

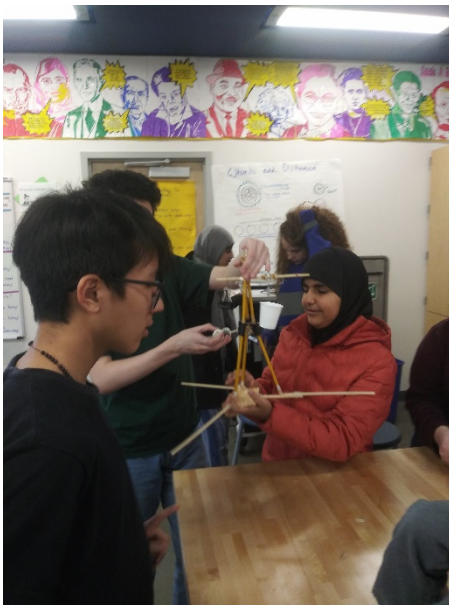


**News release**  
**April 14, 2020**

## **North Middle School robotics place second and best in state overall**

In early March, two teams from the N.E.R.D.S. (North Engineering Robotics Design Squad) took on the Technology Student Association (TSA) T.E.A.M.S. competition.

T.E.A.M.S. stands for Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics, and Science and is an annual science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) competition that challenges middle school and high school student teams to work collaboratively to solve real-world engineering challenges, applying their math and science knowledge in practical, creative ways.



**Smarties:** Bentalhuda Al-Ali, Arrwa Al-Azadi, Annika Bauer, Tavin Conner, Alexander Held, Mingma Sherpa, Camilla Stirbys and Hazel Volk.

Both teams, coached by Christine Phippard, robotics/computer technology teacher, and Rod Margason, science teacher, did very well in the three areas of competition; STEM essay, engineering computation test, and design and build challenge. Team NERDzilla won best in Washington state overall and Team Smarties came in second in State. These results automatically qualified the teams for Nationals, unfortunately canceled in response to the ongoing health crisis related to the coronavirus pandemic.

In addition to the state scores, NERDzilla ranked 10th in the nation for their score in engineering computations and 8th in the nation in STEM essay.

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**NERDzilla:** Wolfgang Bauer, Jose Carrillo-Vargas, Aaron Hardy, Diala Haro, Lynn Mai, Katrina Nguyen and Avery Thompson.

**For more information:**

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