



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Special education students to compete in ABS West's first-ever robotic All-Earth Ecobot Challenge

WHAT: Harris County Department of Education's Academic and Behavior School West will host its first-ever All-Earth Ecobot Challenge Robotic Competition in collaboration with the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids (CASE for Kids).

The challenge offers 40 students with intellectual, developmental and behavioral disorders, autism spectrum disorder, and other significant health impairments enrolled at ABS West the opportunity to build, code, and learn to maneuver Lego Mindstorms EV3 robot kits. It also provides students with an opportunity to avoid summer learning loss.

For the past month, the teams have been working on their robots while following a science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) curriculum. For each lesson they complete, the teams are awarded points.

Students from the fourth grade to age 22 will participate in seven teams, which will compete against one another in the culminating All-Earth Ecobot Challenge Day on July 15.

The All-Earth Ecobot Challenge hosted by ABS West will be the first time that special needs students enrolled at the school will have the opportunity to participate in the popular STEM-focused competition.

Historically, the All-Earth Ecobot Challenge is held during the school year for student teams from Harris County school districts and attracts thousands of participants. The students, who attend traditional public schools and do not have special needs, work on their robots throughout the school year leading up to a Challenge Day during the spring semester.

WHO: ABS West Principal **Victor Keys**, CASE for Kids Director **Lisa Caruthers**, ABS West students, and teachers

WHEN: Thursday, July 15
10-11:30 a.m. Competition

12:30 p.m. Awards Ceremony

WHERE: Academic and Behavior School West
12772 Medfield Drive, 77063

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