

Transcript of May 12, 2023 Video Message

Skertich: Hello Kahok Nation. I'm Superintendent Brad Skertich.

And this week we are at the Collinsville, Maryville and Troy YMCA. And behind us is the underwater robotics team who will be competing this weekend in the SeaPerch International Competition in Maryland.

Now let's take a few minutes to have the students explain about the competition, who they are, and what they're excited about.

Introduce yourselves to Kahok Nation.

Tristan: I'm Tristan

Ryland: I'm Ryland

Kate: I'm Kate Harris

Sophie: Sophie VanMiddendorp

Skertich: And you are members of our underwater robotics team. So tell us about the underwater robotics team, and how it got started and what the next adventure is that's coming up for the team.

Tristan: Um. This is our first year doing underwater robotics at CHS. It started as an offshoot of TSA this year. Which is Technology Student Association. And we went to state...on what day?

Kate: St. Patrick's Day.

Tristan: St. Patrick's Day. And we ended up getting second. We had two other teams with us - who got 4th and 6th respectively. Um....since we got second place - second and first go to internationals, which we have now qualified for.

Skertich: Ryland, talk about the competition, and what you saw at state, and then what you will see in Maryland this coming weekend.

Ryland: So...the SeaPerch competition consists of several different challenges. This year it starts with an obstacle course where you have to maneuver the robot through various rings and tunnels to get it to the endpoint.

From there it's three different parts. The first part is mapping the seafloor - where you will move strings and pool noodles to the designated locations, through a zigzag-like obstacle course.

The second part, after that, is collecting underwater samples of the water and returning them to a proper position that's designated. And then, after that, you're interacting with simulated marine wildlife and getting that into a safe location so that it is not interfering with any operations.

Skertich: Kate, Ryland, tell us what you've learned throughout the underwater robotics competition, and then what you've enjoyed as well.

Kate: So, for me, I've learned, one, how to drive a three-planer, because in regular robotics it's just driving on land. Where here, it's on land, going up, going down, side-to-side. All over.

I've also kind of learned how to adapt to a new team and it has built us as a new team. Originally, me and Sophie were on a different team. But our team did not make it to state and the other two on this team are seniors who could not, well they could, they did not want to miss graduation. So I learned how to like work as a new team.

I've learned how to work - well kind of - I've learned how to understand this robot which is something new to adapt to a new team.

Ryland: Um....on the technical side, it was really great to learn the skills to waterproof electronics in the real world, along with skills for soldering - which you can use daily for fixing home electronics and appliances or waterproofing your phone even, if you want to take it to the pool or in the shower with you or something.

There's just a bunch of valuable life skills you can learn through this robotics program. Building, designing, the whole engineering process is very important and crucial to people - at least get a base understanding of it.

Skertich: The Collinsville High School Class of 2023 will graduate this Saturday at 10 am. I want to thank the parents, the family members, and all of the individuals in their lives, such as our teachers, our community, our principals - and everyone that has been a positive influence on their lives. We are excited about their accomplishments to date, but we are more excited about what they are going to accomplish in the future.

And remember, Once a Kahok, Always a Kahok.

May 23rd marks the end of our school year, and we are asking all students and staff to wear purple so pictures and videos can be taken throughout the day to commemorate the end of

another successful school year. So....on May 23rd, mark your calendar, come dressed in purple shoes, purple socks, purple shorts, purple shirts, and a purple hat. Whatever it takes to show your Kahok Pride.

As always, we appreciate your constant dedication to our students. And don't forget to wear your purple during June and July, as well as throughout the year.

THANK YOU