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Team

Girl Powered Online Challenge

Girls. Humans. Robotics. A person's ability to succeed in a certain field should not be limited by their gender. Being a woman in a male-dominated field isn't a disadvantage. Instead it is an opportunity to prove the disbelievers wrong. Girl power means to take pride in being a girl in a non-gender-neutral field and continue to persist and pursue one's passion. With 126 students, twenty five percent of whom are girls, the robotics club at MTHS inspires young ladies to join this field and continues to encourage the participation of all members. Within this club, a team leader, teacher, and shadowing member serve as role models for the girls and share positive experiences. When it comes to the club's members, the level of participation is incredible. The members of the MTHS robotics club embody girl power.

At our school, we want to build a more diverse and inclusive environment. The Monroe Township High School Robotics Team supports diversity and strives to achieve success for all of its members. Regardless of gender, we want all of our members to achieve and bypass their goals. We take the initiative to create an inclusive environment that draws a diverse range of students to our club by participating in challenges like this one and inviting everyone to join by posting flyers about our club across the school. Our members are also encouraged to invite their friends to join. Our school also promotes diversity through clubs such as the Multicultural Club and the popular Girl Up Club. At the Monroe Township High School, we empower everyone to

pursue their interests and their passions. We promote diversity and do not discriminate against gender.

Multiple parts of the robotics club specifically are influenced by girls, including robot design, seating, and other presentations or handouts. We don't genderize robots or make gender-specific comments when building them. We also employ a wide range of colors that appeal to people of all genders. In the space, there is no distinction between boys and girls. Instead, students are permitted to sit anywhere they choose and collaborate with one another. Seating changes frequently, and girls are not assigned to a set area. Within the environment, everyone is treated equally and no one is discouraged. Finally, all handouts are the same color and are not targeted at anyone in particular. When the head of education and team leaders speak to the class, they speak to everyone, not just the girls or boys. Our club administrator, an engineering teacher at MTHS, is working to ensure that the environment is not sexist.

Ms. Gaurishanker, an engineering teacher and Robotics and TSA club supervisor, is our STEM role model. Ms. Gaurishanker, who has been teaching for seven years, works to provide a comfortable environment for all students and share her expertise in the engineering subject. She takes the initiative to talk about women in stem and raise awareness about the subject, as well as encourage students to participate in fun challenges. In the near future she hopes to have guest speakers from various areas of STEM to share their experiences and give an insight to what the future holds for them. We actually know her in person and can speak to her constant encouragement to pursue our aspirations and achieve amazing things. Ms. Gaurishanker shares positive

experiences educating young women by saying, “Robotics is the current and future of this generation. Being a part of this experience for students at the highschool level is a fantastic exposure. I have seen student’s enjoy the process of learning various aspects of robotics and make it a part of their positive approach to growing up. It is a great opportunity to include hands-on learning and being creative to come up with solutions of their own problems or scenarios presented to solve.” Ms. Gaurishanker is an inspiration and someone who works to create a productive workplace.

In conclusion, MTHS is a school that aims to provide an inclusive environment that pulls in a large range of students. We value diversity and make sure to promote it throughout our school. At Monroe Township High School we maintain equality and do not discriminate against gender. The Robotics Club at MTHS aspires to empower every club member and assist them to succeed by enabling them to pursue their passions. Everyone is treated the same and given the same opportunities. The Robotics Club inspires us to try new things and coming to each meeting is always exciting. Our Robotics Club empowers girls by presenting us with the opportunity to grow and follow our interests.