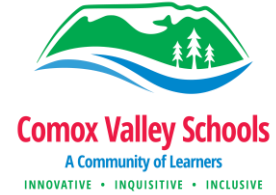


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Valley students continue their excellence in robotics in virtual tournament

COMOX VALLEY, B.C. – Comox Valley Schools hosted the Vancouver Island Vex Robotics Regional Championship virtually via Zoom 6 March with the winners advancing to the Vex World Championships.

Among the 20 Island teams participating, the 7842 NIDES teams won three of the four spots to the World's taking the top 3 spots in the Robot Skills Challenge, as well as four additional judged awards.

Team 7842A consisting of Zane Henderson, Vanier, and Joel Saunders, Highland, won second place and team 7842M consisting of Logan McCoy, Nicholas Horel and Andrew Phillips (Highland ENTER 2 students) took third place as a middle school team. Both teams will also advance to the World competition.

Team 7842B members Theo Lemay and Sawyer McClellan, Vanier, won the Excellence Award trophy and scored the highest points of the tournament (227 out of 252) placing them 2nd overall in B.C. and 7th Canada-wide, earning them a berth to the World

“It was a uniquely held event this year. The students and coaches stayed in their respective home schools and competed remotely,” explained Steve Claassen, Career Coordinators and tournament organizer and host. “The Comox Valley continues to produce brilliant engineering & robotics students that are very competitive on the national and world stage.”

Claassen attributes the success of these students to the teachers offering specialty programs such as the ENTER program (NIDES), Physics and Engineering, Electronics/Robotics, Creative Collective, and Makerspaces in the schools along with dedicated parents that support their children's education.

NIDES 7842 coach Kemp Currie credits the coordinators, coaches and volunteers who have made this memorably unique season such a huge success.

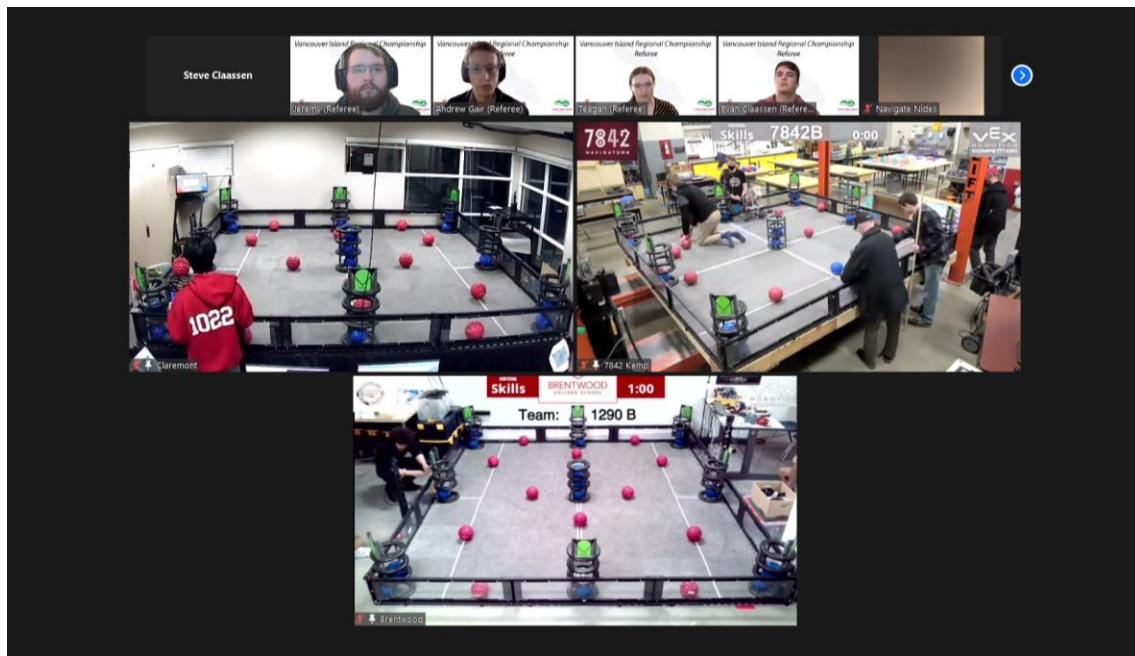
-More-

“It's gratifying to have so many 7842 alumni returning post-grad to assist and mentor those who now follow in their footsteps, in particular, Jeremy Lyster, Andrew Gair, Teagan Parkin and Evan Claassen, who sacrificed their days off to remotely referee for us at this and our previous weekend tournaments,” said Currie. “Thanks also goes to Dr. Stewart Savard and Nicolas Parlee who remotely judged the awards as well as Nick Ward, our head Ref this season.

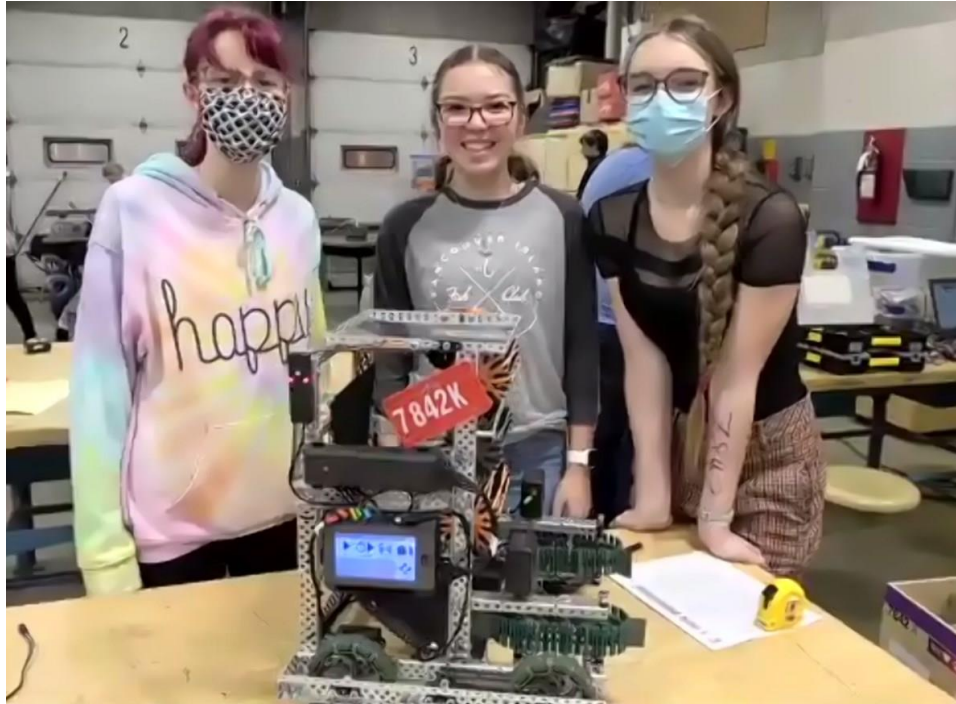
In non-COVID times, VEX World's are held in Louisville, Kentucky, USA in April. This year, the tournament takes place virtually May 17 to 22 via Zoom.

-End-

For more information about VEX Robotics, visit <https://www.vexrobotics.com/v5/competition>



Zoom screen capture of tournament referees (top row) refereeing the Robot Courts with competitors from Claremont Secondary, Victoria, Brentwood College, Mill Bay, and Highland Secondary (NIDES 7842).
(Image Credit: Comox Valley Schools)



The Highland all-female team, Team-K consisting of Sophia Vailant, Katie Brown and Tarn Blakely, won their second Amaze Award trophy of the season and finished 7th with an impressive 142 points.
(Image Credit: Comox Valley Schools)

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