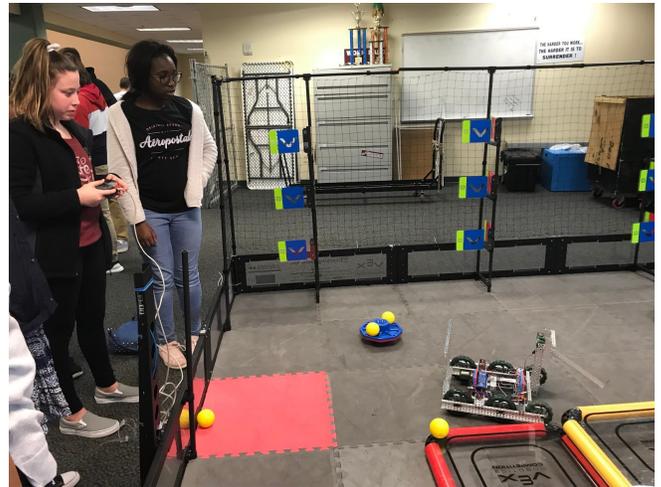


# Changing The Future

When most people think of Girl Powered, they think of girls beating boys in a team, girls wearing matching pink t-shirts, holding a golden trophy celebrating and chanting, “We got first place!”, but, no, that's not just what girl powered is. Girl Powered is the strength and alliance between girls working to achieve a greater goal. Girl Powered robotics is not just about winning, it's about growing as an individual and as a team. It's girls engaging and collaborating, using their knowledge as power. Girl Powered is about encouraging girls to build their skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to one day make the world a better place.

Being on the Five Forks Middle School Girl Powered VEX Robotics Competition Team means making an impact on today's robotics community. Being on the Girl Powered team makes us feel as if we're part of something bigger than ourselves. Being part of this program makes our team feel empowered and that by being part of robotics we can change the world. Seeing what we can achieve not only builds our confidence, but also inspires girls in our community and even girls across the world.



As a Girl Powered team, we came into our first competition with little to no experience with building, programming, or designing robots. Our team is comprised of six 11-12 year old girls. We are all in the 6th and 7th grade with no experience in robotics. Entering our first competition, we knew the odds were against us. We worked hard every day of the week, and our dedication paid off. We persevered and pulled through, making it to the elimination round. We were very proud of this accomplishment and even though we didn't place very high, this pushed us to do better in our next competition. We feel as if we have made good progress throughout the

season. We have achieved our goal of getting closer as a team and more experienced as young women engineers.

By being on a Girl Powered team, we have made a more inclusive environment that attracts a diverse group of students by doing things in a different way. At school you can do all types of fun stuff, but robotics was most attractive to us when we learned that we would be the ones building, designing, and programming.

Diversity of perspective is a great thing when it comes to Robotics. This is because one person might have an idea, but another might see a problem with it, and that could lead to problems later on. As a result we have productive discussions. During our discussions, each team members' ideas are heard and considered. For example, when one of us suggests something and there's something wrong with that idea or it has a few drawbacks, we decide to talk it out. During the competitions, each of us plays an important role. We all confirm that the bolts are on tight and that our robot is within the limits of 18x18 inches. In programming, we all try to learn our best. We have worked with a coding teacher to help us improve skills in coding. We also talk about awards we can get if we win.

We have all helped each other in many ways. We really have each other's back when it comes to our Girl Powered team. By being on a Girl Powered team, it has brought us together and helped us know there is no



cap on what we can achieve. It has also helped us make new friends. We learned what the different robot parts are called, how to build the robot, and how to drive it. We're still learning how to do some things like programming, but we do the best we can and are learning as we go.

Our biggest role model is our coach, Mr. Griffith. This is because he knows everything about robotics. We're not even kidding! If

we have a problem, he knows the solution. He inspires us to learn more and to be the best that we can be to make an impact in the robotics community.

Being on a Girl Powered team shows that we are changing the world. We are changing the future by closing the gender gap in the STEM workforce and showing other girls they can become part of robotics too. We are pioneers on the frontier of science and engineering. We are paving the way for girls of the future. There's an engineer within all of us! Girl Power!



Credits:Zaira Bhatti, Bimisola Dairo, Lillibeth Mallory, Madison Mauldin, Ayooluwa Oyerinde, and Aanya Patel

Team:23438C

Title:Changing The Future



