GRIZZBOTS

27630

2026-2027 FIRST® TECH CHALLENGE SEASON

BIOBUZZ™ PRESENTED BY RTX

Part of the CANOPY™ Theme

Mount Sophia Academy • Newark, DE

Homeschool Students Grades 7-12 • Join Our Team!

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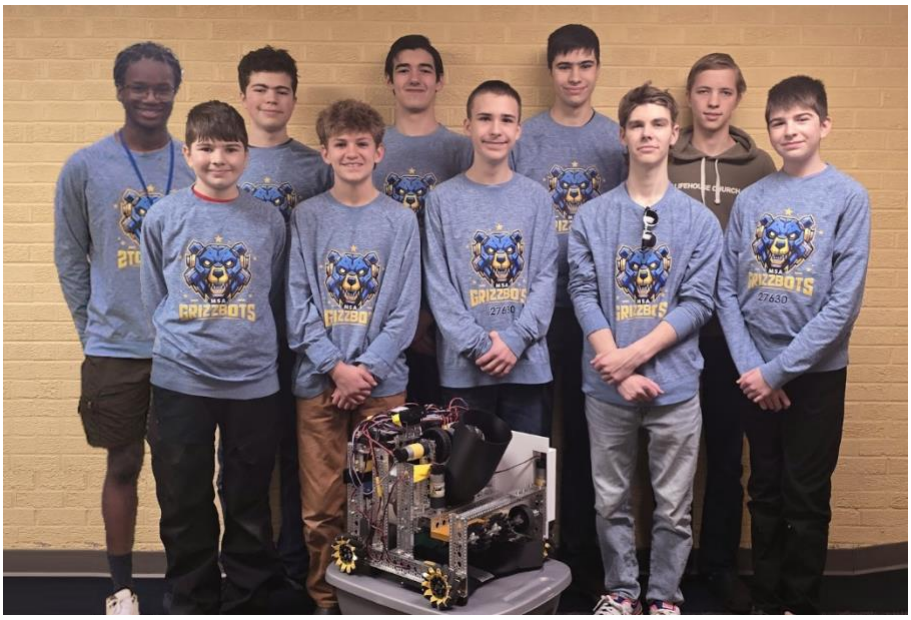
Hello from the MSA GrizzBots!

We are the MSA GrizzBots, FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Team #27630, proudly based at Mount Sophia Academy in Newark, Delaware. As a former season rookie team (founded in the fall of 2024), we're excited to dive back into the world of robotics, engineering, and innovation. Our team is composed of motivated homeschool students in grades 7-12 who are passionate about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and eager to compete in the FIRST Tech Challenge.

FIRST IS MORE THAN ROBOTS®, FIRST participants are guided by a signature set of Core Values to

conduct research, fundraise, design, build, market, and showcase their achievements.



The MSA GrizzBots are a community dedicated to critical thinking, teamwork, and creativity. We prioritize gracious professionalism, fostering essential communication skills that empower students to excel in both business and personal interactions.

Guided by our dedicated coaches and mentors we design, build, program, and operate robots to compete in head-to-head alliance-format game challenges. We also focus on outreach, public speaking, and branding to make a positive impact on our community and beyond.

Team Overview

Our mission is to foster a deep curiosity in science, develop skills in engineering, programming, and business, and prepare students for future opportunities, including college scholarships awarded to FIRST participants. We emphasize Gracious Professionalism® and teamwork while having fun building robots and competing in exciting challenges.

- Program: FIRST Tech Challenge, run in conjunction with Delaware FIRST® Tech Challenge
- Team Name: MSA GrizzBots
- FTC Team Number: 27630
- Rookie Year: 2024
- Seasons active:
    - Current: 2026-2027 First Tech Challenge, BIOBUZZ™ presented by RTX
    - 2025-2026 FIRST Tech Challenge, DECODE™ presented by RTX
    - 2024-2025 FIRST Tech Challenge, INTO THE DEEP™ presented by RTX
- Lead Coaches: Stanimira Genov and Jonathan Busch
- Mentors: Tim Martin
- Team Administrator: Anna Fogiel
- Eligibility: Homeschool students in grades 7-12 with an interest in hardware, software, or business systems
- Team Size: Limited to 16 seats on the competitive team

What We Do

The MSA Robotics Club and competitive team, the MSA GrizzBots, are run in conjunction with Delaware FIRST® Tech Challenge (https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/ftc). Guided by adult coaches and mentors, we follow the principles of the engineering process to solve a seasonal challenge, developing real-world STEM and business skills and learning to recognize the value of high work ethics, innovation, teamwork, and gracious professionalism.

During the competition season, we work as a team to design, 3D-print, build, program, and operate our robot to compete in head-to-head alliance-format game challenges. We participate in scrimmages and competition events, strategically aiming to earn specific team and individual awards. We document, present, and promote our progress and innovative work to teammates, peers, judges, and sponsors. During the prep season, we actively fundraise to secure sponsorship and support. We grow our brand and run our marketing campaign. We collaborate with other FTC teams to both educate and learn. We host enrichment STEM Speaker Series with STEM and business professionals.

(From previous season…)

The MSA GrizzBots participated in the FIRST Tech Challenge, a robotics program for middle and high school students that's about more than just building robots. Here's what we're all about:

- Design and Build: We work as a team to design, 3D-print, build, and program robots to compete in FTC's annual game challenges.
- Compete: We participate in scrimmages, qualifiers, and championships, aiming to earn team and individual awards through strategic gameplay.
- Innovate and Document: We document our progress, present our work to judges and peers, and promote our team's innovative solutions.
- Market and Brand: We design our team brand and run marketing campaigns to engage sponsors and the community.

- Outreach and Education: We host educational sessions with engineering professionals and conduct outreach at schools and STEM fairs.
- Fundraise: We actively seek sponsor support to sustain our program and expand our impact.

Throughout the year, we collaborate with other FTC teams, learn from the FIRST community, and develop skills in public speaking, critical thinking, and leadership.

Meeting Times and Locations

MEETING TIMES:

- **In-Person** Work Meeting (3 hours) Fridays, 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM
- **Virtual** Planning Meetings (1 hour) Tuesdays, 8:00 AM – 8:45 AM
- **Occasional** Outreach / Off-site Extended Work Sessions / Sponsor Presentations

Our meetings are structured to balance hands-on robot-building with strategic planning and skill building. Students are expected to dedicate 5+ hours per week, including group and independent work.

MOUNT SOPHIA ACADEMY

Why FIRST Robotics Club?

Why are we competing in FIRST Tech Challenge?

Through FTC robotics, driven students have the opportunity to learn:

COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN ***(CAD)*** *| PROGRAMMING AND WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT*

*PROJECT MANAGEMENT | MANUFACTURING (****3D PRINTING****, LASER CUTTING, CNC)*

TEAMWORK *| ENGINEERING DESIGN PROCESS | MATERIAL DESIGN*

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING | TECHNICAL WRITING | ***OUTREACH AND MARKETING***

CODING | VIDEO PRODUCTION | ***PUBLIC SPEAKING*** *| FUNDRAISING*

PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION *(EMAIL, PHONE CALLS, IN PERSON)*

- **Learn Real-World Skills:** Gain experience in engineering, programming, 3D printing, public speaking, and business.
- **Work with Mentors:** Be guided by experienced STEM and business professionals.
- **Compete and Innovate:** Build robots and compete in exciting challenges while showcasing your creativity.
- **Earn Scholarships:** FIRST participants are eligible for college scholarships.
- **Build Community:** Connect with teammates, other FTC teams, and the broader FIRST community.

Current Season Schedule

Season Overview (mid-August to June)

- Competition Season *(beginning school year – April)*
- Prep-season: Outreach / Fundraising / Training *(May – June)*
- Summer Break *(July – beginning school year)*

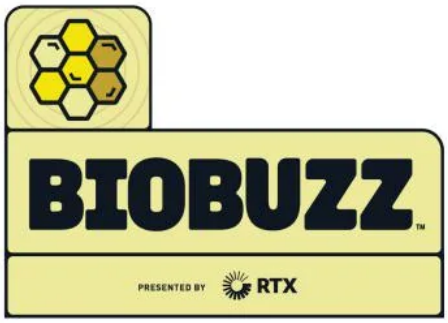
Scheduled 2026-2027 Competition Events*

- Sep 12th, FTC Kick-off (Delaware Museum of Nature & Science)
- Oct (TBD), Pizza & Robots (Printed Solid)
- Nov 21, Scrimmage (Archmere)
- Dec 5, Scrimmage (Wilmington Charter)
- Jan 30, Qualifier Event
- Feb 6, Qualifier Event
- Feb 27, Delaware State Championship

Upon advancement:

- Apr 28 - May 1, *2027 FIRST Tech Challenge Championship* in Houston, TX
- May – Jun (TBD), Global Premier Events

** Subject to change based on FTC DE scheduling changes*



Season Kick-off Events

Are you interested in Business | Engineering | Media | Leadership | or all things Robotics? If yes, you should definitely check what the buzz is all about around the **MSA Robotics Team**. The new school year is underway, and the MSA GrizzBots (FTC Team #27630) are excited to launch into the all-new 2026-2027 FIRST® Tech Challenge CANOPY™ season game - **BIOBUZZ™!**

ROBOTICS IS A TEAM SPORT FOR ENGINEERS!

Right from the start we're hosting/participating in two events to **celebrate the season launch and welcome new families**. Here's what's happening:

MSA GrizzBots Robotics @ Back-to-School Night

Thursday, August 24, 2026 • **6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Mount Sophia Academy, The Tank (*91 Salem Church Rd, Newark, DE 19713*)
Come check out our booth, see a demo of our robot The Keep, and bring all your robotics questions to one of our team reps.

MSA Robotics ***Family & Team Pizza Night***

Thursday, Sep 3, 2026 • **6:30 PM – 8:00 PM**

Mount Sophia Academy, Room 1 (*91 Salem Church Rd, Newark, DE 19713*)
Families interested in robotics are invited to join us for an informal information session. You'll have the chance to:

- Learn what the MSA GrizzBots do (robot building, coding, competing, fundraising, branding, outreach, and much more)
- Get your questions answered by team members and coaches

Find out about commitment, cost, high school credit, and how to register for the 2026-2027 season (Review the attached *MSA GrizzBots 2026-2027 Information Brochure.pdf*)

Delaware FTC & FLL Season Kick-Off

Saturday, September 12, 2026 • **8:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

Delaware Museum of Nature & Science, (4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807)
Every year, FIRST Tech Challenge and FIRST LEGO League teams across the country come together to celebrate the start of the new competition season.
This year, the MSA GrizzBots are joining forces with other Delaware FTC and FLL teams for a fun, full-day kick-off event at the *Delaware Museum of Nature & Science*
Why you should come:

- Be among the first to see and learn about the new **BIOBUZZ™** challenge

- Watch teams present their robots and projects
- Explore the museum while chatting with GrizzBots members at our activity stations; This is a perfect low-pressure way for families considering FTC or FLL to see what the season is all about. The FTC kick-off activities are **free** with regular museum admission ($15.50 per person). Bring the whole family for a day of STEM exploration and inspiration!

Whether your student is brand new to robotics or has some experience, this is a great opportunity to see if the GrizzBots are the right fit.

We'd love to see you at one (or both!) of these events as we kick off what promises to be an incredible season of innovation, teamwork, and growth.

Contact Us

MSA Robotics Club and the MSA GrizzBots Team (FTC #27630)

- **Email:** Mt.SophiaRobotics@gmail.com
- **Mailing Address:** Mt. Sophia Academy, PO Box 9925, Newark, DE 19714-5025
- **School Address:** 91 Salem Church Rd, Newark, DE 19713
- **Phone (School):** (302) 547-2285 (Mount Sophia Academy Office)
- **Website:** Mt. Sophia Academy Robotics Club
- Coach Stanimira Genov
    - Email: stanimira.genov@gmail.com
    - Text/call: (302) 690-7713
- Coach Jonathan Busch
    - Email: eagle4031@mac.com

Follow us on social media for updates:

- MSA GrizzBots Website
- Instagram
- DE FIRST Team of the Week
- YouTube Channel

About Mount Sophia Academy

Mount Sophia Academy is a hybrid homeschool cooperative in Newark, Delaware, serving 160+ students in grades K-12. We o□er NCAA-certified classes and a supportive environment for academic and extracurricular growth. The MSA Robotics Club, home of the MSA GrizzBots, is one of our premier programs, fostering innovation and teamwork through the FIRST Tech Challenge.

Go GrizzBots!!!