8838B: Girl Powered Initiative: The Importance and Necessity of Female Empowerment

# **Meet The Team:**

**Shining Chen** 



Evana Thomson



Vedant Dayal







#### Rhyan Shah

**Derrick Chen** 



#### **Evana Thomson**

- → I am in eighth-grade and I am part of the 8838B Century Robohawks Orchard Hills Middle School Team as the lead programmer.
- → I have participated in the TUSD VEX robotics program for 4 years, I have taken part in VEX V5 program for 2 years, this is my second year.
- → I started robotics in 4th-grade because I was interested in programming, now robotics has chipped away my career path in AI and as an advocate for women in the STEM community.
- → Some hobbies I do outside of school are badminton, volleyball, and violin.



#### **Shining Chen**

- → I am a 7th grader at Orchard Hills.
- → I have been in VEX IQ for 3 years in total.
- → Robotics is one of my hobbies. I like coding and building robots, I even got a robot kit for my birthday. The reason why I like Robotics is because I can interact with people that have the same passion as me.
- → The skills that I learn in Robotics can be used all the time.
- → The role I think I would have is the notebook manager and builder because I enjoy recording and tinkering.
- → My other hobbies are cooking/baking, reading, and doing art. I can't wait to work with people that share the same passion as me!



# **Girl Powered?**

Girl Powered can be described in one word-Equality. Many people in this world thought that only boys can be interested in robotics, engineering, and science, and they should be the one working in that specific field. But, we think that if anything at all, girls can be working in the same field or expertise as boys. If a girl wants to program, let her do it. If a girls wants to create something, let her do it. If a girl wants to build a robot, let her edge her way into it. This is a key component on how our whole team approaches things in robotics. When we have many things to do, the boys don't do everything, and the girls just crowd in one area socializing. Our team distributes the work evenly, so everyone can be involved in robotics, and have fun! Remember, a girl is capable of doing anything a boy can do, and maybe even better.



# How did we create an environment that entices girls?

This year, we have not gotten a chance to "create a suitable environment for all interested girls who wanted to be apart of robotics." But last year, On October 24th, 2019, our school, Orchard Hills, decided to have a girl powered event. We had all the girls of 8838 teach 70-75 elementary girls why they are remarkable, how to make robot slime, and how to drive a VEX chassis bot. The girls went home with many different prizes-including a robot, knowledge of how to drive a chassis bot, and why they should join robotics.

# **The Power of Diversity**

Diversity is a crucial aspect to our society that needs to be better respected. It's not just the art of equality, but the bettering of our economy and society as a whole. We can simply see the how much this society relies on everyone, regardless or gender and race. There are millions of woman from all around the world who changed the world due to their mind. For example, Marie Curie, renowned scientist, who revolutionized the radioactivity field. Maria Telkes created the first thermoelectric power generator! Girl Powered indeed! Grace Hopper created Harvard Mark I computer, a five-ton, room-sized machine in 1944 with the help of Howard Aiken. These women were from different parts of the world, and yet they were able to invent groundbreaking inventions which connected them in one word-diverse.

### Ayanna Howard

Ayanna is an African-American roboticist who works as an educator, innovator, and researcher. She focuses on the study of technology, in which she has made many contributions to. She also works in the engineering field. She is a great role model for this team, and we all look up to her. Ayanna Howard is one of the few African-American engineers and roboticist, and inspires us to do our best just as she did in her career! Ayanna Howard wanted to create a change in human life, so she took part in building artificial body parts for the disabled. This caught many people's attention because it was different. Our team approaches robotics in a different way than other teams. We are on the same page, we encourage each other, and have fun.

#### Credits

Entrants - Shining Chen and Evana Thomson

Team Number and Name - 8838B Century

Title - 8838B: Girl Powered Initiative: The Importance and Necessity of Female Empowerment