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Mr. Silvestri

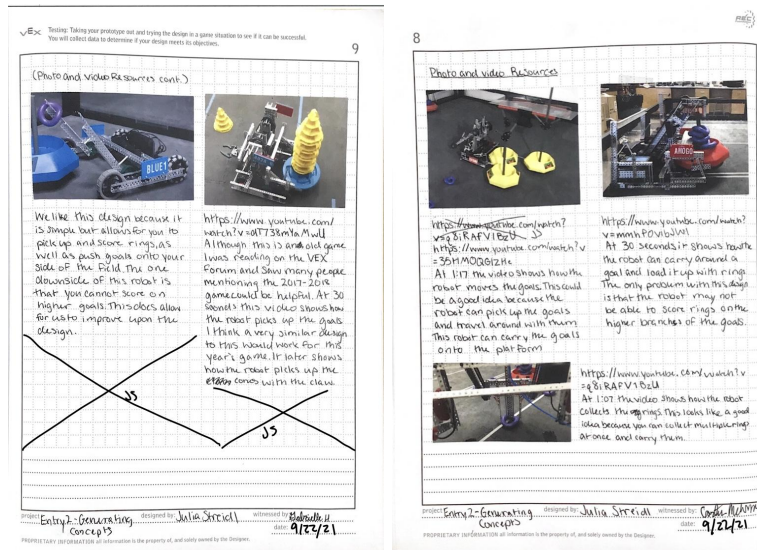
Robotics

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### Girl Power

The first African American woman astronaut, Mae Jemison, said, "Don't let anyone rob you of your imagination, your creativity, or your curiosity. It's your place in the world; it's your life. Go on and do all you can with it, and make it the life you want to live." I believe that anyone should take on whatever project, career, or class they want. Women are not represented enough in the STEM field, and many women have done amazing things for this field. I have taken a STEM-related class every year since the seventh grade. I have taken on the leader role in my robotics group, and I believe that all girls should be given a chance to be STEM leaders.

Girl Powered means that girls in the STEM field are taking part in classes typically seen as male-only classes. Men have always dominated careers, but recently many women have been taking on these careers, showing all of the fantastic work they can do. One other teammate, Gabby, is a girl in my robotics team, and I think we provide the group with just as many skills or more as the men do. In our group, we all took on roles but try out other roles every once in a while. I provided this group with all of my past knowledge from the other STEM classes I took. I also know the most about coding, so I do most of the coding for our group. I still have a lot to learn about coding, but I know my team can help with their experience. Gabby and I took on the engineering notebook since we both have experience documenting our journey. I have always enjoyed completing my group's engineering notebook.



I also help our group build the robot when the notebook is updated. I think all girls should try out every role in a robotics group because they may like a role they have never tried before.

I got used to working with new people during my freshman year of high school. I was very nervous when I walked into my first STEM class because there was only one other girl in the class. She was many grades above me, so I decided to get in a group with boys from my grade. At first, they seemed skeptical of my skills, but after working with them more, they accepted me and treated me the same as the other students in the class. This year I am in a group with some new people and people I have worked with before. The new people were again hesitant, but the ones I worked with assured them that I would help our group. I can decide what I want to do each day in this group. I can try new things in this group. Sometimes I do our notebook, build the robot or do little things that help the group. I have done this in all of my engineering classes, and it has taught me a lot. In Robotics, each group member was required to design a robot that we might build. We all got to talk about our ideas and combined them to develop our final robot. I learned to code last year in Principles of Engineering, and I learned how to build and document work in all of my classes. This has taught me that I should try new

things even if I have no experience with the role. I can find skills that I excel at and skills that I need a better understanding of.

Having diversity in our group helps our team excel much more than a group that lacks diversity. We all come with different levels of experience. We teach each other new things that the other members may not know yet, and we also learn new things as a group. When running into problems with our robot, the difference in experience helps because we quickly figure out an idea that may fix the problem. If the problem is not solved, we try again and not judge other people's opinions. Having many different perspectives helps our team succeed because someone might see the robot one way, and the other see it a completely different way. This helps us think of multiple solutions that will fix a problem that may have arisen. Diversity of perspective is essential in a group because it provides new ideas.

My STEM role model is a woman on TikTok who goes by Engineer Leen. She is my role model because she stands up for her ideas no matter what others say. She also continues to do what she loves, even with all the negative comments on TikTok. She creates videos that empower girls to continue their studies in STEM even if people tell them not to. Engineer Leen immensely inspires me to have a more inclusive team. She works with new people all the time, just like I do in my classes, and she does not give up on her ideas even if someone puts her down. She shows her skills and talents without becoming too overbearing in her team.

Taking STEM classes has taught me many skills not only relating to STEM skills. It has taught me how to work with others, talk about my ideas, consider others' ideas, and be confident in my work. It is extremely important for girls to feel comfortable in these classes and feel like they can participate in any role they would like to try. Girl power is vital in STEM classes so that every girl feels they can take whatever classes they are interested in.