

# ***PURSUING MY PASSION***

**EMILY MELTON**

**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

**BRENTWOOD ACADEMY**

**IRON EAGLES TEAM 9364X**

*"Girls should never be afraid to be smart." -Emma Watson*



It starts with a dream.

Add faith,  
and it becomes a belief.

Add action,  
and it becomes a part of life.

Add perseverance,  
and it becomes a goal in sight.

Add patience and time,  
and it ends  
with a dream come true.



By Doe Zantamata

In the beginning, I thought I was going to be a ballerina,  
or maybe an artist, or an author.

I loved the Arts,  
but anything involving numbers  
was at the bottom of my Career list.



MY BALLET DEBUT



MY PICASSO



MY BEST SELLERS



I never thought robotics would be my thing. I never even dreamed of being on a robotics team.

I didn't like the STEM subjects; I was more of an ELA (English/Language Arts) girl. Math and Science were the subjects that I absolutely despised. The dreaded Math Class was like a thick fog that surrounded me and kept me from enjoying the subjects I loved. As soon as lunch ended, my day went downhill.

But in 4th Grade, all of this changed.

I met the woman who  
would ultimately change  
my perspective on the  
world of STEM,  
my 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Math & Science teacher at  
Edmondson Elementary,  
**MRS. JANICE GOOD.**



Around this time my brother, **PATRICK**, had just joined a robotics team at Brentwood Academy. He **LOVED** robotics. I mean he ate, slept, and breathed robotics. The only thing he ever talked or thought about was **ROBOTICS**. One night, **PATRICK** told me that he had a teammate studying Calculus to be able to improve his robot programming. I was intrigued.



WATCHING MY BROTHER COMPETE



For the first time, I would look forward to Math each day.  
In fact, I would rush to finish my lunch just to get to Math.  
I started to like Math & Science just as much as English.

Who would have guessed?



MY 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATH TEACHER, MRS. MATTY DANIELS,  
WHO HELPED ME FLOURISH IN MATH.





# VEX WORLDS 2016



From that point on, I tried to learn as much as I could about Math & Science concepts.

At the end of my 4<sup>th</sup> Grade year, PATRICK'S robotics team was invited to the Vex Worlds Robotics Competition.

As soon as I stepped into the Exposition Center in Louisville, Kentucky, and saw all the cool robots, I knew that this was what I wanted to do. At that moment a spark was ignited in me that inspired my new LOVE for ROBOTICS.



PATRICK AND ME AT MY  
5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE GRADUATION

In my last year of elementary school, I learned all I could and balanced my time between ELA & STEM.

I applied to and was admitted into Brentwood Academy.

Over summer break, **PATRICK** started a campaign to convince me to join his robotics team. At first, I was hesitant. I struggled with the decision. I was sure that it would take up all my time, so that I wouldn't have any to focus on ELA. I wanted to hang out with my brother, but didn't want to be all- consumed by robotics either.



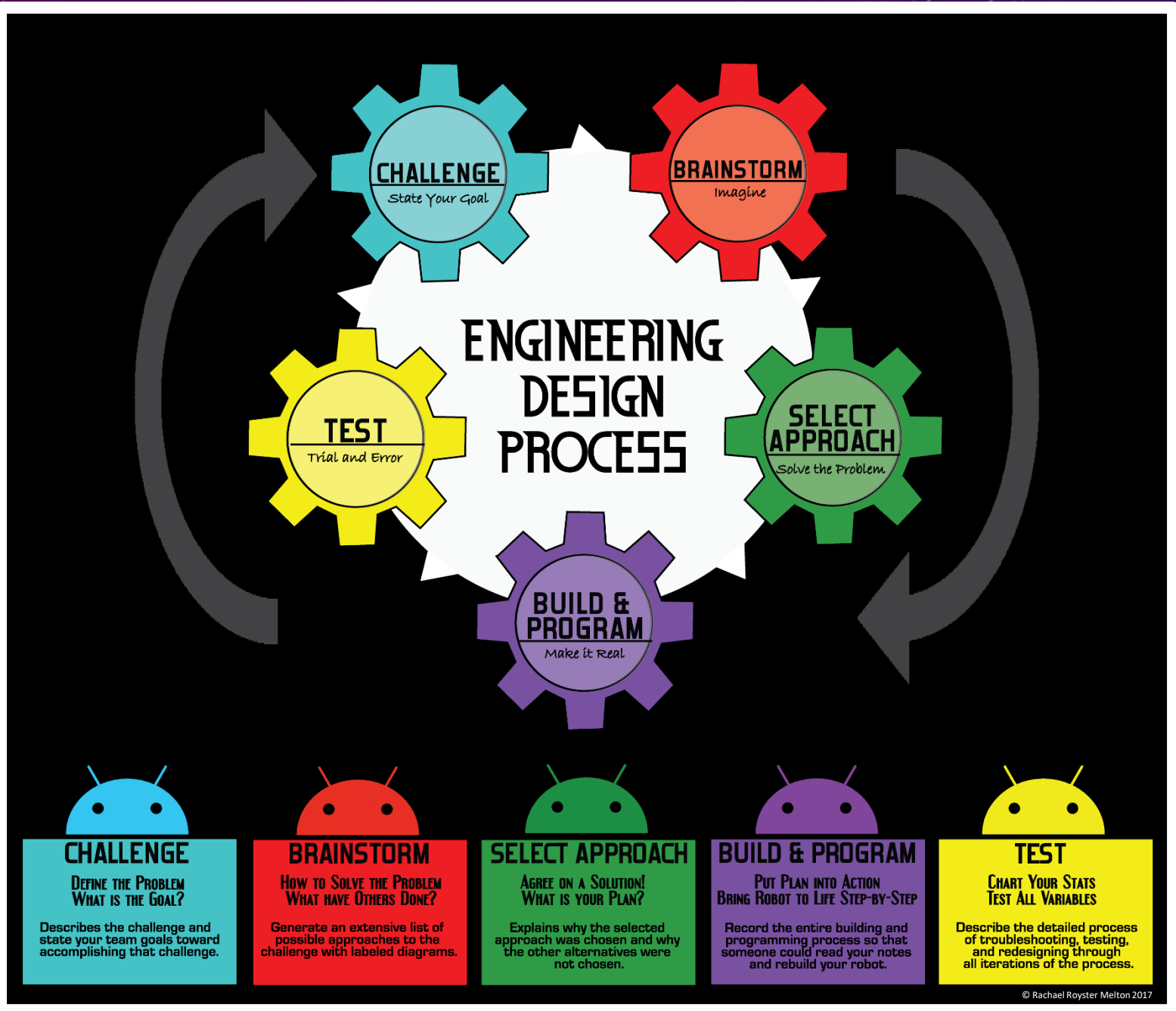
The scale was tipped when my brother introduced the concept of notebooking to me.

I embraced the challenge.

Now, I could record our progress while using my Math & Science skills to build a robot.

I never knew it was possible to combine my two contrasting passions into one activity.

Next thing I knew, I was an IRON EAGLE!



When I first joined robotics,  
I was surprised how many girls  
were in the program .

Our coaches work to make  
sure that our teams are a  
diverse mixture of girls + boys  
and multi-grade levels.

On our school team,  
about 35% of the people in  
robotics are girls. All but  
three of the 11 teams  
have girl teammates.

I was thrilled to be a part of a  
robotics team that was not  
lacking in girl power.



EXCELLENCE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

EMMIE

BEN



GUS

PATRICK

ME

I joined team 9364X. The team was made up of five dedicated team members:

**PATRICK, GUS E, EMMIE T, BEN F, and MYSELF.**

Each team member has very different abilities and passions.

The main goals we all agreed on were that we were going to try our very best, make it to Worlds (and win EXCELLENCE), while working together as a driven team.

**PATRICK**, our team Captain,  
regulates the team and programs  
the robot with **BEN**.

I am the Chief Notebooker and am in  
charge of organizing the team  
notebook and making sure everyone  
documents their work.

**Gus** takes charge building  
the robot along with assistance from  
**BEN** and **EMMIE**.

As a team, we plan, problem-solve,  
delegate tasks, and build/rebuild the  
robot. Together, we work to  
combine our ideas to make our  
robot the best it can.



**ACCEPTING THE MS EXCELLENCE AWARD  
AT OUR 1<sup>ST</sup> TOURNAMENT**

When I was younger,  
I thought I had planned out my life.  
However, as soon as I discovered  
my LOVE for STEM  
and all the ways it could challenge me,  
I knew that I could not live life to its fullest  
if I didn't have a life involving  
Math & Science.

Now that I have chosen this path, I know  
that there will never be a day I will regret  
joining the Iron Eagles Robotics Team  
or choosing a life of STEM.

This was how I found my passion,  
and my definition of Girl Power.





# GIRL POWER:

Chasing your passion  
and never looking back!



# Credits & Dedications

ALL WRITING BY EMILY MELTON

PICTURES TAKEN BY 9364X TEAM MEMBERS

“IT STARTS WITH A DREAM” POEM BY DOE ZANTAMATA

“ENGINEERING DESIGN PROCESS” CHART BY RACHAEL MELTON

## MANY THANKS TO:

MRS. JANICE GOOD (4<sup>TH</sup>) FOR CHANGING MY PERSPECTIVE ON STEM

MRS. JANE HARTMAN (4<sup>TH</sup>) FOR FLOURISHING MY LOVE FOR READING AND WRITING

MRS. MATTY DANIELS (5<sup>TH</sup>) FOR HELPING ME TO SUCCEED AT MATH

MR. ALLEN LONG (5<sup>TH</sup>) FOR INCREASING MY KNOWLEDGE OF READING

MRS. JENNIFER HOLT FOR ENCOURAGING ME IN BOTH ELA AND STEM

MRS. JANE-ANN MYERS (6<sup>TH</sup>) FOR HELPING ME WITH ENGLISH AND EDITORIAL ADVICE

MRS. JENNIFER ANN CLARK (6<sup>TH</sup>) FOR CONTINUING TO FOSTER MY PASSION FOR MATH

MS. ELLIE COLLINS (6<sup>TH</sup>) FOR BEING MY SCIENCE TEACHER AND ADVISOR

## SPECIAL THANKS TO MY BRENTWOOD ACADEMY 9364 IRON EAGLES COACHES:

MR. CHRIS ALLEN, DR. JUDITH REYNOLDS, AND MS. BETH TAYLOR

WITH APPRECIATION TO MY PARENTS AND LITTLE SISTER FOR THEIR LOVE & SUPPORT

AND TO MY BROTHER PATRICK WHO INSPIRED MY PASSION & WON'T LET ME FORGET IT