

# USING MY VOICE

## GIRL POWERED: TEAM 5081F



BLUE KNIGHTS

TEAM: 5081F

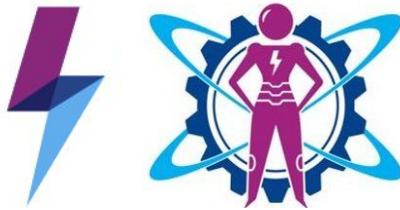
BY: ANNABELLE ACEVEDO

When I hear the phrase girl power, I think of all the sacrifices I have made and all the sacrifices other girls have made to get where we are today in society. Brittany Wenger, Marie Curie, and Katherine Johnson are all great examples of girls who have made extreme sacrifices for the advancement of science. The phrase girl power motivates me to always do my best and to push myself far beyond my limits. It reminds me that not long ago, women were discriminated against for voicing their opinions and being in careers that are male dominant. Girl power shows that girls can work just as effectively as boys if not better. It raises awareness for all the women who are being undermined and underestimated in the engineering/robotics field. But most importantly, it advocates for young girls to be included in STEM and do what they are most passionate about.

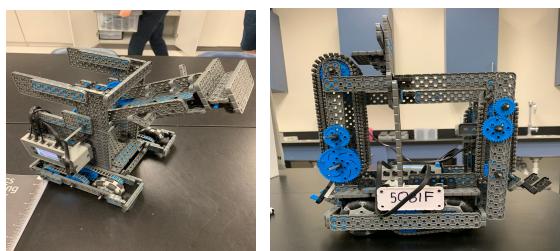


Our robotics team is always searching for new opportunities to raise awareness for girl power. Our team was given the opportunity to go on our school's morning announcements and share our robotics experience to our peers. During our interview we were asked questions about how we were trying to include more girls in our program. We answered this by saying how we print out posters advocating for girl power and post them around our school. We also have robotics as an elective class that is open for all boys and girls to join. After the interview several students asked us where they could join the club and how they could get started. Most of these students were girls who were trying to make an impact in our community and are trying to normalize the fact that girls can excel in robotics.

In order for our team to be as effective and efficient as possible we had designated jobs that would reflect on our talents. We had these jobs to be more organized but soon found that they were not the right ones for us. For example, I started with driving, building, and designing but decided that I wanted to focus more on designing (notebook) and programming. When I made the decision to switch roles it inspired me to work harder and because the roles reflected our talents, we were able to trust each other more. This was one of the huge turning points for our team. Without competitive robotics, I would've never known that I have such a strong passion for designing and I'm very grateful for it.



One of the main reasons why we work so well together as a team is because we have a variety of perspectives when it comes to building our robot and doing online challenges. Although we are doing everything through zoom, we are still brainstorming ideas for the base, lift, and even strategies. We all input ideas and work together to see which one will work most efficiently, but also be feasible. An example of this would be when we were building our lifting mechanism last year. I saw the robot from a different angle and thought that an elevator lift would work best. We debated together as a group and discovered that it would be much more efficient than a claw. By having this sort of democracy we were able to become close friends and trust each other's instincts and ideas. This is another reason why we work so well together. After making the switch we went from scoring 50 points to 100 points in skills. Without the variety of perspectives we wouldn't have had such great chemistry or design such a highly skilled and efficient robot.



My STEM role model is Brittany Wenger. She is my role model because she has proven that age, gender, sexualty, etc. does not determine your ability to be successful and make a difference in your community. When Brittany Wenger was just 17 years old she programmed and designed a computer application that detects the early stages of breast cancer. She is a perfect example of how you can achieve anything through hard work. She not only inspires me but the other boys on my team. She has shown all of us to never judge others and to always be inclusive.

Wengeris currently studying biology and has spoken at over many TED conferences that advocate for women in STEM.



# Citations in APA

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