



# FTC Team 0207

## Critical Mass

Volume 1 / Issue 1

### Competition Results

Vermont State  
Championship:  
Winning alliance

Northeast NJ  
Championship:  
Finalist alliance captain

Northeast NJ  
Championship:  
Connect Award, 1<sup>st</sup> place

Northeast NJ  
Championship:  
Inspire Award, 3<sup>rd</sup> place

### Teaching and Collaborating in the Community

During the months of January and February, Critical Mass has been rapidly expanding its outreach activities. Team members taught a



workshop at Dwight-Englewood's Lower School (grades K through 5). The team demonstrated the robot, explained its design, and answered the students' questions about being on a robotics team, emphasizing values such as teamwork and perseverance. The workshop was well received by both Lower School students and faculty, and Critical Mass is continuing to plan more events and workshops for Lower School age students.

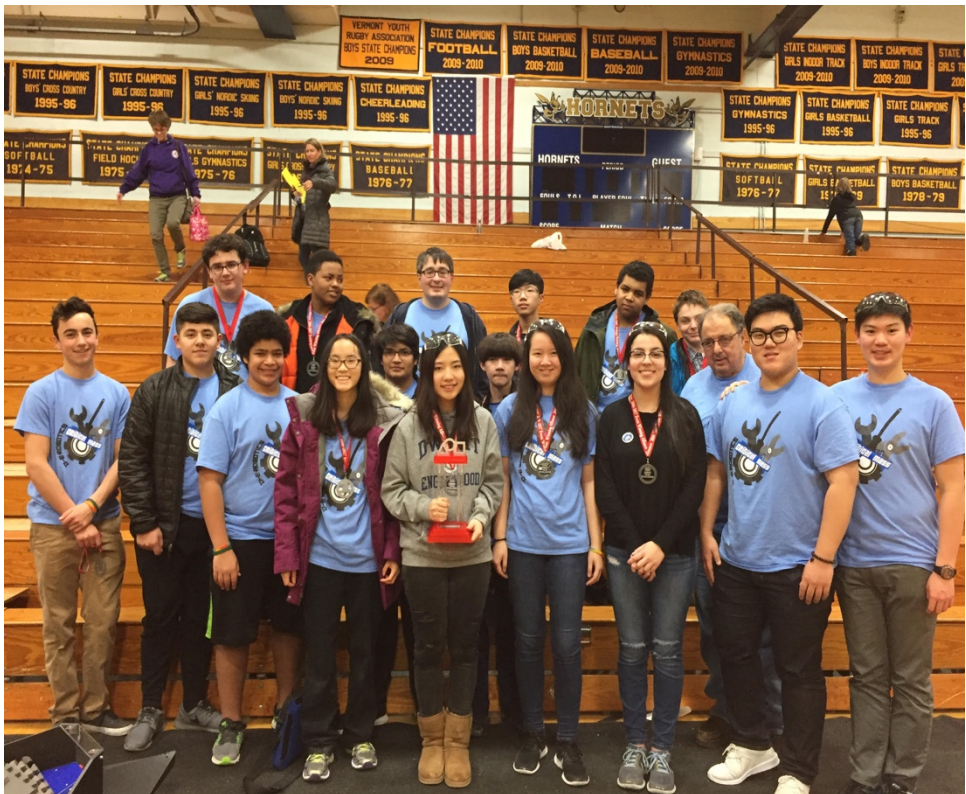
Critical Mass also hosted a meet-and-greet with a FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team, the Pascack Pi-oneers. The two teams exchanged information, with the Pi-oneers sharing their expertise in robot design and community outreach, and Critical Mass sharing ideas and information pertaining

to the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC), as both teams will be collaborating to mentor four rookie FTC teams starting next season.



Critical Mass is also maintaining its partnership with Team Shatterdome, an FTC team from South Korea. Over the previous months, the two teams have shared information about design, building, and programming through video conferences and email correspondence. The partnership with Team Shatterdome has inspired Critical Mass to pursue further international outreach opportunities, for which the team is currently reaching out.

## Vermont State Championship



On February 11<sup>th</sup>, Critical Mass traveled to Vermont for the FTC Vermont State Championship. As a state that is relatively new to FTC, Vermont invites and encourages out-of-state teams to participate in the state championship in hopes of raising the overall standard of teams in the state.

At this competition, Critical Mass placed 4<sup>th</sup> out of 32 teams in the qualification matches, thus qualifying for alliance selections and semifinals/finals. After forming an alliance with two other teams, Critical Mass and their alliance partners won the finals and were crowned the champions!

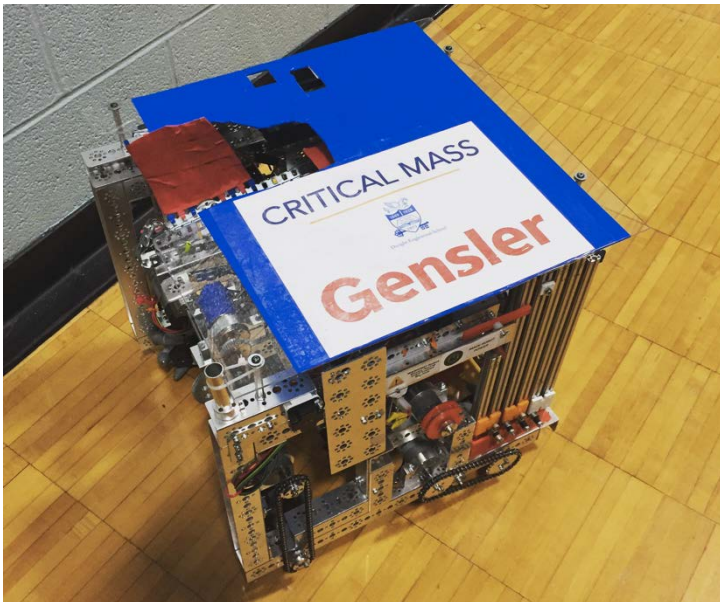
## Northeast New Jersey League Championship

The next day, Critical Mass returned for the Northeast New Jersey League Championship. At this meet, the team ranked first out of 26 teams during the qualification matches and went on to become the finalist alliance captain.

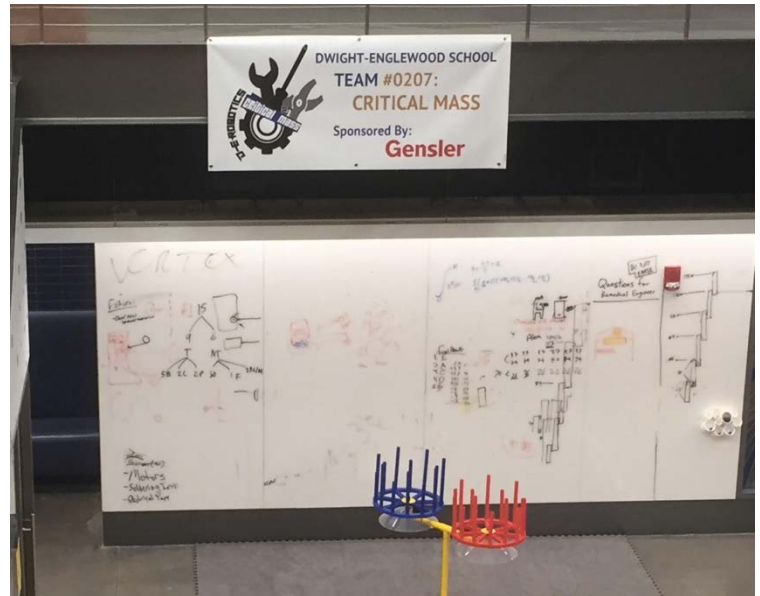
The team also won two awards at the meet: the Connect Award (1<sup>st</sup> place) and the Inspire Award (3<sup>rd</sup> place). The Connect Award is given to a team that engages in the STEM community, and the Inspire Award, the most prestigious award at an FTC competition, is given to a team who shows overall excellence and acts as an ambassador for FIRST and FTC.

Critical Mass is advancing to the New Jersey State Championship, held at West-Windsor-Plainsboro HS North in Plainsboro NJ, on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. The team will be competing with 47 other teams for advancement to the East Super-Regional Championship, where 72 teams from Maine to West Virginia will compete for advancement to the FIRST Championship (World Championship).

## Snapshots



*The robot at the VT State Championship*



*New team banner in the STEM building*