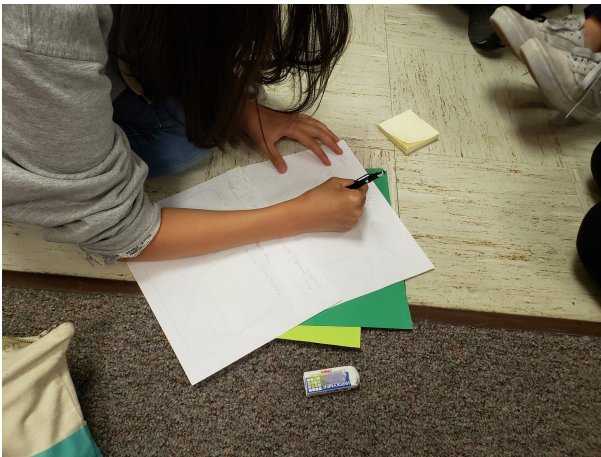


## Artemis (55885Y)

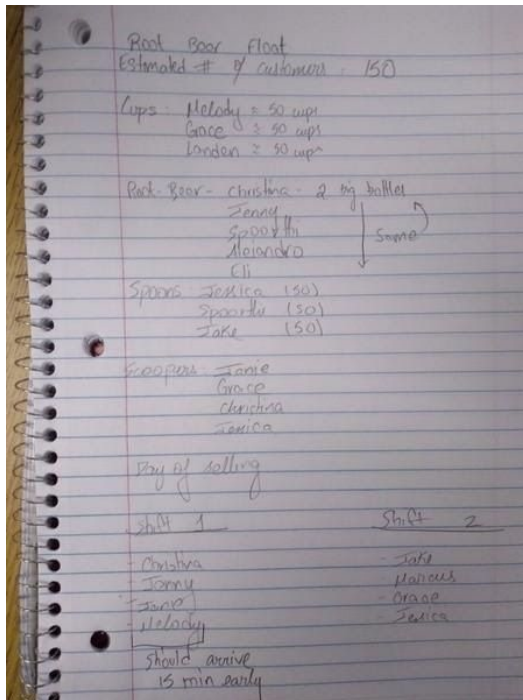
Artemis is the powerful Greek goddess that we named our team after. The goddess has a powerful group of female hunters that inspired our name. Her hunters have a very strong dedication to their work and have unbreakable bonds with each other. I believe that our team creates the closest thing to Artemis's hunters. When I hear the phrase "Girl Powered", the first thing that comes to mind is empowerment towards people who are underrepresented in the STEM field. This may sound odd, but I truly believe that being "Girl Powered" does not solely refer to gender. The phrase is used in our team to show a group of females and males who have a passion for robotics. Currently, we have a large team that has an equal amount of females and males. Our team's approach to this phrase is to allow all members of the team to play a role in the creation of the robot.



### **The Team Gathers In A Circle to Talk About Strategies**

Our team was able to attract a diverse group of students from the club fair that the school holds at the beginning of each year. Our fundraising efforts to receive a sustainable budget for our team allowed us to show our peers an inclusive and diverse group of people. We originally

started as an FTC robotics team, but our inability to gain sufficient funds led us to create a mostly female VEX team when we saw the REC foundation “Girl Powered” grant. The REC “Girl Powered” grant gave us the ability to build and program a robot, this was an opportunity that was not available to us before we received the grant. Before our switch to VEX, we gained exposure for our new team with the fundraising opportunity in our school. Despite Albuquerque being renown in the STEM industry, there is a shocking lack of engineering opportunities at the high school level and even more so for females. This year, La Cueva High School started a competitive robotics team to create these opportunities for all of the students at our school who wanted a chance to engage in engineering activities.



### Our Fundraiser Before Switching To VEX

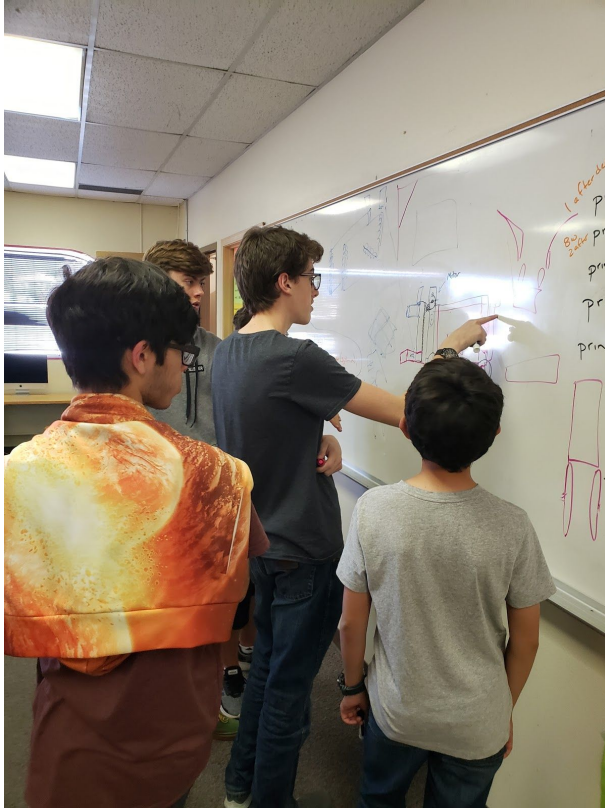
We started the creation of our team with a question for every member on what aspect of the engineering process they wanted to be part of. Every member was given a description of each

job before roles were chosen. Together as a team, we were able to create an idea of all of the strategies we would see at competitions. I started in the team as a contributor to the engineering journal. I was able to use my building experience from my previous exploits in middle school with VEX to contribute to the build of the robot. My team started with building the clawbot from the manual that was given in the kit, which was able to help many of the team members become acquainted with VEX. Most of the members from the team were introduced through the computer science class, leading them to choose their main roles as programmers. Everyone was given a chance to experience each aspect of creating a robot. As we went through this process of choosing our roles, I learned the importance of teamwork. Every member was also allowed to bring their ideas into the design process. I was able to see my team members bounce off of each of their ideas until they reached a conclusion. I realized that if they were not able to work together, their ideas would not be able to reach a higher form. This drives me to ask for an opinion of all of my ideas that I plan to implement.



### **I Ask For Advice on Placement of the Brain**

When it comes to robot design, a variety of opinions results in a better design. Usually, a new opinion can help the designer know what to improve on and how to make the design more complex/simple. This helps our team chemistry because we do not see a difference in opinion as an insult, instead we see that their difference in opinion as a way to improve. The difference in perspectives increases the chances of success. A different perspective often helps someone realize something that they missed. While I was working on the robot, I was able to receive perspectives on my solutions to problems, giving me the ability to find better solutions and/or simpler ones.



### **Marcus and Edward Discuss a Possible Design**

My STEM role model is my middle school robotics team advisor/coach, Mrs. Olivas. It has been a few years since I have seen her, but the countless hours I spent in her classroom working on robots for competitions are very dear to me. She is my STEM role model because she introduced me to VEX and robotics in general. One of the most impressive things that I found about her was that even though she already had a degree, she continued her education while finding time to teach and advise students. She inspires me to create a more inclusive program because of her incredible work ethic and her encouragement to create a female team in middle school. Thanks to her introduction to robotics I was able to see how there were fewer

females than males in at competitions and that there were many underrepresented people in robotics. I believe that in its current form, our team finally represents the underrepresented.