



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SMCHS VEX Earns Third Consecutive State Championship & Two Teams Qualify for World Competition

Acting as captain, St. Mary Catholic High School's Team 1200 Syntax Error created an alliance with Appleton Xavier's Team 536C Life and Oconto Falls' Team 4848X Team Green for the final battle of the 2016 Wisconsin VEX Robotics State Championship. The trio worked together to win the state championship, and Syntax Error also took home the State Champion's Design Award. This is the third consecutive year that an SMCS Team has been part of the championship alliance!

In addition, SMCS Team 1200F Z- Ballers won the State Championship Judges' Award, as well as the State Championship Robot Skills Award, scoring 318 points in the latter competition.

"We are so proud of our students and how hard they have worked this season. The SMCS tradition of excellence and perseverance was upheld with our teams taking home the state championship for the third year in a row," stated SMCS STEM Club mentor, Greg Cheslock. "The level of competition this year at the state competition was incredible, which makes our teams' successes all the more exciting! Every team that competed should be proud of their accomplishments."

As a result of their success in Saturday's competition, teams 1200 Syntax Error and 1200F Z-Ballers both qualified to compete in the world championship in Louisville, Kentucky April 20-23.

Members of Team 1200 Syntax Error are seniors Fred Bergholz, Robert Engelhard, Greg Gurta, Pat Knapinski, Josh Lacey and Will Mai; members of 1200F Z-Ballers are juniors Nathan Berg, Matthew Glen, Colin Higgins, Joseph Kerwin and Erik Meier.

St. Mary Catholic High School (SMCHS) a regional high school, is part of [St. Mary Catholic Schools \(SMCS\)](#). The system also includes St. Mary Elementary Schools (St. Margaret Mary and St. Gabriel in Neenah, and St. Mary in Menasha), as well as St. St. Mary Catholic Middle School in Neenah. SMCHS is dedicated to the individual development of each student by providing an education focused on faith, academics and service.



Members of State Champion Syntax Error with their robot and awards: (l to r) Robert Engelhard, Greg Gurta and William Mai; not pictured: Patrick Knapinski, Josh Lacey and Fred Berkholtz

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