

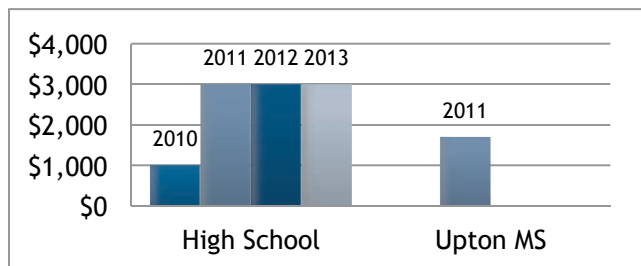


SJPS Foundation Success - Robotics Club

Effect on Students

Students are working side by side with volunteer engineers, programmers, and marketing professionals who last year alone gave over 1,800 hours of their time to mentor the students and help them achieve a love for science, technology, math, marketing and business. Over 16 community mentors have been actively involved over the last three years (from Whirlpool, Bosch and Liberty Steel).

Through FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics, students learn what it is like to be given a challenging problem and then to work through it. Students are able to gain so much more through this real life problem solving experience than they could in the classroom alone.



SJPS Foundation's Support

This program could not exist without funding from the Foundation. The yearly budget is \$30,000 and includes \$5,000 just for the entry fees. The students also work hard to earn money through fundraisers and building relationships with area companies for additional sponsorships.

Teachers & Students Involved

2011 - Vic Vroegop & Jim Berry (25 students)
 2011/2012 - Vic Vroegop & Craig Jeffers (32 students)
 2012/2013 - Vic Vroegop (45 students)

Team Results

2010/11 District Champs
 Finished 63rd in State
 2011/12 Finished 37th in State
 2012/13 To be determined.

Student Success

Five of the students on last year's team earned summer internships at Whirlpool and two students earned \$20,000 scholarships to the University of Michigan, through FIRST.

The Future

Parents are now starting a Middle School club. We have high hopes for that program. There is also a High School robotics and programming class called Mechatronics that was added to the curriculum this year.

“The hardest fun you’ll ever have.”
 - SJHS Student