

## Citizen Recipient



Esther Schaezler

Esther Schaezler has been volunteering in the Lake Oswego School District for more than fifteen years. She has a passion for science, art, music, and technology. Esther has focused her volunteerism in many areas, including Art Literacy, the Read Well volunteer program, and robotics. Esther has coached and mentored robotics teams since 2006 and has served on the Lake Oswego Robotics board. She is currently an advisor, coach, and mentor for the girls+ FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) robotics team. This team

was established during the pandemic.

In Esther's own words, things that stand out as key achievements include securing "varsity lettering for robotics at LOHS, founding and coaching LOHS's award-winning FLL and FTC team, DON'T PANIC and Always Carry a Towel, volunteering for FLL, FTC and FRC, organizing district-wide practice tournaments for the FLL teams, arranging supporting grants for both local and other in-state teams, and coaching/mentoring many FLL teams from Hallinan and LOJ from 2009–13. Helping students learn to innovate is important."

One of Esther's goals is for team members to respect the value and uniqueness of every team member.

She believes it is important to "explore unconventional solutions and be creative with materials used. Designing a robot is a creative process and is about more than doing what has already been done."

Esther enjoys giving students who may feel excluded an opportunity to express themselves through art and technology. She helped lead Art Literacy at Hallinan and LOJ from 2006–14. Additionally, the art projects she helped students create for school auctions raised thousands of dollars.