



Circleville City School Foundation



Round*About*

"Enriching Educational Opportunities"

Robotics course assembled, programmed, and integrated into CHS curriculum through CCSF Support



For some juniors and seniors attending Circleville High School this year, the future has arrived and each day they get 'charged-up' for the next instructional download from their **ROBOTICS** Course -- made possible by a multi-year funding grant from the **Circleville City School Foundation (CCSF)**.

Late last spring Joshua Thomas submitted an educational programs grant proposal to the Foundation. As a fifth-year teacher at CHS who also teaches a variety of technology-based courses such as 3-D Modeling, Web Design, Computer Programming, and Integrated Technology, Thomas was prepared to move Robotics into the curriculum.

"Josh Thomas is certified to teach robotics and was an Engineering Education major at Ohio State," noted CHS Principal Chris Thornsley, "We had talked about Robotics as among the most important, yet practical courses we could add, but frankly, the Foundation's interest

and support allowed us to move it up on the planning docket. From the reaction of our students, even students who aren't enrolled in the class, it is a course that generates a great deal of interest. At the same time it adds a bit of panache to our STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) curriculum because in many ways offering it is still futuristic. Increasingly, it is an important, perhaps essential, course for students who lean toward engineering or technology careers," he added.

Following a unanimous approval by the Foundation's board, a preliminary course announcement was made in late spring -- flyers went up on bulletin boards and there was a 'buzz' among the CHS student body. It didn't take long for 33 underclassmen to indicate their eagerness to enroll. After assessing each student's past coursework to confirm that they were

comfortable with the necessary math prerequisites or expectations, the initial year-long course included 18 juniors and seniors. "An important element of any robotics class is the application of math and concepts in designing, building, and programming," explained Thomas. During the first year the class will build "fully autonomous robots that sense the environment. Robots that are programmed to make decisions and perform a variety of actions to solve problems," underscored Thomas.

Nationally, robotics classes are highly sought by students from grade school through graduate studies. The Circleville program will center on a program already developed at Carnegie Mellon. An important feature of CHS's course will be the opportunities to compete in designing and building robots with students from other high school robotics classes. "Eventually," explained Thomas, "our high school program could be developed to include a Robotics class from the sophomore through the senior year. By the second year, the sophistication of the robots would incorporate more metal parts and advance sensors and programming. In the third year we could even find CHS students studying and building robots that fly. Drone technology is advancing extremely rapidly and it requires the knowledge built around robotics."

For students in this first-ever course, Robotics '101' seems like a natural fit. One student said that the course was "Exactly what I was looking for -- it is the first class that gives me an opportunity to apply some of what I've learned in previous classes and on my own." Another student stated it even more concisely. "This is the most exciting class I think I will ever have in high school. It fits my own interests perfectly."

The robotics class represents the largest grant to date by **CCSF** and was made possible by community and individual support from annual donations and funds raised through the Foundation's 2014 premiere auction, "*Raise Your Paw*."



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Mark your calendar for the 2nd Circleville City School Foundation auction, 'Raise Your Paw,' on **Saturday, February 28, 2015 at AMVETS on Tarlton Rd.**



If you would like to donate an auction item for the event please contact Patty Truex (pattytruex@yahoo.com).

2014 Scholarship Recipients



Edna Strawser (CHS '14) was the recipient of the "Special Talent" Scholarship awarded for her outstanding achievement in fine arts. She is currently a freshman at the Cleveland Institute of Art and aspires to be an artist or art educator. Edna is pictured above with CHS Art Teacher, Bob Wright.



The "Make a Difference" Scholarship was awarded to two CHS graduates this year. Samantha Cline (CHS '11, Top) is a senior at Ohio University majoring in social work and mathematics. Toni Burns (CHS '81, Bottom) is studying financial management and business administration at Franklin University in Columbus. Both Samantha and Toni were awarded \$2,000 to help further their education. Recipients are pictured with CCSF Past Chairperson, Barry Adams.

CCSF Sends Students to Stone Lab on Lake Erie

For the second consecutive year, the CCSF sponsored a field trip to Stone Lab on Gibraltar Island on Lake Erie. Fifteen CHS students and two science teachers experienced a two-day adventure that included studying geology, herpetology, ornithology, and invertebrates. The exposure to this dynamic life science has led some



of the participants toward considering a career in the sciences. Pictured from L to R: Whitney Queen, Amanda Perry, Lili Kawasaki, Allie Styers, Alissa Shull, Joe Hoselton, Olivia Brooks, Hannah Smith, Sarah Rice, Cassie Sheets, Kaitlyn Michael, Taylor Stewart, and Garion Rigsby. Not pictured: Teachers Gwen Minor and Jerry Post

For photos from these events visit CirclevilleCitySchoolFoundation.org and follow us on Facebook.

We have the perfect gift idea for your family, friends, birthdays or Christmas...note cards adorned with original artwork by Circleville City School students in grades K-12. A package of 10 notecards sells for \$18, or you can purchase a package of 15 note cards for \$23. CCSF note cards can be purchased at the Pickaway County Visitors Center at 325 W. Main St.



Questions??? Email molliehedges52@gmail.com or ebranham906@hotmail.com.