



Jennifer St. Clair, Executive Director
952-988-4097
hef@hopkinsschools.org
www.HopkinsEducationFoundation.org

PRESS RELEASE

Technocrats Robotics Club - \$4,000 – Student Sam Simon, Coach Jason Herzog, Faculty Advisor Alyson Purdy

The Technocrats *FIRST* Robotics Club is taking their West Coast Drivetrain, underwritten a year ago by The Awesome Fund, on the road to Alerus Center in Grand Forks, North Dakota for the Great Northern Regional Competition. As the team works toward a berth in the world championships in Detroit, they must first survive three grueling 12-hour days mid-March in the Grand Forks contest – troubleshooting, fine tuning, and making modifications all in a 10' x10' pit. In an additional twist, matches are comprised of randomly assigned alliances with other clubs. Beginning with practice and then qualifying matches, by lunch time on Day 3, the top eight teams will draft their own alliance partners and battle it out. This grant funds the Grand Forks entry fee to allow the club additional practice in the arena, an extra chance to qualify for the world championships, and a better look at fellow competitors before the Minneapolis Competition in late March. The Technocrats will not find out the 'game' for the 2019 contest until January 5th, and then have six weeks to design, build and test their robot for competition.

NEW Weightlifting Club - \$873 – Student Adam Cochran, Faculty Advisor Heather Hvezda

Current members of the new HHS Weightlifting Club (5 male, 1 female) hope to increase their number as they increase their individual strength. With the goal of becoming better athletes, developing life-long strengthening routines, and earning spots in state competition, they are not averse to heavy lifting. The Awesome Fund is adding to the basic equipment purchased by Hopkins High School; the expanded variety will improve participants' technique and form. The Minnesota State High School Weightlifting season for high school clubs is December through late February; championships will be held in March, 2019, in Cannon Falls.

Photos included

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The Hopkins Education Foundation's Awesome Fund '**Empowers Student Clubs to Do Cool Stuff**'. It provides modest grants directly to registered Student Clubs to pursue ideas/projects that help other students, enhance the community, or heighten students' educational experience and their interest in school. The Awesome Fund is supported by a generous Hopkins alumnus, a matching donation from his employer, and the family & friends of Ethan Lang (Class of 2009).