



STEAM Academy of Umatilla

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Robotics season is in full swing, and our students have been actively competing across the state while proudly representing Umatilla. Three FTC teams recently traveled to Hillsboro to participate in the Oregon State Competition. This was an exciting opportunity for our students to compete alongside and learn from some of the best robotics teams in the state. Our FRC team also kicked off their competition season last weekend in Salem. They earned the Engineering Inspiration Award! During that trip, students had the opportunity to visit the state capitol as guests of Representative Greg Smith, making the experience both educational and memorable.

In addition to robotics activities, we are currently attending the National Afterschool Association Conference in Washington, D.C. This conference provides valuable opportunities to network with other after-school professionals from across the country and learn best practices for creating successful and engaging programs for students.

Looking ahead, Session Four of our after-school programming will begin following spring break. We are excited to continue expanding opportunities for students. Several soccer games have already been scheduled for our 7th and 8th Grade Club, giving students additional chances to stay active and build teamwork skills. We are also excited to offer a new pottery class taught by Nikki Silver. Students will have the opportunity to work with pottery wheels and explore hands-on creative expression.

Overall, our programs continue to provide meaningful enrichment, leadership, and engagement opportunities for students both in and out of the classroom.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Williams-Strege