We Are G.I.R.L.S.

Genius **I**nnovative **R**esilient **L**ogical **S**tudents

"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." - Mae Jemison, an American engineer, physician, former NASA astronaut, and first African American woman on the moon. This quote emphasizes the idea of independence and strength to reach your full potential.

To my team, this is what the phrase "Girl power" means. It is a way to motivate us and share new innovative ideas to improve our bot as well as our team dynamics.

Over time, "Girl power" has helped us uncover that being different and having an overall strength are critical parts of success when creating our robot. We are surrounded by numerous teams and the phrase "Girl power" helps us not only inspire ourselves but helps us inspire other teams as well. Our approach to robotics has differed over time in comparison to when we first started robotics last year.

It is important to note that we do not compare ourselves to boys, nor do we aim to outperform them. We see girl power as something that empowers everyone and helps us create an equal environment to be as productive as possible. We are inclusive by always being ready to help other teams that need it. We believe that robotics at our school is one big family of people who support and empower each other. As a whole, our team has always been open-minded about all of our members trying out and being exposed to different jobs.

Our team and what they've learned from their jobs:

Sheethal Udupa:

Sheethal is our team captain, main builder, and our coder. She has also been a crucial part of designing our bot. Her work with coding our autonomous has been a very part to get our skills ranking higher.

"I've learned that everything won't work on the first try and it takes time and patience for our bot to succeed." -Sheethal Udupa

Shruti Musani:

Shruti is one of our builders and helps with the notebook. She has been a key part of our notebook illustrations, building the intake, and keeping our robotics schedule up to date.

"I've learned that teamwork has helped me achieve goals. When I try stuff by myself, it doesn't work sometimes, so I find it important to have other people to help me out." -Shruti Musani

Kashvi Gupta:

Kashvi is one of our builders and has collaborated with other members of our team to build the disk storage and base of our robot.

"I've learned over time that even when something seems good…there is always a better solution."-Kashvi Gupta

Ishana Khurana:

Ishana is one of our two programmers and also one of our builders. She has done a lot of work with programming the shooter, programming the controller to work our robot.

"Programming and building are both vexing at times but when it works out and we start to see results, it is quite rewarding."-Ishana Khurana

Aanya Mehta:

Aanya is one of our builders. She collaborated with other members to make the puncture (shooter) and she figured out a way to connect the base to the intake.

"I've learned that optimism helps to get things done faster."-Aanya Mehta