

Girl Powered Essay



Team 77240A

Gettys Middle School
Easley, SC

We Are Girl Powered



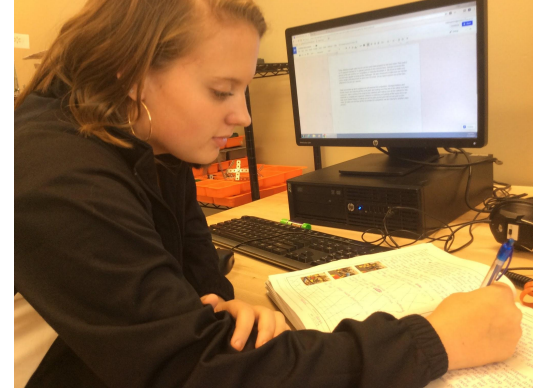
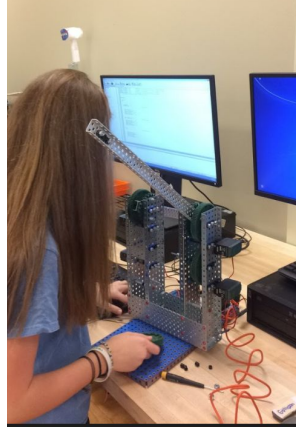
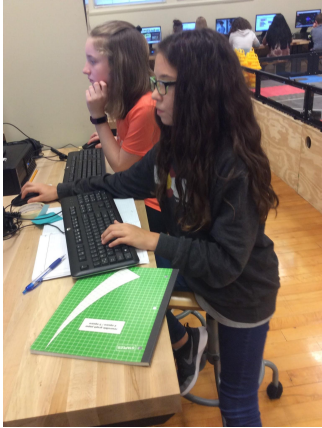
Girl Powered VEX Robotics is used to welcome different groups of children of all ages into the competitive VEX Robotics world. The Girl Powered motto started as a way to influence girls to participate in the engineering field, but has morphed into a way to show that anyone willing and wanting to compete can do so. When VEX first originally started there were no females because engineering was not typically thought to be a “girl thing.” Now, Girl Power is erasing this way of thinking. Going to competition we remember that anyone can be in the spot that we are in as long as they are willing to work hard. The goal is to open more people’s minds to the idea of working together and eliminate the common stereotype that only certain people can do VEX.

Girl Powered Environment



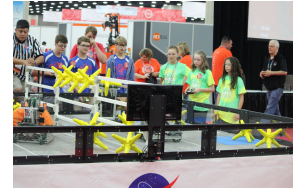
Last year our school had one VEX team of all girls. This year as more middle schoolers enter they are given the chance to participate in VEX. We now have nine teams in our school including two all girls teams in sixth grade, one all girls team in seventh grade, and one all girls team in eighth grade. Only two of our nine teams are all boys. We are thrilled to see diversity growing so much in our robotics program! At the end of last year our teacher/coach requested seventh grade science teachers ask which of their students would like to participate in the upcoming season. He also offered robotics throughout his classes. As the veteran team, we talk to other students about the program and answer any questions in case they need clarification. As new children enter our school, more are interested and our VEX program grows. Even if a student transfers mid season they still have the opportunity to be on a team if they would like to. If or when there is not enough students in one grade, we combine teams so that everyone has a chance to do what they'd like.

Trying Different Roles



We make sure that each student gets the chance to experience different things on the team since it is important for everyone to do other things instead of being restricted to just one role. To make things run smoothly we assigned everyone on our team a role but each play a part in everything. Georgia is our driver, Jalyn is our website keeper, Emma Grayce is our main notebook keeper, Mattison H. is our main mechanic, and Madison C. is the programmer. One person is never limited to just one role because everyone needs exposure to many opportunities. Everyone should have the chance to try all parts and we make sure that we each learn about every role. While working in each other's spots we learn the stress levels they have, form new ideas, and how to better understand their mind set.

Working With Other Teams



While working in VEX Robotics our team has helped and received assistance from other teams inside and outside of our school. Within our team everyone has different lives and experiences outside of VEX, but competitive Robotics brings us all together and we're able to learn about a diverse group of people and how to work with them. You make a new group of friends and become a family as you compete and work together to achieve a goal. When working, it's important for everyone to share their ideas because we think so differently. With so many unlike suggestions, you can do much more and go further if you know how to use them to your advantage.

Our STEM Role Model

We use Katherine Johnson as our STEM role model. She was a research mathematician even though it was a harder field for her at the time because African Americans were looked down upon during this time period and so were women. She started working around 1952 and didn't retire until 1986. She was one of the three picked African Americans to attend West Virginia College. She started working in small things but worked her way up to become a NASA employee. Katherine knew what she wanted, worked for it, and was good at it. We let her lead us because she broke boundaries and showed everyone that they were wrong. She worked for what she wanted and if she didn't succeed immediately due to obstacles beyond her control then that just meant she would strive harder. She shows us that it's easier to tackle situations head on.

