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CMSA's All Girls Robotics Team, Valkyries, will compete in the Illinois State Finals FTC Robotics Championship League

Chicago, IL – (February 5, 2018) – Chicago Math and Science Academy's first all- girls robotics team has made it to the Illinois State Finals round for the First Tech Challenge (FTC) Robotics Championship. The competition is set for February 23, 2018 at Elgin Community College. **This is the team's first year in the robotics program. As of this date, the Valkyries are the only team from a Chicago Public School competing in the State Finals.**



The Valkyries just competed on January 28 at the FTC League Championship in Highland Park High School where they won their first two awards. The Motivate Award is given for successful management of their team, mentors and volunteers. The Finalist Alliance Award is bestowed on the teams who make it to final round of the competition.

“We are very happy that these young ladies have enjoyed such a tremendously successful first season as a team. This year we have been fortunate to have a female IT mentor

coaching them through the process. We believe that having a strong female role model has inspired them. Young ladies need to see that STEM careers are available to them”, states Mr. Michael Kuran, principal.

The Valkyries are an ethnically diverse group of young ladies representing freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. They are a very dedicated group who work hard to achieve their goals.

“It’s way more than building robots. *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams (10+ members, grades 7-12) are challenged to design, build, program, and operate robots to compete in a head-to-head challenge in an alliance format. Participants call it “the hardest fun you’ll ever have!” It is also being referred to “sport for the mind”.

Guided by adult Coaches and Mentors, students develop STEM skills and practice engineering principles (like keeping an engineering notebook), while realizing the value of hard work, innovation, and sharing ideas. The robot kit can be programmed using a variety of languages, including Java. Teams also must raise funds, design and market their team brand, and do community outreach for which they can win awards. Participants have access to tens of millions of dollars in college scholarships. Each season concludes with Super-Regional Championships and an exciting [*FIRST* Championship](#).”

Since 2004, it has been the mission of CMSA, located in the Rogers Park community, to prepare students for college and the world beyond by offering high-quality, college-prep, STEM-focused education that changes the trajectory of students’ lives.

Chicago Math & Science Academy is managed by Concept Schools. Concept Schools is a charter school management organization that manages or operates 31 public charter schools throughout the United States. Our college-prep curriculum is STEM-based, and like any other public school, each school in the Concept network is highly regulated and overseen by their respective school districts and charter authorizers. Schools within the Concept Network are continuously recognized for their excellence in education.

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