

# Mount Olive Robotics Team

Mount Olive High School  
18 Corey Road  
Flanders, NJ 07836



Dear Students and Parents,

To work towards receiving a varsity letter as a Mt. Olive Robotics Team member is an admirable goal. It is an honor to earn a varsity letter for your participation on MORT and takes hard work and dedication to achieve this status. It is important to understand that a varsity letter stands for more than just being on the team roster. It shows a sense of commitment, talent and attitude which is required for participation in our robotics program.

One of my goals as team advisor is to help students and parents understand what is required of each student in order to letter in Robotics. Towards this end, I have developed this document provides an overview of the requirements needed to be awarded a varsity letter in Robotics.

This goal of MORT is to develop the entire person with a strong focus on character development. It places the responsibility for fulfilling the requirements on the student. It rewards commitment and performance on the robotics team and their entire educational experience. This process makes earning a varsity letter possible for all dedicated students. It focuses on three key areas that help prepare young people for successful entry into their college & professional experiences.

**1. Responsibility to Yourself**—The most important of these responsibilities is to make the most of your high school experiences. Your academic studies, your participation in other extracurricular activities will help prepare you for life as an adult.

**2. Responsibility to your School and District**—By participating on MORT to the best of your ability you are contributing to a more positive regard for your High School and School District. The student body, and local community evaluate our school by your conduct and attitudes on and off the field of competition. Because of this, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride. We are sure you will make your school proud of you and make your community proud of your school by your conduct at all times.

**3. Responsibility to Others**—As a team member you have a responsibility to the other members on the team to uphold team rules and to attend and work hard at all team meetings. The team's success depends on how hard each individual on the team is willing to work. If each team member takes individual responsibility for a solid work ethic, the team's success will follow. You have a responsibility to your parents and family. They are your most avid supporters and fans. As a team member you also have a responsibility to the younger students. Always set a good example for them to follow.

Sincerely,

Mr. Bodmer

Team Project Manager



## **MORT Varsity Letter Requirements**

All student members who are enrolled at the Mt. Olive High School may qualify for a Varsity Letter in Robotics. This document outlines the requirements to achieve this honor. It is not expected that every student, or even most students, will qualify for this honor. Only the most committed students who concretely contribute to our team's success are expected to qualify. Please be advised that for many students, the requirements for earning a varsity letter will require more than one academic year on the team to obtain.

***In order to earn a letter, the student must achieve all of the following requirements:***

---

### ***Team Meeting Attendance***

The student must have an excellent record of attendance at team meetings, at least 80% attendance from September through the FIRST Championships Competition for any given season. (Some adjustment could be made for extraordinary circumstances at the advisor's/mentor's discretion.)

### ***Outreach and Community Event Attendance***

The student must volunteer for 75% of our team's outreach and community service events during the course of the season and must perform their duties at such events in a satisfactory manner. Events include: Chairman's Team events, NJ FIRST sponsored outreach events, demonstrating team robot for potential sponsors, volunteering at the FLL State Competition, demonstrations at area schools, helping run programs to encourage other area schools to start teams, or other similar activities. There are normally six or more such opportunities available during the MORT Calendar year.

***Full Participation at four of the following FRC Events:***

### ***District Event, FRC Regional, FIRST Championships & one Off-Season Competition***

The student must attend at least two FIRST Robotics Competitions and one Off-Season Competition. The student must execute their duties at that competition in a satisfactory manner. Duties will vary depending on the student's roles on the team (For example: drive team, pit crew, scouting team, spirit team, etc.) NOTE: The team advisors have some leeway in the case of an extraordinary circumstance that prevents an otherwise outstanding letter candidate from attending an event. For example: in a case of illness that prevents the letter candidate from attending the only official event, the advisors may allow that candidate to make up the missed event by attending additional outreach or post season events beyond the minimum required.

### ***Leadership Role Requirement***

Simply showing up at meetings and events does not qualify a student to letter. Varsity letter candidates must make concrete, observable, significant contributions to the team's success. Examples of ways to fulfill this requirement might include: being selected as a primary drive team member based on merit and fulfilling that role well at a major competition, being the lead programmer who develops an outstanding autonomous mode program, being a lead builder who oversees implementation of a successful mechanism that gives the team some advantage, consistently creating outstanding engineering notebook entries that leads to judged awards or nominations, coming up with a

fund raising idea that works well and following through to implement it, coordinating scouting activities at a major competition that results in crucial information that aids the drive team, etc. The advisors will monitor activities of the team looking for these kinds of concrete contributions.

Each student seeking a Varsity letter will be asked to write a description of their Leadership Role contributions for consideration by the mentors and advisors.

#### ***Teamwork and Gracious Professionalism Requirement***

The student should be an outstanding team player with a positive attitude who would rather work hard to make great things happen than complain about bad luck, who would rather teach a fellow student something new than blame them for doing something wrong, and who would rather lend a brand new battery to a competitor they're about to face in an elimination round than take a win by default. In short, the candidate strives, even under the pressure of intense competition, to always uphold the values embodied in *Gracious Professionalism*. They treat mentors, fellow teammates, referees, and competing students alike with respect at all times. They observe the Mt. Olive Robotics Team's rules of conduct and safe work habits at all times. Advisors will observe students during build season, outreach events, and competitions to judge whether each letter candidate adheres to these ideals consistently. Letter candidates may be asked to write a description citing specific examples of how they have upheld the principles of teamwork and *Gracious Professionalism* for consideration by the mentors and faculty advisors.

#### ***Student Behavior and Academic Expectations Requirement***

Each student must uphold the ***MORT Student Code of Conduct*** and ***Academic Standing Policies***. Students not meeting these requirements will not be considered for the MORT Varsity Letter. MORT has a high standard for behavior and academic achievement for our Varsity Letter recipients.

#### **Transition Process for Students from prior MORT years:**

Because the Varsity Letter program started with the 2011/12 season, at the coach/mentors' discretion, and in consultation with faculty advisors, some of the above requirements could be fulfilled by veteran team members' performance from past seasons, from before the letter program's inception, as long as that student continues to be an active team member and outstanding contributor to the team's success in the 2012/13 season. It may in most cases take more than a single season to achieve all of these requirements, especially the leadership role requirement.

***The team advisors reserve the right to recommend letters in special cases to students who may not have met all requirements. The final decision regarding each circumstance is always at the discretion of the team advisors.***