



For immediate release

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**Statement from:
The Pirates of the Pythagorean, GHAMAS First Robotic Team**

The Pirates of the Pythagorean, FIRST Robotics Team 3125, as well as the rest of the Greater Hartford Academy of Mathematics and Science, are terribly wounded at the loss of our friend and teammate. Everyone who knew Vikas, and even those who didn't, have shown their respect and sympathy especially throughout the GHAMAS and FIRST communities. The students of the GHAMAS and Rocky Hill communities gathered today at GHAMAS for a moment of silence in honor of Vikas. Representatives of robotics teams as far away as Australia have offered condolences to the families and team members affected. The Pirates wish to extend our greatest appreciation to the over 100 teams that have already contacted us.

The GHAMAS FIRST Robotics Team was formed this school year, and was en route to Farmington High School for a robotics event to kick off the new game season. The event was held in Manchester, NH, and live-streamed through NASA Television to local kickoff events around the country. With some delay, the robotics team will continue the competition season, and has dedicated this year's robot in memory of Vikas.

The Greater Hartford Academy of Math and Science is a diverse community of students interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics representing over 20 school districts in the greater Hartford area. The school was established in 2001 by a partnership of Greater Hartford School Districts and the Capitol Region Education Council and is currently under the direction of Mr. Eric Bernstein. The GHAMAS community has responded swiftly to meet the emotional needs of its students, and will continue to do so.

The Pirates of the Pythagorean extend our thanks to all those who have reached out to offer support, as well as to the emergency crews who responded to the incident.

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