

This year's Distinguished Service Award goes to Jesse Morrell

Jesse has been such an incredible force in so many ways for the Oyster River Cooperative School District. When Andy Lathrop first met her as part of the parent interview committee, he knew at that point that if he was to be selected, that she would be one parent he would absolutely want associated with our athletic booster clubs. She has been instrumental in revitalizing the boys' soccer and basketball boosters that were for all intents of purposes non-existent. Her desire to help our student athletes by supporting behind the scenes is unmatched by any parent he has worked with in 15 plus years in athletic administration at any school. She is so motivated to make the experience for our kids the best it can be. Andy expressed that he cannot say enough good about her and I certainly hope she will stay active in the community as much as she can.

Jesse's expertise in Health and Wellness has had a tremendous impact on the District. Her 10+ years on the Wellness Committee has resulted in a complete update of the District Wellness Policy to align with the modern standards for Health, Wellness and Nutrition. Her research and collected data for a change in the start time as well as the student wellness survey resulted in the District revising the start time for all students. She continues to support District efforts to improve student health and wellness in the District

As stated by Kimberly Wolph, ORHS School Nurse

"I have had both the opportunity and pleasure to know Jesse Morrell as a parent and as an active member of the ORCSD Wellness Committee. Jesse's dedication to her family and the Oyster River community is invaluable. Her willingness to go above and beyond never goes unnoticed; you can always count on Jesse to lend a helping hand. Jesse's hard work ethic combined with her contagious personality make people naturally drawn to her. Although her role, as a parent of a current ORHS student, is rapidly coming to an end; we are truly grateful for her continued commitment to the District, students, and greater community."

Heather Machanoff, ORHS School Counselor stated that

"Jesse was always student-focused in our wellness meetings. Her desire to ensure all children have equal opportunity to access their education by taking part in healthy practices was always evident. Jesse is a true team player, always willing to work towards the goal of wellness for our District."

Suzanne Filippone, ORHS Principal sums it up well by saying:

"Jesse gives of herself and her time to our school community in ways that are both seen and unseen. She is supportive and caring to all, adults and kids, and we are extremely fortunate to have her as a part of our school community."

In closing and on behalf of the School Board, we want to thank Jesse for her insight, research and continued dedication to the students of the Oyster River Cooperative School District, it is humbly accepted and greatly appreciated.