



## Silverado High School

1650 Silver Hawk Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89123 - 702-799-5790

---

Years ago I met Norm, coach of FRC 2468, who immediately made an impression on me because of his outgoing and generous nature. A couple years later I connected with him and the students on his team while in China at the China Robotics Challenge (CRC). Like their coach, they too were generous and outgoing with both the Chinese teams that they were mentoring, and the other International teams. The students on 2468 were truly invested in their mentees and were 100% committed to their success.

Last year was hard for me. I made the decision to teach at a school closer to home, which meant that I would be leaving the FRC team that I had mentored since 2006 and was dear to my heart. One conversation with Norm at the Championship, and I went from 'definitely not starting a team at the new school' (far too much work), to 'highly likely to start a team at my new school' (so rewarding).

Over the summer, as I planned my lessons for Intro to Robotics, he shared his curriculum and pedagogy with me which have been crucial in the development of my new program. We also discussed starting a team, and he informed me of all the things I should be considering in the early stages of team creation. Although I had been in FRC for 12 years, it was the first time I was a mentee rather than a mentor, and I felt comforted to know I could count on his and his team's experience to help me through my rookie season.

In the pre-season, I had regular checkups with Norm regarding sponsorship, fundraising, awards, team structure, and preparing for the build. Team Appreciate offered to purchase Lego NXT kits so that our team could run STEM Connect, a summer camp they designed to financially sustain their team as well as others. During the build season, we spoke at least once a week- more if I needed help and called them, but usually they initiated contact. If my team needed a part made or purchased, 2468 offered to ship it to us, as they have set aside resources specifically for helping their mentees. Working with 2468 this year has exceeded all of my expectations of what a good mentor team should be and I hope to emulate their example with the FLL teams we mentor.

My summation of 2468 is that the team embodies their coach in many ways- generous, knowledgeable, good spirited and genuine. The mentorship we received this year recalls what I witnessed at CRC. They are invested in their mentees and are committed to see the success and growth of our program. They are a perfect example of what an FRC team should be.

~Jennifer Miller  
Coach. Team 7424  
Sin City Robotics