

Girl  Powered

Nothing Matters as
Long as You're Doing
What You Love

Being a Girl Powered Team

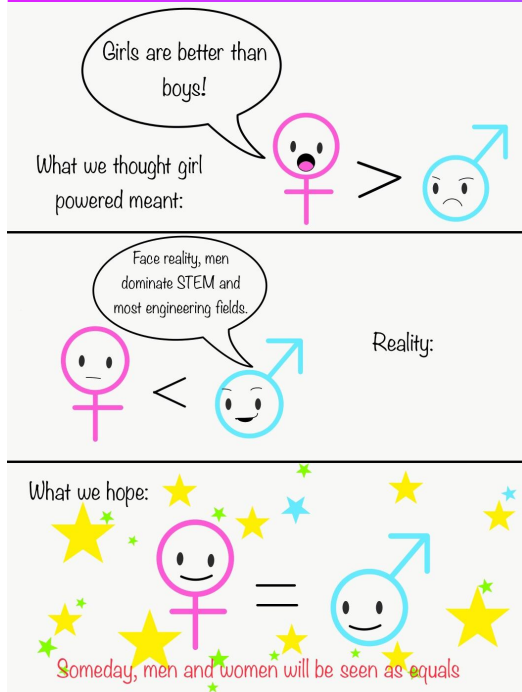
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At the beginning of the season, most of our team didn't have a background in robotics. 8838A went overlooked because a younger generation of seventh grade girls had stepped up to continue the team. For being a team full of girls, we were expected to be, "Showered in hugs and kisses" or, "A team plastered in the brightest shade of neon pink you've even seen." To be honest, most of our team was never into the idea of being "girl powered" because the idea of being a stereotypical "angry feminist" plagued us .

What Girl Powered Means to Us

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But we soon learned that **Girl Powered** wasn't a way to say that "Girls are better than boys." It was a way for gender equality to be represented in STEM. Just because our team was a newer generation of girls who didn't even know robotics at the beginning of the year, we strived to become a new and better girls team. Our hard work ethic that forced us to persevere through all of the problems and our undying faith in each other led us through our journey.



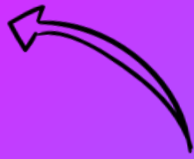
Inclusive Environment

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Our team has taken initiative to create a more inclusive environment that attracts a diverse group of students with different characteristics. Although most of team consists of upbeat and charismatic members, some of us are more timid than others. Kristina and Tara resemble these unique characters. Being in a robotics atmosphere, our team have found ways to split roles and learn more about our teammates. To others, being timid seems like a disadvantage to a team, but treating team members equally will have you realize that everyone has potential. Our team soon learned that Kristina is an organized person who has a pageant for drawing. Tara is a hardworking builder who doesn't give up in any situation despite the circumstances. These girls resemble the heart and soul of our diversity in Orchard hills robotics. Our team may be comprised of completely different team members with completely different characteristics, but if you start to open up to them, you will see that every girl has potential to create anything.





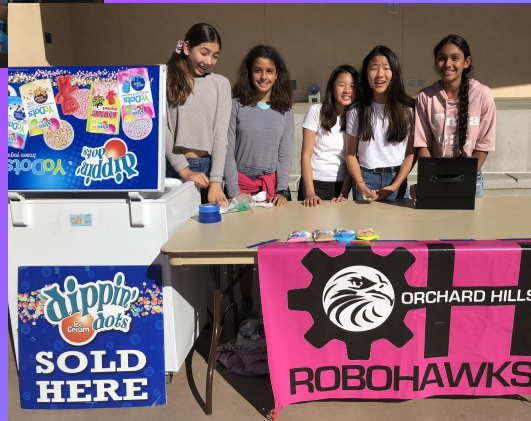
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Fundraising

This is us selling Dippin' dots as a fundraiser at lunch.



Our team wanted to help expand the #GirlPowered mission to the larger community and world. We were inspired to support other #GirlPowered programs in robotics. As a team we hosted a fundraiser selling Dippin' Dots at our school. We donated half of the money to a Girl Powered robotics team from Afghanistan and the other half to a Girl Powered team from North Carolina to help pay for their travel to the Google Signature Event. We



Changing Roles

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At the beginning of the year, most of us had limited knowledge of programming or building.

- Elina quickly taught us how to build and what the different pieces were and their functions. Thanks to her efforts, everyone can successfully build a part of the robot.
- Amisha started learning how to program by watching YouTube videos and is trying to teach the others. Amisha is working on learning to program V5 and is going to teach everyone how to later.
- Olivia is a great communicator, which helps when communicating an effective team plan with alliances in competitions.
- Kristina, Tara, and Amy organize any projects dealing with writing, showing their other teammates how to improve their entries.

Learning new roles helped us respect each other more and support each other with advice and encouragement.

7 Team Success

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At our most recent tournament our team dynamic completely changed! We have learned how to work together and persevere through any challenge. We were named tournament champions and Excellence Award winners. It can be seen ->[here](#).



Our hard work had paid off: we triple-qualified for state! We've earned the **Design Award**, **Excellence Award**, and **Tournament Champion**, becoming the first tournament champions for the Orchard Hills Robotics Program this season.

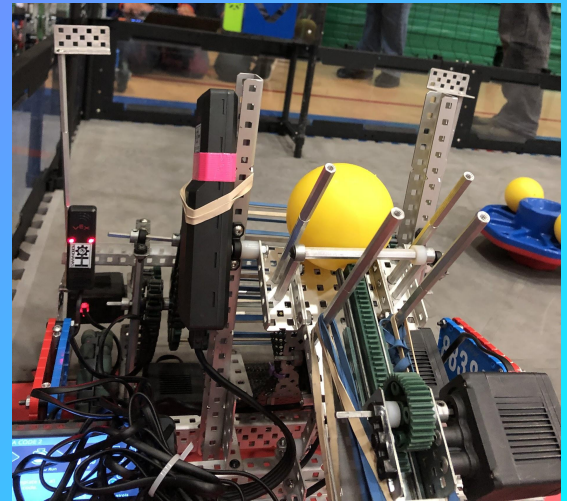


Stepping Up Our Game

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In our team, we all have different perspectives, which helps us come up with a numerous amount of diverse ideas. This gives us the chance to create a robot with all kinds of unique features. After getting V5, we decided to scrap our old robot and create a new robot, which made scoring points much easier and faster. In tournaments, we used to rank on average, around 18th place with our old robot. We barely finished our robot in time for our first tournament with V5 and our driver, Elina, barely got any practice. However, we still managed to get the Excellence Award and become the tournament champion. Elina is a very skilled driver and after some more driver practice, scrimmaging with other OH Teams, and creating some strategies, we hope to do well at the State Tournament and make it to Worlds. With our new, improved robot, previous experiences, and determination, we are stepping up our game!

We converted our whole robot to V5!



STEM Role Model

Our STEM role model is our teacher, Mrs. Lund. She has inspired as well as supported us throughout our season, providing us with helpful tips. She gives us constant encouragement and has an upbeat attitude that makes everyone feel as if they can do anything if they work hard.

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This is our wonderful mentor, Mrs. Lund!



Striving to STEM Out

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No matter how much we were put down, all of our team members had a chance to move the mountains that blocked our way to success. By picking the team up on where it was previously left off, it increased our bond and trust for each other. We became stronger than ever by using miniscule sneers at our team and turning it into our goal to prove to others that being one of the youngest girl powered teams on the VEX EDR program can prove to be an inspiration to other girls. Just because we are new, inexperienced girls doesn't mean that it could affect us negatively. We are taking baby steps every part of the way towards a goal of being one of our school's most successful girls' team, in hope of inspiring other young girls to continue a journey of STEM, and that gender doesn't matter as long as you're doing what you love.



Credits

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What you Love

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