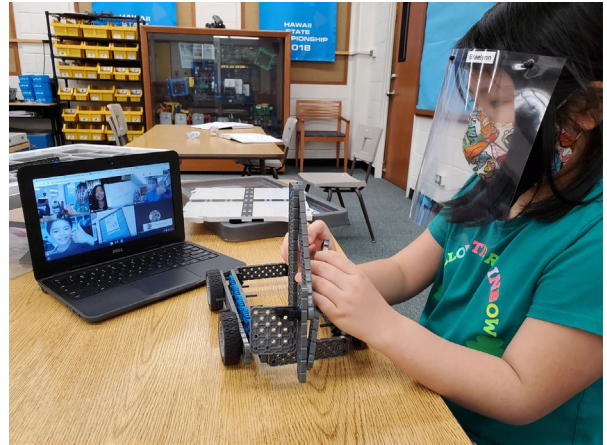


## Girl Mentor Inspires

We are an inclusive diverse gender team. When we hear the phrase “Girl Powered” we think it means to give equality and give power to girls and boys. We will try to make girls and boys try their best and encourage everyone by letting them try to do the job they want to do. Our team is made up of two boys and three girls. Girl powered means that girls are equal to boys. Everyone should have a chance to try to build, program, or drive. We would encourage everyone to try and take on harder roles like programming, building, or driving. Even though boys usually do these jobs, it doesn't mean the girls cannot. Girls have the same capabilities and potential. They might even perform somethings better than boys. That's why everyone should have a chance to try harder roles, and if they are trying, others should encourage them.



Distant team members help Brealynn build a lift.



Paige is helping out the new teammates by encouraging them.

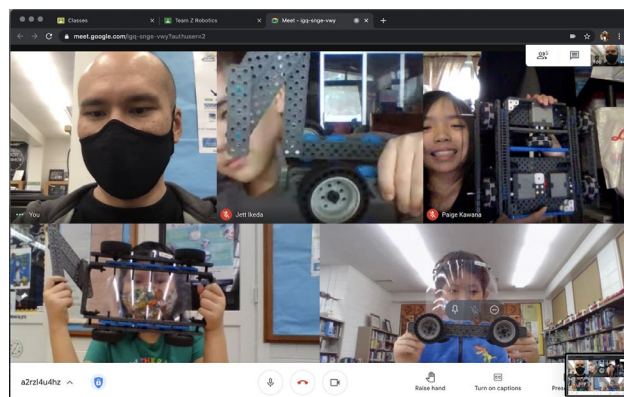
One member on our team is a fifth grader named Paige. She is an experienced team member that has been doing robotics for over a year. The rest of us are four fourth graders and are new to robotics this year. Paige says, “Since they are new I try to help them. I explained to them about the roles on the team. A couple of roles I had last year was being the first driver and builder. During the beginning of last year, I also learned how to program a little bit. My robotics teacher, Mr. Leong, let us all practice programming to see if we wanted to program or not. I chose to be a driver instead though. I learned how to

program a virtual object but not a real one.” Having Paige as a mentor on our team is helpful because she is supportive, and can help us if we struggle to do our job. Paige also said, “One skill that I gained from being a mentor is being able to speak better without stuttering as much. Another skill I learned was to be more supportive to my teammates.” Having a girl mentor has shown an example of girl power.

Our team is trying to make a more inclusive environment for everyone. We can work together when brainstorming by including everyone's opinions. When we start building we want to consider listening to everyone's ideas and design explanations. We encourage every team member to try any role they want to do. Driving is often done by boys, but we want to encourage more girls to try it too. For example, if one of the girls on our team is scared to drive, everyone can try to encourage her by sharing tips and tricks. Another way our team can be more inclusive is by giving more opportunities for everyone to try different roles or speak their mind. For example, we could offer a chance to a shy team member to share their opinion.

One thing that can change the ability to succeed is team chemistry. The chemistry can be different depending on how students act around each other. Girls and boys might get along differently than as if it was just girls or just boys. For example, the boys might not listen to what the girls' opinions are, but only pay attention to the other boys' opinions. Girls might act differently around boys too; they might not feel as comfortable depending on how they were treated before. This is something that can affect team chemistry. Having both boys and girls on our robotics team is a good thing, it brings a diversity. Some girls might want to show the boys that they have the same abilities. That might encourage girls to try roles in robotics that are more often done by boys. We feel like it would be different if we had no boys on our team. Having boys on our team encourages the girls to try harder. The boys on our team try to be inclusive. We feel that our team's chemistry is off to a good start.

Having a fellow student help us instead of an adult is a different experience. An adult can explain more details and answer more questions because they have more knowledge about robotics. However, having Paige as a mentor is also a little more comfortable for us. Sometimes there are questions that we would be easier to ask a fellow student. The majority of the time we learn from adults in all of our classes so it is good to have a change of who we learn from. Our team is lucky to have a student mentor. Having a girl mentor on our team inspires the girls to have more confidence to try something that we would normally be afraid of doing.



Our team is sharing our proudest achievements so far.  
Look at our drives!

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Reshma Saujani is our team's role model because she changed the world for girls by creating the non-profit organization called Girls Who Code. She was running for congress in her state of New York. During her campaign trail she visited many schools. She noticed a gender gap in STEM related classes like computing and robotics. There were a lot more boys than girls in the classes. She wanted to change that!



Girls who code logo.

In 2012, she founded the organization called Girls Who Code, because she wanted to empower girls to try STEM. She helped girls in learning how to code. Even though she made a difference there is still a gender gap in STEM classes and robotics. Reshma Saujani inspires our team because we also want to have more girls have STEM careers in the future.



Reshma Saujani,  
our STEM role model.

## Credits Section

Title: Girl Mentor Inspires

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