

Name of person being nominated: Julie Kudish

Nominee Team #: 1089

Name of person submitting nomination: Emily Ryer (Student Member)

Describe why the person being nominated should be recognized through this award (600 words or less):

Julie Kudish: A Key Element of Mercury 1089

Advisor Julie Kudish is the newest addition to Team Mercury's family, and she has already made tremendous impact on team improvement. As an educator of fifteen years, Ms. Kudish joined to aid longtime Team Mercury coach Chris Gregory. She is a firm, clear and motivating leader who consistently promotes the growth of our students through powerful and effective communication. Team Mercury's successes can largely be attributed to her guidance, and we are incredibly proud to have her as our advisor.

Everyone on the team can wholeheartedly say that Ms. Kudish is the glue that binds our team together. Her insight, focus and dedication allow her to connect with any student and help them in her own way. In her own words, "As a special education and English teacher I think I bring a lot to the team in non-technical ways: organization, different ways of explaining things and breaking things down and helping with writing." While Mr. Gregory handles the technical side of things, Ms. Kudish shows students how to effectively organize a team. One of her most impactful innovations for the team was creating a network of student leaders and mentors to distribute the role rather than one student bearing the full brunt of leadership. Ms. Kudish has only been with us for a short period of time, and she has already been key in chiseling Team Mercury into perfection.

Effective communication is a fundamental skill for any team, and Ms. Kudish works hard to ensure that this invaluable quality is imparted upon our members. Her pragmatism helps to bring off-topic discussions back to reality. Several times a week, she sends out emails to the entire team, reviewing tasks at hand so that the entire team stays on the same page, ensuring that no member is left behind. Ms. Kudish demonstrates that she is also an excellent collaborator through her teamwork with Mr. Gregory. Team matters are handled together so that the team is organized, prepared and productive.

Ms. Kudish supervises every team activity, but her specific area of focus are the Awards and Public Relations committees. As their mentor, she is central to their effort to communicate the team's message, and she shares her skills of communication and organization. However, she also gives them freedom to develop their own ideas, letting the committees work independently while receiving the guidance they need. Her teaching skills make her an excellent mentor, and she cultivates the healthy and productive environment in which the PR and Awards committees work.

It is not every day that someone with such devotion or skills joins the team, and Ms. Kudish brings both of these things. After playing an integral role in helping revise the committee structure, she now works to maximize effectiveness and keep the team on-task. Her work as a committee mentor has especially helped the team and its students

thrive. Ms. Kudish is one of the driving forces behind Team Mercury, and the team would not be complete without her.