



VIQC Middle School - Girl Powered
Online Challenge Sponsored by Google
“Girl Powered”

Team members: Matthew, Nusaybah(Writer of this challenge), and Nicolas.

Team number: 5081E

Location of team: Pembroke Pines charter school West Middle Campus
Pembroke Pines, Florida.

Title page picture from: <https://pixabay.com/illustrations/girl-power-energy-superhero-gym-5654220/>

It was September the 14, my second day at school(I had just transferred schools). It was fifth period, the last class of the day, woohoo! I walked into the classroom, and I immediately noticed that there weren't many girls in the classroom. To be completely honest, I think I could count the number of girls using only one hand! I introduced myself to the teacher, and was instructed to sit wherever I could find a space. I ended up sitting at a table with two boys, who became my team members. At first our team was having major dilemmas, and I mean major! To sum it up, for two months, all we had was the base for the robot. After many restarts, and many failed attempts, I can now proudly say we're in a position with our robot where we have everything planned out and our plans are being productive. A few months ago we were assigned this project I am working on right now, and one of the questions was "When you hear the phrase "Girl Powered," what comes to mind?" As I was contemplating the answer to this question, I came across an answer. When I hear the phrase "Girl Powered," I think of an operation that is powered by the forces of strong and independent females! The way this is reflected in our team's approach to robotics is that we all have put hard work into our robotics, and we never discriminate against gender, race, or anything like that. We let everyone whether female, male, non-binary, have the same opportunities to contribute to the team, take charge, and become the force behind the scenes! As a team, we find it crucial to create a safe and inclusive environment for every individual. We do this by displaying with our actions, that our team does not discriminate on factors such as but not limited to, race and gender. Additionally, we always try to keep a friendly environment, we may joke around now and then, but if we find out that someone has been hurt by anything we have said or done, we find it imperative to apologize to that person immediately. Furthermore, we always have each other's backs and are not afraid to show it. By doing this, individuals can feel safe and wanted. In summary, our team always tries to make sure that our team is surrounded by a safe, friendly, and inclusive environment at all times.

Picture



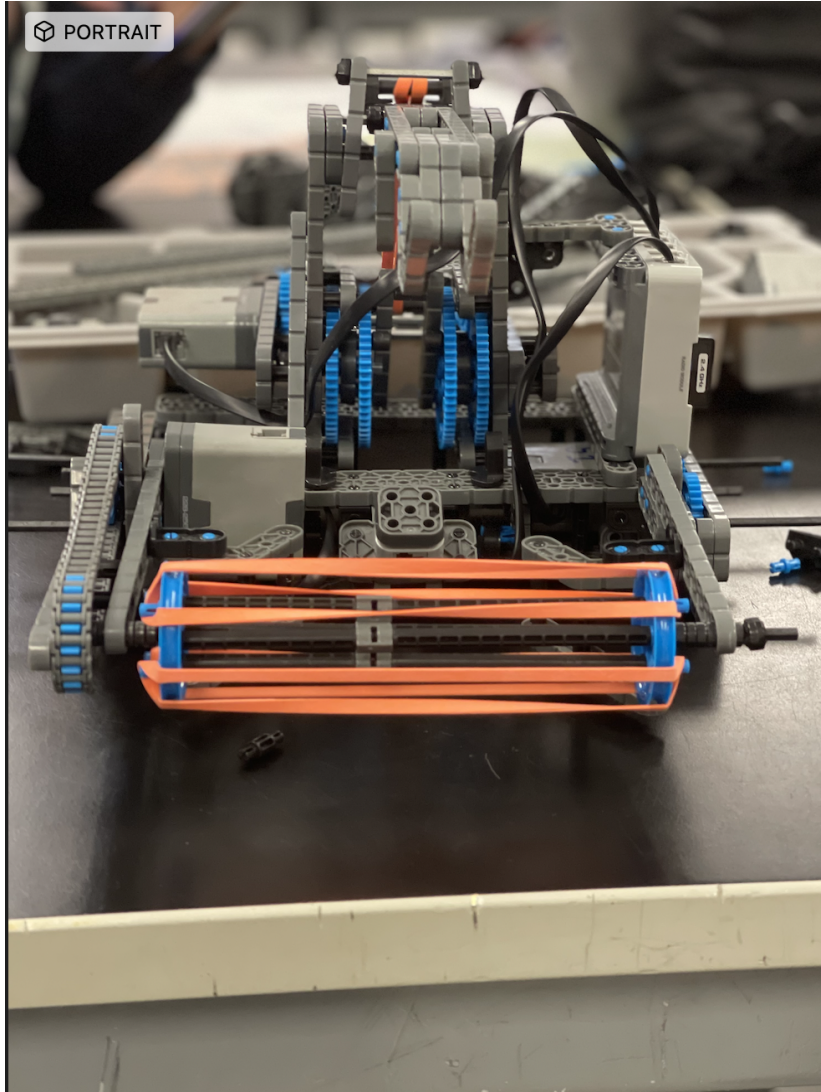
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<https://pixabay.com/illustrations/group-therapy-counseling-health-2351896/>

As mentioned before, our team likes to have everyone feel engaged and contribute to the team. However, our roles in our team aren't always the same. Our team does not have an official leader, the "leader" changes with every obstacle we have to accomplish. Team members take charge in projects they want to take under their wing. For example, the projects of online challenges and building our particular model for our robot, are projects that I have taken charge of. By doing this, our team members all get a chance to develop a sense of leadership and determination. There are other roles that various members get to try taking on such as the roles of building, researching, designing, and piece grabber (our materials person who acts as our right hand person when building). By taking on these roles, members gain experience and develop/learn skills needed for these roles. For example, by taking on the builder role, members develop the skill of precision. Our team consists of 3 members from three diverse backgrounds, each with different perspectives and backstories, that shape our team by having different opinions and point of views on matters to find solutions. Our team's chemistry is also affected because in order to have chemistry, you must work well together. Our team has three very different

people you think wouldn't work well together, but they surprisingly do. Our team listens to each other and knows when to step in or step out on matters. We also all have a mutual respect for one another and all in all, are just good friends. Our perspectives on how to treat people and hard situations match even though we all have had different lives, and that is why we work so well together. As a matter of fact, even our ability to succeed is affected by our diverse perspectives because our backgrounds in a way, shape the person we are today and every one of our teammates have something in them that makes them valuable. For example Nicolas is our cheerleader, he always helps out however he can, is optimistic, and always knows how to lift your mood. Without Nicolas, our team would have had a much harder time dealing with hardships. Matthew is analytical and helps out with research for the team, he gives us ideas on how we can go about things, and will never give up on a project. He is also second in command for building. If Matthew wasn't here, I think our team wouldn't have come as far as we have. I like to think of myself as a hard-worker with determination, who perseveres through hard situations and helps the team get back on track. I also like to take charge and try to make sure everybody remains comfortable.

Doing these actions help us prepare for victory by letting all of us know that we've got each other's backs, our different personalities help us form our robot, thus, we are creating an environment of success both in the team, and in matters relating to our robot.



A screenshot of a photo previously taken of our robot named Princess Bubba
Tilisha Montesquieu Jalila Monarchy the 4rth!

Since we're talking about a subject in S.T.E.M., I figured it is now time to
introduce one of my S.T.E.M. role models, Katherine Johnson. I learned about Ms.
Johnson in the movie "Hidden Figures" directed by Theordore Melfi. The reason as to

why she is one of my role models is because she was the only African American Female in the department she worked in, where she was treated differently, yet she didn't let that disrupt her work. She still proved that she indeed deserved to be in her place of work and that she was extraordinary with it too! She inspires me to have a more inclusive team because she showed me that everyone deserves the same opportunity to prove themselves, and once you give them that opportunity, they may surprise you! Well, this concludes my story about my life in my middle school robotics class. I must say, this class has led me to quite a journey. I strongly believe that it will shape me into a better person because through this class, I have learned how to deal with difficult situations, something I am bound to face in life. Along with other skills such as brainstorming, working out problems, and making new friends. Thank you for your time and for going through this journey with me!



Picture of Ms. Katherine Johnson from:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Katherine_Johnson_medal.jpeg