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## Horizon Science Academy's robotics team advances to world championships

By Zach Srnis

*The Morning Journal*

The Horizon Science Academy of Lorain's Robotics team, Robo-Cyclones, was one of five squads that qualified for the World Championships in Kentucky.

Robo-Cyclones team competed in three different qualifiers, which led to the state competition," said Serdar Muhametberdiyev, one of the team's coaches. "This led to our competing in the Ohio State Championship in Marion, Ohio, in late February.

"We have hard-working students that make up this team. They practiced and prepared constantly. They even came in on the weekends to make sure they did the best they could."

Mehmet Celik, another coach of the team, said he was really impressed by how the team did in Marion.

"I'm proud of the showing the group had in front of the state's top competitors," Celik said. "More than 30 teams were there, and we were one of the teams that earned enough points to compete in the world competition."

Muhametberdiyev said this is the school's first time competing in the world competition.

"I'm really excited for our guys," he said. "They have earned the right to be amongst the best in the world. However, it is a bit of an unknown to us.

"We don't entirely know how the competition will be formatted. I assume it will be similar to state, but I'm not sure. We will just compete when we're scheduled and I know the boys will continue to compete at a high level."

Celik said the competition is essentially a time trial.

"The robots are programmed by students for competition," he said. "The robots, through the programming and how well they are controlled by the students, attempt to collect rings.

"These rings are then taken to a pole that is placed perpendicularly to the ring. The points are rewarded based on how close the rings can be placed to the poles within one minute."

Matthew Derry, a 12-year-old seventh-grade member of



Members of Horizon Science Academy of Lorain's Robo-Cyclone team that will compete in the Robotics World Championships. From left: Esad Gurbuz, fifth-grade; Devin Frazier, sixth-grade; Matthew Derry, seventh-grade; and Nathan Antus, eighth-grade. Zach Srnis — The Morning Journal

Robo-Cyclones, said the world championships will be a great experience.

"It's just going to be a lot of fun," Matthew said. "I love being part of this group and getting the chance to take what we do and compete against others.

"There will be 400 teams there competing, and I can't wait to represent our school."

The other members of Robo-Cyclones are Nathan Antus, 14, eighth-grade; Devin Frazier, 11, sixth-grade; and Esad Gurbuz, 11, fifth-grade.

Also representing Lorain County at the world championships are Brookside Intermediate School, Longfellow Middle School in Lorain, and Elyria and Brookside high schools.

The Robotics World Championships starts April 29 in the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville.

For more information contact the Horizon Science Academy of Lorain at 440-282-4277.