

PUELLA

IMPERIUM

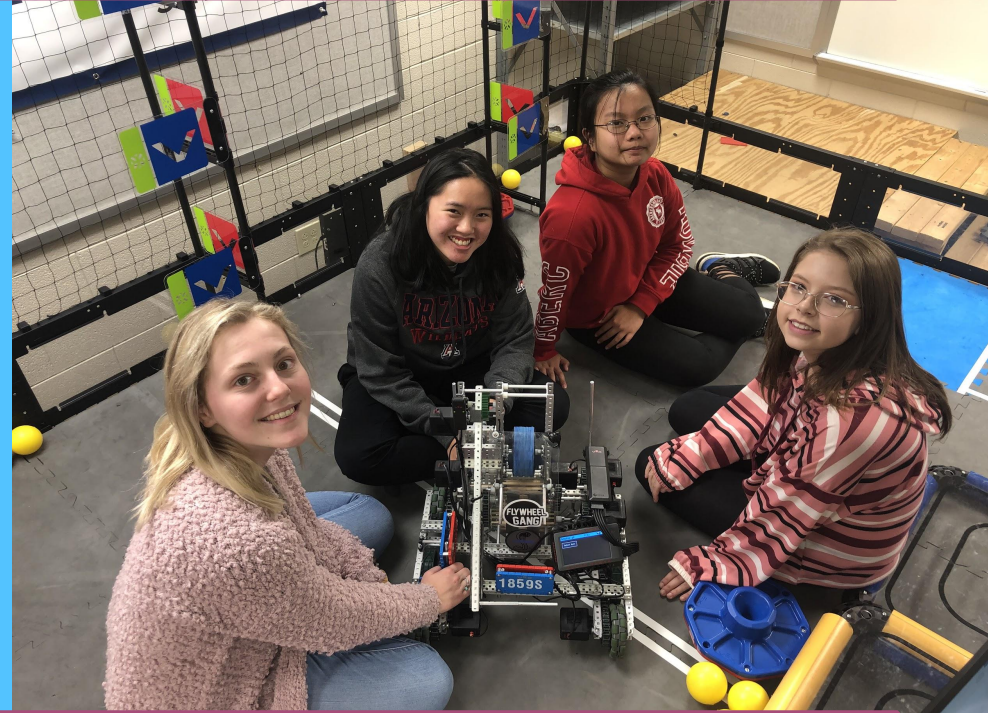
(GIRL POWER IN LATIN)



G⚡P

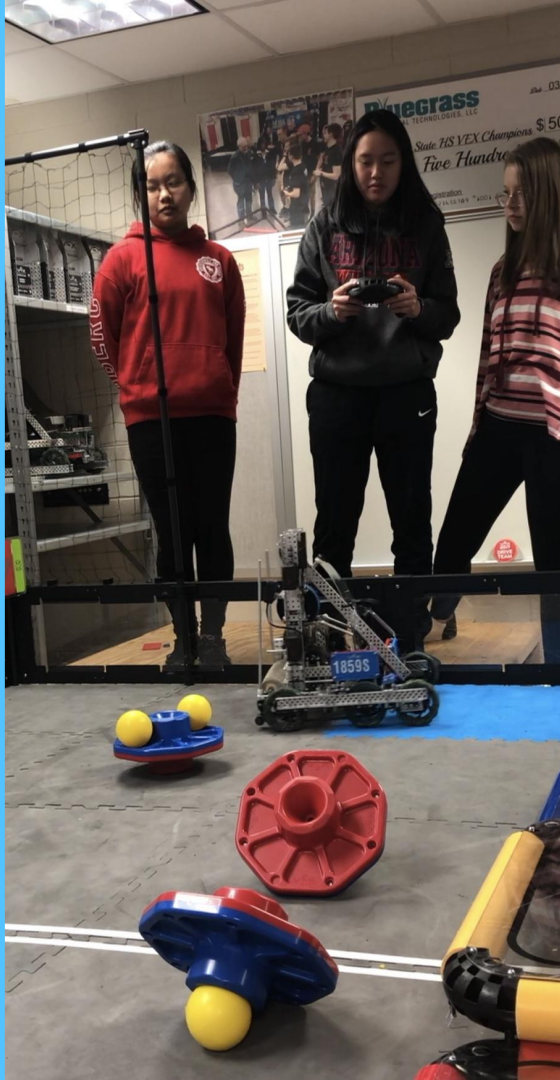
Closing The gap

Girl Powered, for us, gives a partial explanation for our lives. It represents our contribution to our team and how other females alike make up their own personal teams. **Girl powered** to us isn't simply all girls but how girls empower one another and physically power their team. The inclusion of females has been very important to all of us. So, our team, 1859S set a goal for the 2018-2019 vex robotics year; to involve more female members to power our team. We are now a **predominantly female team**. Before adding three females to our team, there were only two female members in our twenty person Vex Robotics club. We wanted to bring young females in to mentor and inspire them to pursue their STEM interests. Our main goal was to **normalize contributing female members** in our club. We wanted to be sure that we weren't just adding only for the sake of 'more females,' but for the girls themselves; so that they would feel **inspired to choose their team role and accomplish it.**



LETTING THEM CHOOSE

As a team, we wanted to tread very carefully on how we introduced our girls to the different tasks a team has because **we didn't want our girls to feel pressured to do things that 'girls normally do.'** We let them explore all avenues of vex robotics freely. The photo to the left shows our member Carly experimenting with driving and the photo to the right shows our other member nicky building on our robots ball intake system. **We learned as a team that it's okay to do what you like regardless of your gender.**



FEMALE LEADERSHIP



The introduction of female leadership on our team was welcomed. Our girls especially helped with drawing out theoretical gameplay and skills runs. Their minds helped us see the game in a more logical way. They all have especially helped in the organization of the team notebook. The boys on our team weren't able to put physical things into words or take physical things and make an illustrative picture. This was our own teams gaps and the girls we brought in filled them to complete our team. This change in team dynamic was nothing but helpful. The girls helped our team by bringing maturity and responsibility to our team. The boys on our team tended to be all over the place while our girls created order and set times for things. The girls brought team organization. Our dynamic is so much better with the female influences. This opportunity to let the girls in our team lead allowed them to grow as people and as positive female leaders in vex robotics. We all couldn't wait to compete in our first competition together as a team.

FINDING OURSELVES



Our team went to a competition in Ohio County. We were in the **finals and placed second overall**. However, we managed to **qualify for state and nationals with the excellence award**. For most girls on this event was their first competition. We had to rely on each other for support and to help each other out. While in the interview our team being a mostly female team really stood out to them because **we made up half of the females participating at the highschool level in our team alone**. We were proud to have represented our school and girls alike at this competition through hard work and dedication.



LEARNING TO EMBRACE OUR TRUE SELVES

After our team made the initiative to have more girls on our team and the Vex season started picking up, **the attitude of the club had towards women slowly started to change.** Before this, there was doubt in the capability of females in the club because they had no real role; **they were the 'notebook girls.'** Whereas now, girls as a whole, are much more respected for their own capabilities. We learned as a team **to not feel guilty for the job we liked.** For example, the alumni female Hannah struggled with feeling guilty for liking to put together the notebook because she felt like she was pushing a stereotype job. We learned as a team that if another female member doesn't feel guilty about building the robot then she shouldn't feel guilty about writing in the notebook. **We all grew as a team and learned to embrace our femininity in Vex**



OUR STEM ROLE MODELS



These two women have made the most impact in our lives. To most they may just be teachers, but for our team they are what inspired us to pursue engineering as girls. The woman on the left is Andrea O'Bryan and the woman on the right is Meghan Banks. Mrs. O'Bryan taught geometry through engineering, IED, POE, and digital electronics to our members. Mrs. Banks taught pre calculus and civil engineering to our members. If the classes they teach weren't enough, these women are both so amazing. They always supported and pushed all of our interests in engineering and the math field. They are our teacher, friend, and mentors. They both are an inspiration to our members because of their leadership and character.



THE END.

We like crossing the imaginary boundaries people set up between different fields. There are lots of tools, and you don't know which one would work. It's about being optimistic and trying to connect things we enjoy. We want to be remembered as the team who was not afraid to do what they wanted to do, and as girls who took risks along the way in order to achieve their goals. We are glad to be apart of the positive movement of closing the gap of men and women in STEM and were beyond thankful this opportunity came from Vex Robotics.

PUELLA IMPERIUM

Author: Hannah Heady

Team: 1859S

Other Team Members: Nicky Li, Carly Liaupsin, Elise Hoerauf, Jared Deaton, Micah Meadows, and Dustin Gill.