

Kristin Forselius

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” -Mahatma Gandhi

Oyster River has been fortunate to have Kristin Forselius as a dedicated member of our community and is the mother to Liam '21 and Evelyn '22. Her service to the Oyster River Cooperative School District is notable and we want to honor her with the Distinguished Service Award.

Kristin has worked tirelessly to provide thoughtful insights and opportunities on how to improve our school community and the student experience. Throughout this work she has kept students at the center.

Kristin's work with Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice at ORCSD has been systemic and grassroots. She has been a member of the DEIJ ORCSD Community Group since its inception and most recently she has volunteered her time on the DEIJ District Coordinating Committee. Kristin has given countless hours toward this challenging and rewarding work. She creates opportunities for herself and others to think differently and to ask challenging questions.

Kristin has also volunteered countless hours to expand school-based opportunities for students. She spearheaded community book groups as well as the Oyster River Middle School Diversity Club, which continues to thrive today. Kristin also was integral in the foundation of the Oyster River High School FIRST Robotics Team. FIRST Robotics had disappeared from ORHS years ago and Kristin was integral in reviving the program. FIRST ROBOTICS is a national program, “Under strict rules, limited time and resources, teams of students are challenged to raise funds, design a team "brand," hone teamwork skills, and build and program industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game against like-minded competitors. It is as close to real-world engineering as a student can get. Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team. Each season ends with an exciting FIRST Championship.”

When Kristin began her work with FIRST four years ago there was only a handful of students and today there are over 20 students involved with many parent volunteers. Kristin gave of herself and her time to ensure that this opportunity would be available at Oyster River. Without her tenacious drive to ensure that FIRST Robotics was available to all interested students we may not have that opportunity at our high school today.

For the past two years Kristin has been an organizing, leading parent for Project Graduation. Project Graduation provides graduating seniors a safe and fun celebratory opportunity in the evening of their graduation. During COVID this presented challenges, but Kristin worked creatively to make an event happen for kids. This year she continues to use her superb organizational skills and creative ideas with Project Graduation for the class of 2022.

Suzanne Filippone writes, “A champion for all children, Kristin has challenged our community to embrace new opportunities for kids and has given her time to provide safe and enjoyable opportunities.”

Jay Richard writes, “Kristin has a huge heart for all children and has provided thoughtful insight on how to improve the student experience at ORMS.”

It is our pleasure to honor Kristin with the Distinguished Service Award.