

Dear Student,

Hello, and welcome to the GWU's Pre-College Robotics class. I am looking forward to introducing you to the world of robotics and computer science, two rapidly growing and exciting fields. This will be done through a mix of hands-on activities, field trips, and talks from experts. The robots we will be using are Lego Mindstorms, and you will programming them to complete challenges such as navigating a maze. You will visit the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to see experimental robots, and hear talks from GWU Professors about their cutting edge research in the field.

While learning about robotics, you will be introduced the fundamentals of computer science, a field with a wide range of applications from biology to space exploration (although, in my opinion, robotics is one of the coolest). And while I could expound endlessly on the virtues of computer science in terms of earning potential, job security, and societal impact, that is not why I am teaching this course. I am teaching this course because robotics and computer science are fun. If I do my job well, you will come away from this course with some memorable experiences, an appreciation for these fields, and the knowledge and desire to continue exploring them.

So, all I need you to bring is enthusiasm. Be ready to work, but know that the payoffs for your efforts will be great. I am excited to meet you, and cannot wait to get started!

Sincerely,
James Marshall