



THE COOL CUCUMBERS FROM TMA

TEAM 30636E

Be Cool and Kind

Be a Go Getter

Be Strong and Brave

Be Unique and Original

Be Amazing

Be You and Who You Want to Be

BACKGROUND:

We are team 30636E, The Cool Cucumbers from TMA, and we want to tell you a bit about our all Girl Powered team. First we were just a team of three. It was hard to fulfill all of the roles so we added two new members. As a team of five, we worked together to build a better robot and to be more successful in different areas and get more done. Our name reflects our team personality. We all work well together when we remain calm and cool under pressure.

Our inspirations are our *amazing* coaches, Debbie Mulligan and Devra Staller. They're always positive and give us a lot of support. They have encouraged and helped us every step of the way. When we had trouble, Mrs. Mulligan and Mrs. Staller were always happy to give us advice. They are very strong women, who are kind, helpful, patient, and very funny. Even with

their busy schedules, they always make time for us and inspire us to do our best. We really want to make them proud. Without them, we wouldn't even have a team!



Coach Mulligan and Coach Staller

Through our coaches, tournaments, school practices and each other, we've developed a sense of what it means to be a Girl Powered team. For us, it means that women can be just as amazing and strong as men. It shows how girls can also take the lead. We admire strong women, like Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks because they stood up for what is right.

Girl Power isn't just about physical power, it's about the power you have inside of you! It's about being brave, kind, caring, strong and many other qualities that really make you, *YOU*. Robotics has brought five girls together into one strong team, a Girl Powered team! We all have our hardships, but we know that even if we don't make it to Worlds, Robotics will still be there for us. More importantly, our *team* will *always* be with us.

Being an all-girl team has been an amazing experience. We have all taken turns designing, redesigning, building, rebuilding, coding and recoding. We had to remind ourselves to slow down and carefully do our notebooking. We have our strong preferences in our robotics roles, but have learned all the different aspects of robotics and had so much fun doing it. We have learned so much and formed our team motto from our robotics experiences.

OUR TEAM MOTTO IS TO:

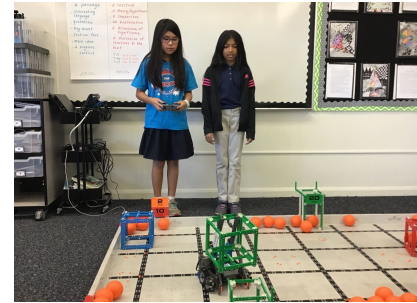
Be Cool and Kind!



Hello! I'm Aleena Thomas. Our team has learned to be cool and kind. This character trait is especially important when we go to competitions. We have to be cool because things might go wrong. Panicking won't help us. We have to deal with whatever's happening.

In our second competition, things went wrong almost immediately. When we drove, our lift broke. The metal axle became loose, so the gears couldn't mesh. We didn't stress out. The match was still going, so we had to fix it quickly. We ended up only scoring 20 points. Robotics can be very stressful! Things don't work, parts become detached, codes don't work. We've learned to just take a deep breath, fix the problem, and most importantly, to stay cool!

Being kind is also an important trait to have during competitions. You have to be kind to your teammates, your coaches, and especially your alliances. Sometimes dealing with your alliances can be tricky. In one competition, our alliance wasn't very cooperative. We really needed to drive, but our alliance was busy. We asked them if we could practice, but they kept saying 'wait'. Soon, it was time for our match. Although they kept refusing our requests to practice, we were still kind to them. This is important because if we had gotten mad, then we would be bad sports and would have wasted everyone's time. Staying cool and kind is important in Robotics—and in life.



Be a Go Getter!

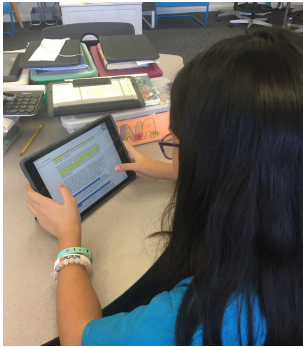
Hi! I'm Cheryll. I've learned that we should do extra work and always try our best. We have to be passionate about what we do and seize opportunities that can make us better. When we added new team members, we took a risk and redid our entire robot's lift to pick up cubes. It was worth it because it made our robot stronger and better. We began to enjoy taking risks and we have grown so much. The way we learned to be go getters was when we found out about the Girl Powered challenge. The Girl Powered Challenge wasn't a requirement, but we worked very hard on this for a chance of going to Worlds!



Be Strong and Brave!

Hi! This is Celia and Aleena, and we have learned to be strong and brave. It's an important quality to have, especially on an all-girls robotics team. People judge us because we are girls and they don't think girls can be successful in robotics. This motivates us to prove to them that we can do anything. We need to be strong and brave—to keep going, and to not give up.

Be Unique and Original!



Hello, I'm Nha-Y and robotics has taught us to be unique and original. We always try to use our own ideas when building a robot. If you copy someone else's work, it's plagiarism, and that's not right! That's why all of our projects are unique and original. We try to do the right thing!

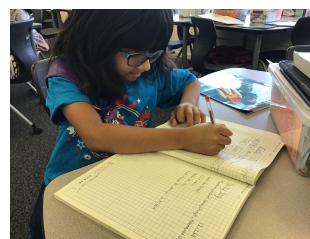
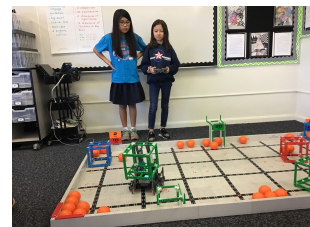
The other definition of being unique and original is being special. Robotics gives us a place for our team to shine. From awards, to our robot, to just simply being calm, we are an amazing team of five girls, who are not afraid to stand out in robotics, as well as in life.

Be Amazing !

Hi! This is Sana and Nha-Y. We have always tried to be the best that we can be and show Girl Power, while building our robot and in notebooking. Our team has always strived to be amazing! Being amazing isn't about being super smart or strong, It's about having inner strength. It's about being strong-willed, encouraging, and having a big heart. When our robot broke as we were taking photos, we got frustrated, but we were kind to each other, and it turned out well. We always try to be cool in the toughest situations. Being amazing means being a good person. For our team, we want to be amazing teammates.

Be You and Who You Want to Be!

Hi, I'm Sana, and I have learned a lot about being who you want to be. If you want to dedicate yourself to robotics, go ahead. If you want to do robotics, but not dedicate yourself, that's okay too. And if you want to do only a little robotics, there's nothing wrong with that. In the beginning of the season, I was getting overwhelmed, so I went at a slower pace. I wanted to be me and experience robotics in a way that made sense to me. I'm really glad I did this because I gained confidence. My amazing team mates have encouraged me to be who I am and they are so supportive.



CONCLUSION:

We'd like to thank Google and VEX for this amazing challenge, and for giving us an opportunity to really show who we are, and what girl power means to us. As a team, we always want to show our Girl Power. Each of our five members always tries to be the best robotics teammates we could be. From our inspirations, to our motto, to our growth mindset, Girl Power has led us through this Robotics process, step by step. We've tried and failed and have gotten the courage to start again. We've grown so much this year and realize that there is so much more to

robotics than winning. Our strong Girl Powered team always looks on the bright side, and we try to be the leaders that we admire. Through all of our ups and downs, robotics has helped us to see the Girl Power we have inside. Our team motto has helped us to be the strong girl powered team that we are. Clearly, our experience with robotics had helped us to let the Girl Power in us shine. Thank you for taking the time to read about our journey as a girl powered team.

THE COOL CUCUMBERS FROM TMA TEAM 30636E

**Sana Malik
Celia Van Auken
Nha-Y Le
Aleena Thomas
Cheryll Prabakaran**

