

Dear Students and Parents,

We are currently accepting applications for the Ligon FIRST Lego League (FLL) for the 2019/2020 competition season. FIRST is a nonprofit organization devoted to helping young people, ages 9-14, discover and develop a passion for science, technology, engineering and math. Participants will learn how to master skills and concepts to aid in learning science and technology through innovative projects and robotics competitions while gaining valuable career and life skills. For more information about FLL please visit their website at www.firstlegoleague.org.

Ligon will have 1 team comprised of up to 10 MSEN and non-MSEN students. The competition season will run from the end of August through the regional competition in mid November and potentially into January if the team advances on to state competition. Each team will meet twice per week for 2 hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 4:30. Parents are expected to pick up promptly at 4:30 outside the auditorium. Students will need to get to each of the competition on their own; we will not be providing a team bus. This is in order to keep the costs as low as possible. There is a \$50 fee involved with being a part of the FLL. The fee covers cost of the team registration into the contest, cost of the playing field, cost of the structures on the playing field, and costs of t shirts for the team. All students are encouraged to apply regardless of the financial issue. We will do our best to assist any families if need be through fundraising for the team in general or possible sponsors/donations. The fee is reduced if your family qualifies.

Please compete and return the attached FLL application by May 4th. The application includes:

Ligon FLL Questionnaire

Signed Parent and Student Contract

1 Teacher Recommendation in a sealed envelope with a signature on the flap (or the teacher may put it Mr. White's mailbox)

Students who are likely to keep up their academics during competition season are typically students who have experience juggling academics with clubs and activities. We don't want FLL to take away from academics, so please use discretion when committing to the club. If a student misses two or more practices without a written excuse from a parent or guardian, he/she will be removed from the team so that another student can have an opportunity to join. If a student must be removed from the club for behavioral reasons or unexcused absences, the registration fee will not be refunded.

Lego League applicants:

Ligon FIRST Lego League teams want members who work hard, have fun and can commit to being a positive member of a team. Are you that person?

FIRST Lego League Research Project

In applying for the Ligon Lego Blues FLL Team, students will conduct a research project and prepare a 3-7 minute video presentation that will be sent to the team coaches (clwhite@wcpss.net).

The topic of the research project is “How can technology be used to help the elderly?”

Project Directions: Research how students learn. Then prepare a 3-7 minute video presentation of what you learned which will be presented to coaches. In short, think of a problem experienced by the elderly. Define the problem clearly. Then, devise a technological solution for this problem. Be very creative.

Your research project should have two main parts:

- Research your topic
- Explain what things are currently being done to aid the elderly.

Project Requirements:

Bibliography which includes at least 4 different well documented sources

Project choices:

You may present your learning in a manner that you are comfortable with. Keep in mind that you may be presenting your project in front of a group of people.

Some ideas for projects include:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| ● Poster | ● Display board |
| ● Shoebox diorama | ● Brochure |
| ● Pop-up book | ● Website |
| ● Flip book | ● Other online presentation |
| ● Model | |
| ● Video (note: Powerpoint & Keynote
can also export as a video) | |

*Projects should be detailed, neat and attractive. **Acceptable work reflects the best effort of the student.** Parents may offer constructive advice but students should do their own work.*

Below are some ideas to help you get started on this project if you're having a hard time deciding where to start:

Answer the following questions to get your mind "thinking" about what you are going to research.

1. Name three challenges currently experienced by the elderly.

a. _____ b. _____ c. _____

2. Circle the topic above that you think would be the most exciting research. Why do you think it would be exciting to research that topic?

3. Look through some books and encyclopedias in the library to give you more ideas. Write down 3 challenges of the elderly that interest you most.

a. _____ b. _____ c. _____

4. Circle the topic above that you think would be the most exciting to research. Why do you think it would be exciting to research that topic?

5. Finally, make a choice. What is your choice?

6. Now, read as much as you can about this topic, how it impacts people and what things are currently being done to improve the lives of the elderly. Learn how these strategies succeed and failure and how they can be improved.

While you are reading:

- Take notes on topics and facts that you find interesting.
- Keep a simple bibliography of your resources. Include the title of the book, the author and the year that the book was published. For an encyclopedia include the name of the encyclopedia, the volume you are taking notes from and the year of publication. For a web page, include the name of the webpage and the address.

Project Grading

0 points – No effort is reflected in the finished project, many required elements are missing or very poorly done.

1 point – Minimal Effort has been made to create a project that reflects appropriate grade level skills at Iles.

2 points --- Adequate effort has been made to create a project that reflects appropriate grade level skills at Iles.

3 points – The applicant has turned in an exemplary project that reflects a high degree of effort and time put into its creation.

Ligon FLL Questionnaire:

Why do you want to be on an FLL team?
What previous experience do you have with a team (any type)?
What do you think might be the most enjoyable part of being a member of an FLL team?
What is the most important personal skill or interest you believe you could offer a team?
Describe how you best learn a new subject?
How will you balance school work and an FLL team?
How would you handle a disagreement between 2 team members if asked to mediate?

FLL STUDENT/PARENT CONTRACT

In order to ensure that parents and students understand the responsibility and commitment needed by each FLL member, please take the time to read over and sign this contract with your child. Please initial each line and sign the form.

STUDENT CONTRACT (please check each item you can honestly agree to)

- _____ I realize that no FLL problem has only one solution, and that a successful team is one which cooperates by considering EVERYONE'S solution and ideas. I will not criticize anyone's ideas.
- _____ I agree that my behavior at meetings and tournaments will be constructive.
- _____ I agree that each FLL team meeting is valuable and will attend each meeting as best as I can. If a conflict arises, I will notify my coach in advance.
- _____ I agree to cooperate on whatever solution the team chooses, even if it is not my first choice.
- _____ I agree that all solutions, including props, costumes, signs, etc. will be made completely by me or a member of my team.
- _____ I understand that the FLL program recognizes all teams that bring a solution to the tournaments are considered 'winners'. I agree to show other teams the utmost respect and good sportsmanship.
- _____ I agree that the goal of my team should be to do our best to solve a challenging problem.

Signature of team member _____ Date _____

PARENT CONTRACT

- _____ I agree, in the proper spirit of FLL, not to interfere with the team's solutions. All creations, inventions, ideas, must come from the team members.
- _____ I agree to make every effort to have my child attend every team meeting. If there is a conflict, either my child or I will notify the coach as soon as possible. I understand that my child has a commitment to his/her team.
- _____ I realize that my child's coach will be contributing a significant amount of time and effort to provide a rewarding experience for the team. I will try to be cooperative and helpful as possible.
- _____ I agree to discuss all items listed above with my child.

Signature of team parent _____ Date _____

Teacher Recommendation

What are the first three words that come to mind to describe this student?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Please place a checkmark at the points that represent your evaluation of the student in comparison to other students whom you have taught. Please feel free to enter any comments which you feel would help us make a decision between students who are closely rated.

	<i>One of the top few I have ever encountered</i>	<i>Excellent (top 10%)</i>	<i>Good (above average)</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Below Average</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Intellectual Ability						
Ability in oral expression						
Ability in written expression						
Intellectual Curiosity						
Effort/Determination						
Ability to work independently						
Organization						
Creativity						
Willingness to take risks						
Concern for others						
Honesty/Integrity						
Self-esteem						
Maturity						
Responsibility						
Respected by staff						
Respected by peers						

Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this form to the applicant in a **sealed envelope** (with signature on the seal) or place in the staff mailbox of Mrs Douglas or Mr. White before May 14th.