Meet Programming

From back to front, left to right: Jason Krabbe, Jacob Pryor, Nathan Barber, Spencer Bryant, Tiffany Lin, and Brandon Riley.

2017-2018 Team Members

Dakota Luebbert, Freshman, Raytown High School

Dakota joined the program to contribute to overall goal of sending a satellite into space, and to get involved in something on Wednesdays. He has learned about Raspberry Pi, a type of programming tool, and has gained a deeper knowledge of how to use computers. As a new member, he's faced some challenges in learning difficult topics and working to understand advanced concepts. After high school, Dakota plans to go to medical school and become a doctor. His advice to others interested in STEM fields is, "You have to be dedicated to do it because it is not as easy as you think."

Kaden Reynolds, Freshman, Raytown High School

Kaden joined the program because he's always had an interest in space and satellites and because it looked fun. He has learned how to use the Raspberry Pi 2, programming tool and camera function. As a new member, he has faced some challenges in learning how to use new programs and getting specific functions to work, like the camera function, but he's quickly mastering these new concepts. After high school, he's not completely sure what he wants to do, although he's considering traveling, going into law enforcement, or becoming a programmer, where he will use the skills he's learned here. His advice to others interested in STEM is, "Do your best in school. Most science and technology related jobs require a high level of education. Science is pretty fun and technology is advancing fast, so it's good to learn."

Spencer Bryant, Graduate, Raytown High School, Head of Programming
Spencer joined the program for the immense opportunity to launch a satellite and was involved in the early recruitment in the 2015-2016 school year. He has learned crucial leadership skills as head of the group and has also learned problem-solving skills in relation to the whole group. This program has changed his outlook on school because he never imagined that a school district would do something like allowing a student-led group to launch a satellite. As head of the programming group, Spencer is responsible for figuring out what needs to be programmed and to also organize group dynamics. After high school, he is not completely sure what exactly he wants to do, but this program has been, in his words, "Very challenging and rewarding." His advice to those interested in science and technology is, "Do it. You have the ability to do anything you want, and don't let anyone stop you."

Nathan Barber, Graduate, Raytown High School
Nathan joined the program because of his lifelong interest in space and astronomy, and so far he's learned that 'rocket science' is as difficult and perhaps even more difficult than most people give it credit. This program has shown him what to look forward to in future careers, especially since he works with the camera to ensure it takes clear photos and helps name and store the photo data. After high school he plans on becoming an astronomer to investigate the science of space and collaborate on future space technologies. Nathan's advice to people interested in this field is to look for all the opportunities in their area, as there are more than they may expect.

Jason Krabbe, Junior, Raytown High School
Jason joined to satisfy his pursuits to construct a satellite, and so far he has learned more about computer science and programming, especially with the programming language Python. It has been challenging to find programs needed to run the sensors on the satellite, but he has helped contribute by suggesting numerous innovative ideas and coding for the sensors. After high school, he plans to go to college for computer science and then work for SpaceX, NASA, or run a video game development company.

Tiffany Lin, Sophomore, Raytown High School
Tiffany joined the program to develop her interest and knowledge of programming. She has learned more about Raspberry Pi, a programming language, and has improved her time management skills. She plans on using the skills she's garnered from this program in a technology-focused college or university. For aspiring programmers, she suggests, "Keep trying and don't let anybody stop you from reaching your dreams."

Jacob Pryor, Graduate, Raytown High School

Jacob joined the program because he already had an interest in engineering, and so far his knowledge of engineering process and the planning for programming has improved significantly. His participation in programming has given him insight into the complex design process that will help him in the years to come. Jacob works with the master programming of the satellite and the timing required for the sensors and taking photos. After high school he plans on attending Missouri S&T would like to work in the engineering career field in the future.

Brandon Riley, Senior, Raytown High School

Brandon joined the program to hang out with his friends and get programming experience. He has learned how to code in Python, a programming language, in addition to developing teamwork skills. He contributes to the satellite by working with the sensor that will measure temperature. This program has helped him get closer to some of his friends and has helped solidify his future plans to work in programming. After high school, he plans to go to a community college and then a technical school to help him get into the career field of computer and video game programming.