

How Listening to Your Mom Just Might Change Your Life

We can either embrace our parents' life advice or throw it aside. In 8th grade, I was much closer to the dismissive side of the teenage spectrum; for whatever reason I had already decided I would never engage in anything mechanical. Although I seemed so decisive about what I was *not* going to do, it was a toss-up figuring out what I *was* going to do for my last open elective class of 9th grade. My mom immediately suggested robotics, throwing out the classic "just try it and see if you like it" phrase. It was enough to convince me to write down "Robotics I" on my course selection sheet.

On the first day of robotics I sat down randomly with two other freshman and watched the video to the VEX "Round Up" challenge. Our first VEX competition that year was disastrous, yet it invoked an inspiration in engineering that pushed me through high school. The two students I met on the first day of robotics are now seniors with me, still on the same extracurricular VEX team. As a 13 year-old, I never could have imagined myself so interested by robotics and dedicated to VEX. If as a seemingly "wise" 8th grader I hadn't given into my mom's suggestion to take robotics, I wouldn't fully understand now my potential in the field of STEM as a senior looking towards a career in chemical or nuclear engineering. Sometimes, listening to your mom just might change your life.