



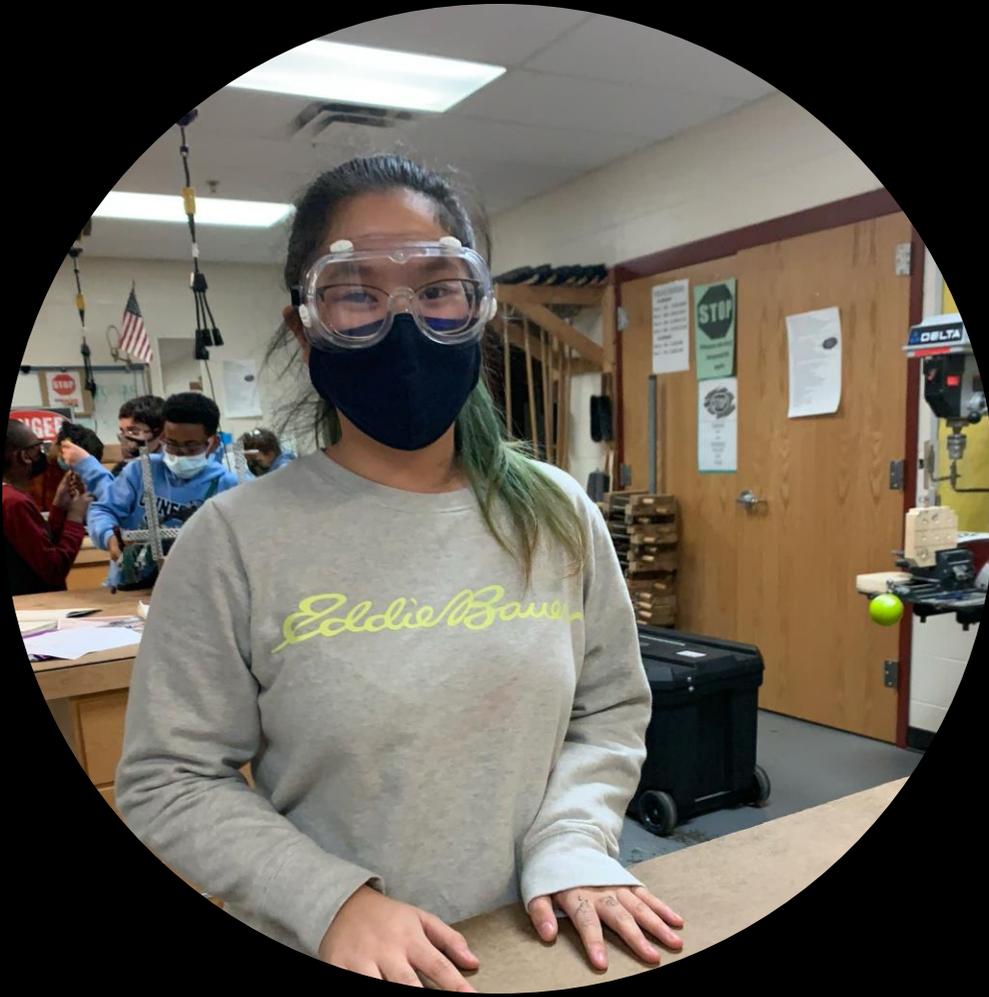
GIRL POWER TEAM 1481F

GAINESVILLE,
VIRGINIA

- REBECCA CHENG
- HALIN KIM
- SHANZE MALIK
- JEFFERY DEGBOR
- BELVA FIANKO
- SALONI PATEL



REBECCA CHENG *BUILDER*

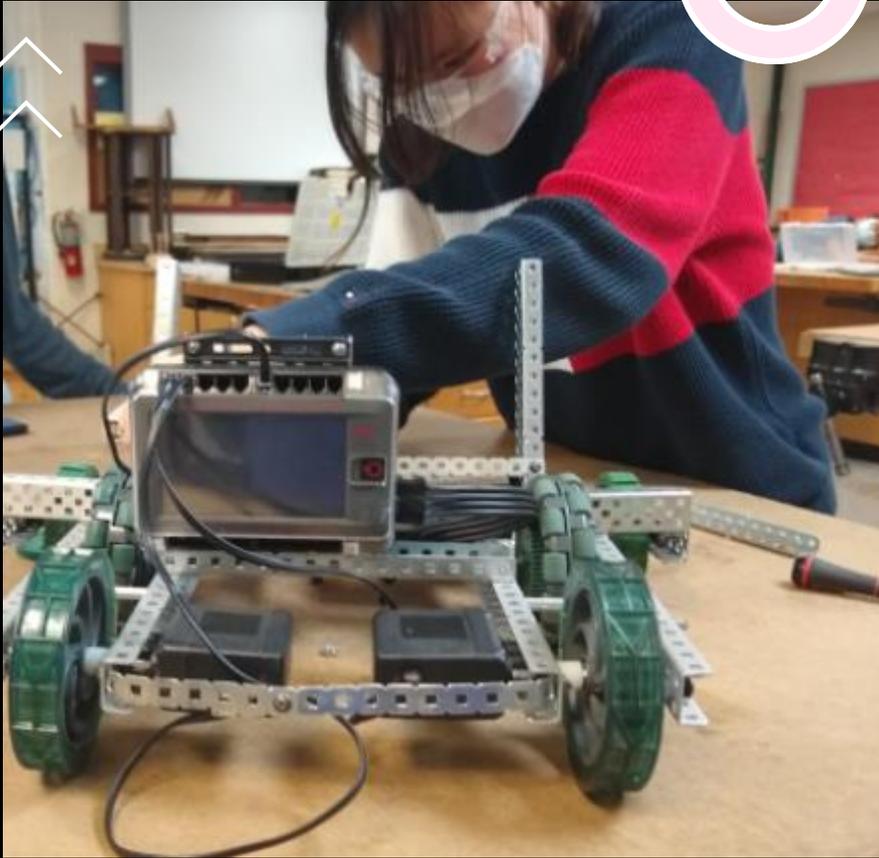


To me, the phrase "Girl Powered" means exactly what it sounds like, the power of girls. A lot of people think in a very old-fashioned way, saying that girls aren't as good as boys. I think that they're wrong, and that we can do anything they can do and more. Everyone on our team tries to become friends with everyone regardless of gender. Every team member tries to do different jobs. As a builder, I like to go around to the different rooms to see what everyone is doing. I try to help them where I can, and always ask them to try and explain whatever they're doing. It's always fun to learn new things about other people's roles. I think that having more girls on our team gives us an advantage over other teams since we're able to think differently than them. That has really helped us have different ideas from the other teams and stand out a bit more. With the diversity, there are different point of views and more unique ideas. We don't always get along perfectly, but those little disagreements we have always led to better results. Someone I really look up to in STEM is Nancy Roman. During her time, women participating in STEM was strongly discouraged. Despite all the horrible things people said about her pursuing a career, she kept trying. She ended up working with NASA, and I respect her very much. Girls can do anything they put their mind to.

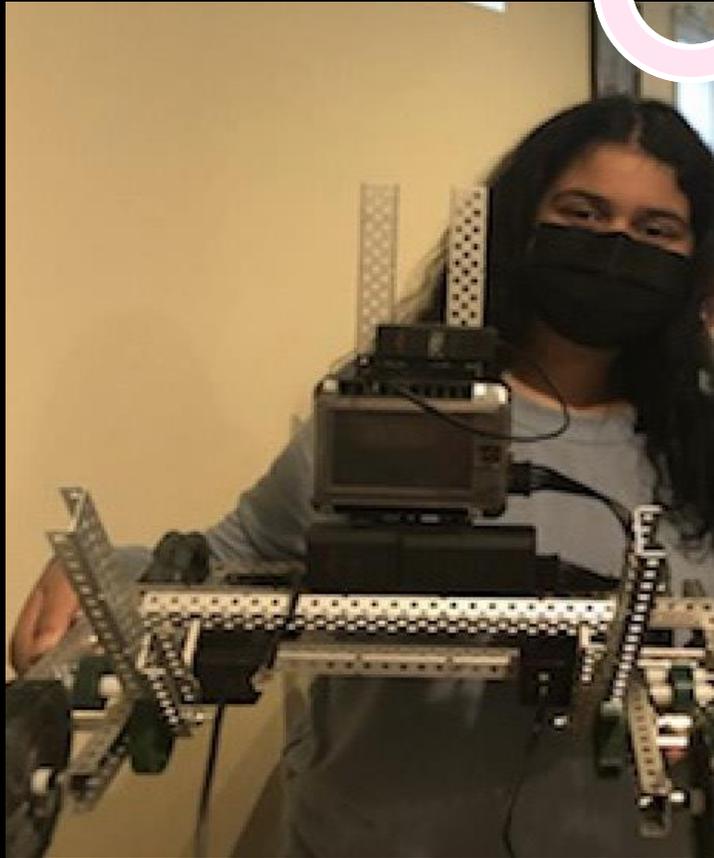


HALIN KIM *BUILDER*

When I hear the phrase "Girl Power" I think of how much influence women have in society compared to just a hundred years ago. It hasn't been very long since women in the STEM field were normalized. When I hear this phrase, I remember how lucky I am that people like Marie Curie gave me this opportunity to become an engineer. In our robotics team, we work hard to be inclusive of everyone and their diverse backgrounds, races, and gender. In robotics, I have not only learned skills about engineering but also about different cultures. It has been an amazing experience for me. I have learned how to design and build and how much trial and error it takes. It taught me to appreciate the world I live in now that was designed by successful engineers in the past. I know that the other members in my group have tried different roles and feel the same way I do. Because of our diverse team, I feel that we have all learned something about each other's beliefs and lifestyles some point in time. We also have diverse ideas originating from our different backgrounds. We all work hard to understand and accept each other's ideas which results in a smooth flowing team with friendly relationships between everyone.

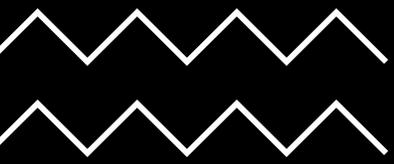


SHANZE MALIK PROGRAMMER



When the phrase "Girl Power" comes to mind, I think of all the empowering women in STEM that ignored the gender barriers in the career they wanted to pursue. In our team, we always encourage each other, and we like to think outside of the norms of society. Our team goes out of its way to help make sure that robotics is always a safe and inclusive space for anyone who is passionate about it. If anyone expresses their interests in STEM, we welcome them with open arms, so that they will stay and join us in robotics. Everyone on our team is always taking time to go check on every role on our team. As a programmer, I am always going to the building room to discuss new strategies and ideas for the robot. The builders also help us strengthen our programs. After talking with the builders, we take our new ideas to the ENB, so those who work on it can write it down. Our team shows our diversity, not only in the way we act, but the way that we work together. There is never a boring or dull conversation, and we all put in the work for our team to run smoothly. My stem role model is Layla Shaikley. She proves that she deserves to be working in stem with all her hard work. Layla Shaikley inspires me to have a more inclusive team because she was very hard working being able to go to MIT, but also create successful startups which would help with real-life problems and encounters. A girl should not be put down when wanting to involve themselves in STEM.





JEFFERY DEGBOR *PROGRAMMER*

I think that "Girl Power" means that girls can be leaders. This affected our team by making us explore all options since we all have different ideas and ways to help. We listen to what everybody has to say, and we allow each other help in all aspects of robotics. Everybody has gotten to try each job, and they excel in the job they chose. This helps because if somebody isn't available, we have other members that have experience. Our team communicates and works together, so that no one is ever worried or stressed about the workload. Our robot design is affected by the diversity because everyone has pitched in on their perspective and designs, so we had to cooperate to come to a compromise. My STEM role model is Sally Ride because she broke the barrier for astronauts. Allowing women into stem breaks boundaries, because women are the future.





"Girl Power" means so much to me and my team as a whole. When I think of Girl Power, I think of the women that started this movement, and made everything that I can do in the world and in robotics possible. Women who proved that anyone of any gender can do anything they set their mind to, like Alice Paul and Susan B. Anthony, until this day and age with women like Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Kamala Harris. These women are role models, and in a male dominated industry, it gives my female teammates and I hope and encouragement that we can do it too.

My team is made up of students from all different kinds of races and backgrounds, and we ultimately try to encourage other girls and their teams in robotics to keep pressing on. Increasingly, there are more and more females and people of color in robotics, and we love to motivate everyone in our school team to persevere with us, no matter who they are.

Many members know how to do different jobs in robotics, just so that there is support for everyone who may be overwhelmed. When we learn how to do jobs as a team, it helps us bond and grow together. Though, there are disagreements sometimes due to clashing ideas between the girls and boys. Still, we work out our differences.

My STEM role model is Katherine Johnson. As I am interested in the Math and Science part of STEM, Katherine Johnson worked behind the scenes in NASA, and was a crucial part of the first crewed space launches. She worked hard even though she didn't get enough recognition, and it inspires me. It gives me hope that girls like me can be as important as her. Women like Katherine Johnson motivate me to give a chance to anyone because you never know who could have an unanticipated impact in your life.

BELVA FIANKO ENB

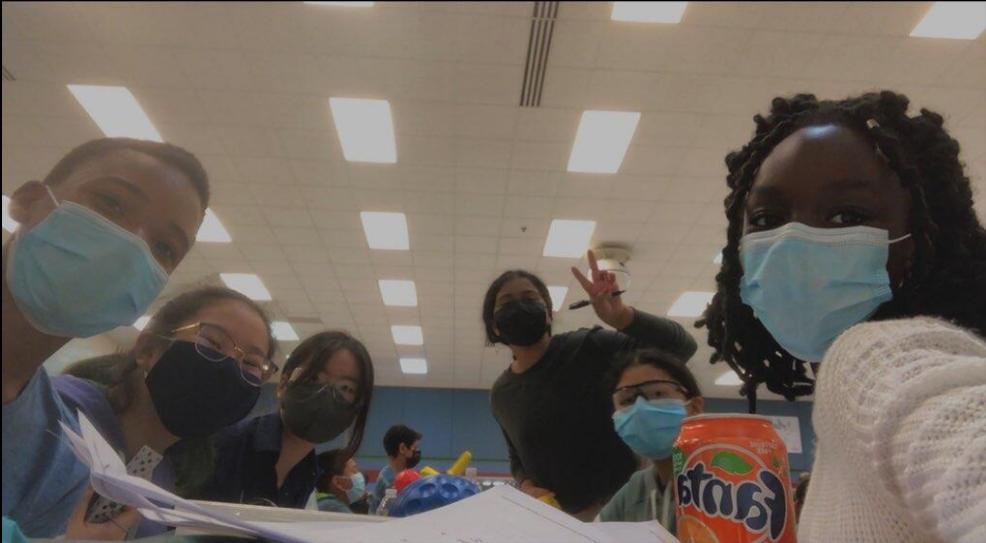


SALONI PATEL CAD & ENB

When I think of girl power, I think of strong women who never back out of any challenge. Girl power is shown in our team when we support each other's ideas. Our team takes initiative in making the environment gender, race, and culture friendly. All the people on our team have tried many different roles. Personally, I have tried being CAD, programmer, builder, and ENB. All these experiences have led me to do a little bit of everything. Diversity makes our robot and team how it is today. Our robot is a mix of our ideas combined. Having a lot of diversity makes us bond because we're all able to relate more. Diversity has helped me succeed on this team mentally. It has shown me that different people from different backgrounds can help in many ways. My stem role model is Nandani Harinath. She's who I aspire to be in the future. She inspires me to have a more inclusive team because she has to work with a lot of people as she is a scientist who works with space missions.



1481F AS A TEAM





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