

## Robots Invade!

*A popular summer class is getting kids hooked on science.*

BY THE TIME KIDS GET TO JUNIOR HIGH, IT'S TOO LATE. Science doesn't have a chance.

That's what Colin Kilbane fears. That's why he decided to create a class to make sure this fear would not become reality. So Kilbane, the operations director at Saint Paul's imaginative learning program Mad Science, pulled an ace out of his sleeve: robots. What better way to get kids excited about science?

Five years ago, Kilbane started Red Hot Robots, a class that teaches kids about artificial intelligence and lets them build their very own OWI Robotic Arm Edge, a pincer-like electronic contraption that has four degrees of motion controlled by a remote.

"That really kick-starts their imagination," Kilbane says. "Once they get their hands on it, kids that have trouble sitting for 15 minutes sit for hours working on it. They really get into it."

The four-day class for kids who have completed grades 1-7 runs June 22-25 at Basswood Elementary. It's been a hit whenever it's been offered in District 279, so much so that more classes have been added to meet the demand.

"We try to give kids a positive experience with science," Kilbane says. "We want them to leave and say 'science is fun and entertaining.'" (See more on Red Hot Robots in our Calendar on page 27.)

—Bobby Hart



To find out more about Red Hot Robots and other offerings from Mad Science, call 651.793.5721 or visit [madsience.org](http://madsience.org).



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