

Powered by Technology and Teamwork

Although our team is the only completely girl powered robotics team at our school, we don't feel that this makes the other teams any better than us. In fact, we feel that we sometimes accomplish more than them and can provide help to them when they need it. Our team embraces the "Girl Powered" perspective. For us, "Girl Powered" means listening and respecting each other's contributions and ideas. It also means that we help the other teams at our school to succeed, while proving that girls can accomplish anything anyone else can and that we deserve a role in STEM and robotics.

Our team also tries to create an inclusive environment, which makes working together more fun. Our team consists of girls in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade with all levels of experience. For many of us, it's our first year in Vex IQ, however some of us have done it in the past. Even though we all have varying ages and experience levels, we listen to each other's diverse contributions. This is also



our first year as a school and as a team. We have learned to include everyone and have lots of fun while we work.

At the beginning of the year in August, we weren't sure what we wanted to do on the team, and we didn't know what the rest of the team could contribute, either. We all tried various roles on the team such as designing, building, driving, programming, strategy, awards, and more. Eventually, we all realized what we were good at. Even though we all have our jobs on the team, we help each other when they need it with other jobs. We also have a team captain who assigns us jobs when we don't know what to do, although we all contribute our own ideas.

As a team, we have learned a lot during this season. We have learned to be inclusive and to listen to and respect other's diverse contributions. As I said before, we help each other with different jobs when we need it. This helps us learn a lot by working on the skills that we don't practice all the time. Our teammates can also help us and share their knowledge, which means we are always improving. We have also learned that we are just as good as any other team. Most importantly, we have learned that we can accomplish more than we could have ever thought possible at the beginning of the season, especially when we work together.

Our team has become very passionate about what we learn and do on this team, and we want to share our passion with others, hoping to inspire them too.



This is why we organized a fun robotics event at our school. We invited girls from other schools to participate. There were girls of all ages, and many of them had never built robots before. We had different robotics kits for the different age groups to build. We helped them when they needed it, and by the end of the event, everyone had built a robot. We even talked to Dianna Cowern (aka Physics Girl) over video chat about girls in STEM. During the event, we helped everyone with the skills we had learned while working on our robot, but we also worked together to keep the event running smoothly.



Pictures from the Girl Powered event we hosted.

As I said, our team tries to create an inclusive environment. In many cases, our diversity in age and experience has given us many new and different ideas for robot design. Those of us with more experience may have ideas from previous years and those of us that are new bring new ideas that we might not have thought of before. We also have diverse perspectives. For example, some of us are always thinking about design or strategy while others are thinking about driving or programming. This meant that putting our ideas together gave us pretty useful and unique ideas for our robot design. We are all different, but we have learned to embrace our differences and create an inclusive environment that makes working together enjoyable. Also, we wouldn't be doing this if we weren't having fun. We have lots of fun on this team. We all enjoy working together and we have learned how to have fun while working, which makes us more successful. We have taught

each other so much and learned that we can do so much more than we thought we could.



Our STEM role model is our coach, Mrs. Anna Egbert. At the beginning of the year, we didn't know each other and we didn't know what we would contribute to the team. Mrs. Egbert helped us become a team that works together and shares ideas to improve our designs and strategies. She also inspired us to have a more inclusive team, which made working together more fun. She makes sure that we all listen to and respect each other's ideas and that everyone has a chance to participate and be heard. Mrs. Egbert has helped us to become a better team and we wouldn't be where we are without her.

On this team, we have learned to work together to improve our designs and our strategies. While being on this team, we've learned how to cooperate, work together, and listen to everyone's ideas. We've also become closer friends and made this team more inclusive. Finally, we've learned to think about problems in new ways, so that we can find a solution. This helps us while we are programming or building on our team, but it will also help us later in school and careers.