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Longmont Elementary Robotics Team Ranked #1 in Colorado, Advances to World Championships

Longmont, CO – April 8, 2025 – A team of elementary students from Flagstaff Academy is proving that age is no barrier to innovation. The school’s Dragon Botz 2.0 robotics team has earned the title of **#1 ranked VEX IQ elementary team in Colorado** and secured a spot at the prestigious VEX Robotics World Championships later this month in St. Louis.

Comprised of 4th and 5th grade students, the Dragon Botz 2.0 have dominated the 2025 VEX IQ “Mix & Match” competition season. The team has earned top honors at many St. Vrain Valley School District tournaments and the Colorado State Championships, outperforming teams from across the state. The road to success hasn’t always been a smooth one for the Dragon Botz 2.0, as their robot hasn’t always performed as expected. However, perseverance is one of the many lessons the team has learned on the competition floor; a strength they will carry with them throughout their lives.

The team’s standout season began in December at Flagstaff Academy, where they captured the Excellence Award, the competition’s highest honor, earning their first qualification for regional competition. Just one week later, they continued their momentum at the St. Vrain Valley School District tournament at Grand View Elementary, taking home both the Excellence Award and the Teamwork Champion Award.

After the holiday break, the Dragon Botz 2.0 returned even stronger. At the district tournament at Soaring Heights, they swept the competition—earning the Teamwork Champion Award, Robot Skills Award, and Design Award, securing their place at the 2026 Colorado VEX IQ Elementary State Championship.

Their season culminated at the state championship in March, where the team cemented its dominance by earning the Teamwork Champion Award, Robot Skills Champion Award, and Create Award—a combination of honors that officially qualified them for the VEX Robotics World Championships in St. Louis, Missouri, April 27–30.

“We’re incredibly proud of the Dragon Botz 2.0 and all that they’ve accomplished,” said Flagstaff Academy Robotics Coach J.R. Kerbel. “Their hard work, determination, and collaborative spirit have made them a standout team—not just in Colorado, but at a level that’s competitive on the world stage.”

The team will continue training alongside other St. Vrain Valley School District teams as they prepare to represent Longmont—and Colorado—at the Worlds competition.

Flagstaff Academy Executive Principal Katie Gustafson says the team’s success goes far beyond trophies.

“The Dragon Botz 2.0 journey reflects the PRIDE values our students live every day—perseverance, respect, integrity, dependability, and empathy,” said Gustafson. “We hope their success inspires more young students to see themselves in robotics and STEM fields.”

As they head to St. Louis, the Dragon Botz 2.0 aren’t just competing—they’re representing the growing impact of STEM education in local schools and showing what’s possible when young students are given the opportunity to innovate, collaborate, and lead.

About Flagstaff Academy:

Flagstaff Academy is a preschool through eighth grade public charter school located in Longmont, CO. Flagstaff Academy is now in its nineteenth year of operation, serving approximately 800 students and employing nearly 95 faculty and staff.

The school’s mission is to “develop students who are equipped to be well-rounded, ethical leaders in the world community with a foundation based on science and technology.” The school’s curriculum is rich with experiential arts, hands-on science exploration, character education, and innovative technology integration. Learn more at www.flagstaffacademy.org.

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Dragon Bots 1 Photo Caption: The Dragon Botz 2.0 celebrate a successful showing at the Colorado State Championships (left to right: Coach J.R. Kerbel, Markayla Hyde, Samantha Talluri, Aurn Wilkes, Forrest Hughes, and Saija Welch).

Dragon Bots 2 Photo Caption: The Flagstaff Academy Dragon Botz 2.0 celebrate their first win at the Flagstaff Academy Mix and Match tournament. Top row, left to right: Aurn Wilkes, Samantha Talluri, Markayla Hyde. Bottom row, left to right: Forrest Hughes and Saija Welch.

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