



# Making Our Mark

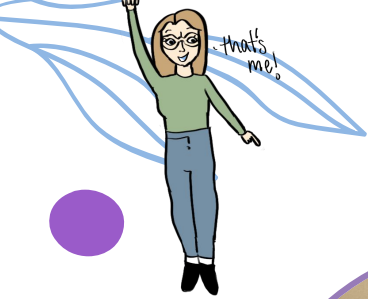
**VIQC Middle School- Girl Powered Challenge**

**TEAM 2028 M**

**The Mighty Medusas**

Bankhead Middle School-Cordova, Alabama

By: Samantha Moon, Sarah Dill, and Ava Akin



# ABOUT ME- SARAH DILL



Hello, My name is Sarah Dill. I am the oldest on the robotics team. I am in the seventh grade, I am 12 years old. This is my first year in robotics. I am the team's Notebook Manager.

I joined robotics because I felt I didn't belong anywhere. I wanted to contribute to the school's success. Robotics has helped me realize how much hard work goes into STEM. I made new friends and realized that I work well in the academic field.

# ABOUT ME-SAMANTHA MOON



Hi, I'm Samantha, I've been in robotics for 2 years. My main job is building, since my teammates are new. Last year I was on a team with three boys and was the main programmer.

When I'm not building, I'm working on my second job which is programming. I'm the youngest on the team, also in 6th grade, but I'm the most experienced.



# ABOUT ME-AVA AKIN



Hi, my name is Ava. This is my first year in robotics. I help with building but i'm still learning how to build since it's my first year. I am in 6th grade.

I joined robotics because I have always had an interest in building and driving! I went to the robotics STEM camp and robotics seemed like something I would greatly enjoy. So far I do.

# *Making Our Mark* in STEM

Making a mark in STEM is so important for young girls because of the male-dominated STEM workforce now. When women enter male-dominated workforces they usually face discrimination and unfair stereotypes. In the early and mid-1900s, women's work was ignored. The credit was given to men. We still have problems with misogyny and the gender pay gap.

## **Mighty Medusa's**

**2028M** is working towards ending unfair stereotypes and unfair work situations. **Race and gender should not matter.** Boys and girls should be held to the same standards.

We believe that this topic has always been a problem in today's society. We are *Making Our Mark* and showing the world everybody belongs and everybody is equal. Young girls and boys need this in today's society. Many young girls don't have real role models and may feel disattached by other co-workers, family, or classmates. Making a safe, friendly environment is what we are doing. And we need more brilliant girls **and boys** from all different backgrounds and cultures to understand they are loved, and we need more of them. We want everybody to join in and help us *Make Our Mark!*



# What “Girl Powered” Means to Us



Girl Powered means encouraging all your teammates, classmates, friends, and family to try new things and reach out of their comfort zone. Being Girl Powered means finding people you don't see in robotics, getting them to try it, and making them feel like they belong. And letting them know they are loved. This is how girl power changes our view of robotics.

Our team as only 3 girls believes that ever since the late 1800s and early to mid-1900's men have been the center of attention with jobs including, electrical, stem, woodwork, auto mechanics, and much more. We are trying to get more amazing people into these workforces.

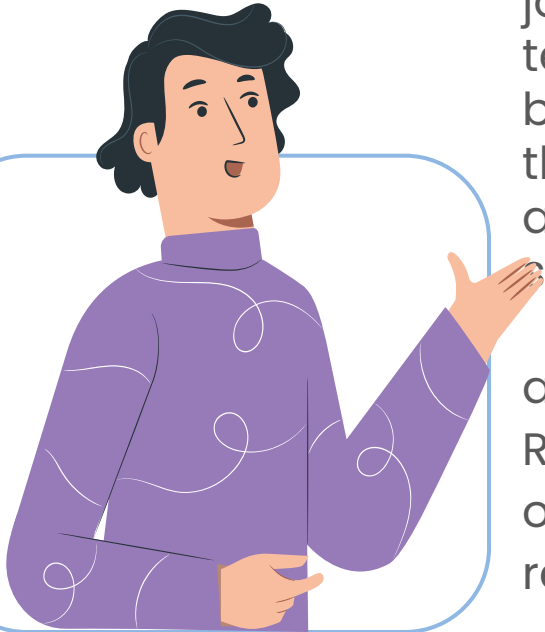
Our goal is to not discriminate against men and push them down. But to make more opportunities for different societies and cultures of people that were once told what they could and couldn't do.



# How we Include more diverse groups of students

Our team takes initiative to attract a more diverse group of students by teaching students the positive effects of joining robotics. Such as the fact that joining robotics can open your eyes to the world of technology. Also, robotics is for all races and both boys and girls. We do this by having a STEM camp in the summer for younger kids, and presenting STEM activities as Summer Reading programs at other schools near us.

Robotics is for everybody, and on our team boys and girls are given the same opportunities. Robotics encourages **everybody**, regardless of race or gender to follow their dreams. We want people to realize that.



# Experimenting with different roles!

Our team consists of only 3 girls, so we have to share roles a lot, And when we do we try to figure out ways to improve in that position.

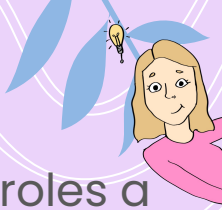
Ex. Samantha and Ava work on the engineering notebook when Sarah is absent. When Samantha is out Ava and Sarah practice driving. Samantha is teaching us how to program. When we are all out we find robot inspirations and send them to each other, and when we get back we test them. When we are put in these situations we learn to better ourselves and figure out ways to improve.

We encourage each other to try various roles by making robotics fun. In the past girls and different races were stereotyped. When we experiment we can figure out what works best for us. We want people to feel comfortable while in robotics. We want people to do what they are best at.





# Combining Skills and Ideas



Our team consists of only 3 girls, so we have to share roles a lot, and when we do we try to figure out ways to improve in that position.

Our team's perspectives and ideas influence the robot when we combine all of our ideas and thoughts. We all come from different viewpoints, religions, and families, and when we combine all of our abilities, it contributes to stable robot designs. Our different perspectives have strengthened each other's weaknesses.

When we all started working together we realized what we worked best at. We all discussed our strengths, but we also had to talk about what we did poorly at. Some of our strengths covered each other's weaknesses. And after we discussed we got closer, and now we all know each other's opinions on how they think they do. This is the power of diversity and different points of view.



# STEM Role Model

## Marie Curie-Physicist

Marie Curie had a **huge** contribution to radioactive cancer treatments. Marie Curie also was the first ever **woman** to win a Nobel Peace Prize. She also discovered polonium and radium.

She fundamentally changed our understanding of radioactivity by itself and in medicine. She was one of the only female chemists and chemists in general of her time. She didn't care that it was a "man's" world. She blazed a trail in an area nobody else was working in. Marie Curie got rejected from the French Academy of Sciences for being a woman and for her immigrant roots!

If Marie Curie didn't work in her field, our generation today would likely be far behind what we are now in cancer research and treatment. Marie Curie pushed very hard for women's rights.

Marie Curie is a bit closer to our team for personal reasons. Sarah's maternal and paternal Grandmothers had cancer. They both went under Internal radiation therapy, this saved their lives. If Marie Curie had not worked in the cancer field Sarah Grandmothers would have likely died. Marie Curie is a true hero, and our STEM role model.



# How girl power inspires younger teams

Our girl-powered teams have inspired our elementary teams. The elementary school teams now have a girl-powered team, with all girls. Our girl power has been recognized by the other teams! We are so proud to say that our dedication, determination, and hard work have inspired other girls. We love and look forward to helping the girls with their journey in robotics.

Some days we walk through steps with engineering notebook and building. We encourage and advise the girls. We let them know they can do whatever they put their mind to. We have already started making a path for younger girls today!



# Our Team

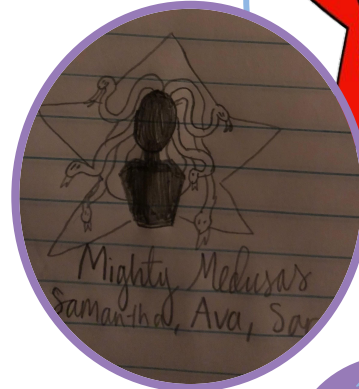
Our Team consists of three girls, 2 in 6th grade and 1 in 7th grade.

The two sixth graders are; Samantha Moon and Ava Akin. The seventh graders name is ; Sarah Dill

How we came up with our names: Robotics 2020-2021 we had a fellow team named "Apollo's Arrows" The name was inspired by the greek god "Apollo". Apollo was an archer (Hence "Apollo's **Arrows**") We caught inspiration from them using a powerful god's name. We decided to use a greek goddess instead.

Medusa was meant to ward off negative spirits, and modern evil. We thought this name was a powerful message to others. Medusa was also a **very** powerful figure in greek mythology. We all decided on this goddess to be our mascot.

We decided on a red and blue star background for medusa to resemble our school colors. We added a black silhouette for Medusa's body And green snakes for the hair.



# Credits...

[Why Girl Powered? | REC Foundation  
\(roboticseducation.org\)](https://www.roboticseducation.org/)

[The official website of the Nobel Prize -  
NobelPrize.org](https://www.nobelprize.org/)

[Free Google Slides themes and Powerpoint  
templates | Slidesgo](https://www.slidesgo.com/)

