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VEX Robotics

Online Essay Challenge

Team 918d Pantherbots

Las Vegas, NV

Hyde Park Middle School

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When I first stepped into the classroom of Mr. Patricks, our school VEX coach, I couldn’t help but think to myself, *Is this really for me?* From the various trophies lining the walls to the scattered aluminum and steel bars covering a massive styrofoam field in the back of the room, I could tell at that moment that I had arrived at the epitome of robot building workshops. Half of me wanted to sprint over to the cabinets, pull out some bars, and get to work, the other half wanting to get out of the room altogether. But as I sat down with my new VEX team members and Mr. Patricks, a feeling of home and teamwork blanketed over me, and I knew that though VEX would be fun, it would take a whole lot of grit and hard work to get myself and my team to the winning status.

VEX Robotics has now not only become the highlight of my day and my favorite class, but also has given me a sense of what it really feels like to work extremely hard towards a task, and finally see the fruits of your labor. VEX has taught me to never give in to the challenges ahead of you; but to face them head on with all of the passion, teamwork, and raw genius that you have built along your journey.