VEX Robotics is much more than just about the robot. Through my robotics team, I have grown more than I could have imagined. At the beginning of the season my teammates and I sit down and brainstorm different designs. In order to get one robot idea, we have to compromise. I have learned that compromise and teamwork is critical for a good team. I have learned that I can resolve conflicts with careful listening and good communication with others.

Time management is crucial for my team. As a team, we must finish our robot and complete our engineering notebook. The competitions taught me to be courteous and a good sport, meaning win or lose we shake our opponents’ hands. VEX has also helped me develop skills in self-confidence and public speaking stemming from talking to judges and other teams. This allows me and my team to make friends with other teams.

The best thing about VEX Robotics is being able to reach out and get involved in the community. My team gives multiple demonstrations each year. At these demonstrations I teach the public how to drive robots. I get the best feeling when I see children’s smiling faces when they score a goal. I used to be a shy girl, but now I am excited to talk to others and promote VEX.

I have learned teamwork, communication, time management, self confidence, and public speaking skills. VEX Robotics allowed me to grow into a girl I never imagined I could be.