it and work so hard and are getting so much out of it,” shares Jami Cabase. He recently asked one of his students why is robotics so cool and he told me “they’re robots and robots rock, duh”.

For more information about National Robotics Week, go to: <http://www.nationalroboticsweek.org/>. National Robotics Week is also on Twitter ([@roboweek](https://twitter.com/roboweek) and [#roboweek](https://twitter.com/roboweek)) and Facebook (facebook.com/roboweek). To find out more about the robotics at Yorba Middle, contact Jami Cabase at lcabase@orangeusd.org.