

# THE TALON TIMES

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### Dear Diary,

At this week's TALON 540 meeting, the programming subgroup plans to perfect existing codes, start drafting ideas for autonomous modes, and start creating this year's sensor book. With the sensor book being the main focus of the week, we started creating and adding information to our template. The purpose of the book is to showcase the technical prospects of our final robot, Talon 9.0. Programmers have put together some of the most unique aspects of our drive train, pneumatic system, and sensor usage to present to the judges when competition time comes around this spring. Images of our students and CAD's of our final design will be incorporated into the finished copy of our sensor book. As of now, the general information involving the robot is being formatted and will eventually present to the judges when competition time comes around this spring.

### Strategy

With the team on "catch-up" due to the recent snowstorm, Strategy was working as hard as ever alongside the other subgroups. Today, we established communications with First Chesapeake regarding the newly opened practice field in Mechanicsville. Although we were unable to visit the field this week, our subgroup plans on visiting the practice field in the near future. In addition, Strategy continued to work on and finalize the scouting guide, implementing minor tweaks to the format and wording of the guide. As our team approaches the halfway mark of build season, Strategy hopes to continue drive team practices once the prototype robot is built.



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### Financial

In the financial subgroup, we have been working hard to make sure this team is financially fit. The past couple meetings I have not only helped keep the accounting up to date but also have helped out with brainstorming ideas and

helping design our next spirit night flyer for Chipotle. Also, I have spent most of my time looking for sponsors that would greatly benefit our team both financially and with robot parts. When I am not doing financial work, like helping working on grants or looking for sponsors, I would make my way over to mechanical. This was to make sure they were staying on top of the inventory they had to round up and finish. Saturday we have finished up the Google rise grant which supports nonprofit organizations that promote computer science education. Even though thing can get chaotic at times I am still able to stay on top of what I am asked to do and help out when it is needed.



## Outreach

This week in outreach I had the privilege to draft a children's book about robotics. The story I wrote follows a young robot through his first few months of "human" school in his new town. Initially, the robot, Rio, gets bullied for being different; his classmates don't understand him. As the story progresses Rio's mother advises him to take pride in who he is, and embrace his differences. He takes her advice and ends up making a lot of friends; people are attracted to his passion for the thing he loves the most, dancing. And although this is a contrast from what we go through as robotics team members, the story of Rio is the story of every kid who made fun of for being "weird". It's a tale of an underdog who through dedication and persistence, both of which are things we promote here at Talon 540,

## Electrical

Over the last two days, I was involved in various activities, such as teaching our newer members how to solder wire to a ring terminal and a quick connect. We also tried to design a more innovative, space-efficient electrical system because we had realized that we did not have much room to work with. One of the electrical subgroup's side projects was to build a new robot cart, which carries the robot in and out of the pits as well tools and extra parts necessary to compete, such as spare batteries. We precisely laid out the internal design of the robot cart, which came with its struggles, as during the drilling process components moved out of place, and the wood, which was not well suited for our purpose, kept splitting under duress. Over the next few weeks, we will continue to

rose above his adversities. We can all learn something from this robot, as his life very much mirrors our lives; there's a Rio the Robot inside every one of us.

prototype and finalize our electrical system. I'm looking forward to a great competition season.

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### TALON 540

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