Hello,

Welcome back to school! I would like to introduce myself. I am Paolo Masakayan and I will be overseeing the Robotics Team this year. I have a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in MA. and many years experience working with kids. I am writing this email to you all to invite students in 5th-8th grade to join Harbor Country Day School's FIRST LEGO League Robotics Team for the 2019-2020 school year. As with last year, we will be working in coordination with Stony Brook University's mechanical engineering department.

If you are unsure exactly what, "FIRST" is all about – FIRST is an international competition for elementary and middle school students with the goal of introducing the field of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math). It is an excellent way for young minds to either introduce themselves to the field or to get more hands on experience if they are already interested.

I'm sure you have many questions so here is a quick FAQ but feel free to email me if you have any other questions.

Q: What is the age range for the team?
A: We are looking for students 5th - 8th grade

Q: My child is younger than 5th grade but is still interested in robotics. Is there a younger option?
A: Of course. We will be running a separate "Robotics Jr." club for K-4th grade students, on Mondays as well, younger students can learn and play with robotics.

Q: Does my child need robotics, math, or engineering skills to join and/or actively participate?
A: Not in the slightest. There are many different things that need to be done all requiring different skills. Variety in ideas is actually encouraged because it fosters imagination and creative solutions to any problems that may arise.

Q: What kind of time commitment should we expect?
A: Depending on the progress and availability of the members, we are looking at 1-2 meetings a week for about 1 hour and 30 min each. To start, we will meet once each week. There will also be competitions in the future.

Q: Is the team actually building a robot?
A: Not in the conventional sense. It will perform set functions like a robot which will be coded by the students, but all parts will be made out of LEGOs.

Club Meeting Dates: 9/16, 10/7, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/18, 11/25, 12/9, 12/16, 1/6, 1/13, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/24, 3/2

Thank you for your time,
Paolo Masakayan