

NHS Teacher of the Year Speech Jodi Yeh



A teacher is defined as one designated to instruct, to educate others on her speciality. But what differentiates an extraordinary teacher? Is it the degrees she's obtained? Is it the strong relationships she has with her students? Or, is it simply the passion and devotion she holds for her work? There's no right or wrong answer to that question nor is there only one. An extraordinary teacher possesses all of those qualities – and more. Oyster Bay is fortunate enough to have a multitude of exceptional educators, but this year, the seniors of National Honor Society have decided to commemorate one, Ms. Kathy Reilly.

In my last year of high school, I was fortunate enough to have experienced Ms. Reilly as a teacher. Although retired, her willingness to

come back when we needed her depicted her true dedication to her work. I can definitely say that she is committed to her students; she spearheaded the foundations for our college essay writing course. Her creation helps and thinks of everyone and every situation. And as we all ventured through the gruesome college application process, she was always there for us.

From personal experience, I rewrote my Common App essay three times, each with a different idea. And for every single one, Ms. Reilly stayed after school for hours, editing, discussing potential ideas, just to ensure perfection. In our college essay writing classes, she took the time to read every single supplement, long essay, and small one sentence prompts. In spite of these abundances, never did she falter in lieu of our upcoming deadlines.

Her time spent grading our essays, editing supplements, and simply her kind words, such as lovely ladies, have made quite the impact on our senior class. Reaching out to my peers enlightened me on just what Ms. Reilly truly did. Descriptions of her patience were constantly repeated as it elevated our education. She's understanding yet exerts the right amount of authority, ensuring her students kept up with deadlines. She's influential in that she can change lives through her teachings. She's open-minded, devoted to revealing

the best in everyone. And with that, I speak on behalf on our senior class when we say thank you for everything you have done for us these past years. Now, I'd like to present National Honor Society's teacher of the year, Ms. Kathy Reilly.