

# CLIFTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*www.clifton.k12.nj.us*

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Clifton High School's Mrs. Turk Receives Prestigious Key Club Advisor Award**

Congratulations to Clifton High School's Mrs. Jacqui Turk on being awarded New Jersey Key Club Outstanding Faculty Advisor. Every year, Key Club International awards this prestigious honor to one person from each state.

As a child, Turk was a Girl Scout who became a Key Clubber in high school. In college, she joined a National Service Fraternity, Circle K, and Alpha Phi Omega. When asked how she became the Key Club Advisor at CHS, Turk said, "13 years ago, when Mrs. Cali and Mrs. Loiacono encouraged me to advise the club, it seemed like a logical progression."

The Clifton High School Key Club, boasting 150 members, participates in more than 60 volunteer efforts throughout the school year and about seven on-going projects throughout the summer. Projects range from serving Community Meals each month, supporting all Clifton Recreation events, packing items for Clifton Cares, organizing school supplies for Power of One, and countless fundraisers. Key Clubbers assist at all the elementary school events, clean up the shoreline at Dundee Preserve, help at Hunger NJ events, and the list goes on.

Even the COVID-19 quarantine could not stop the Key Club. Turk orchestrated online tutoring services that paired Key Clubbers with Clifton students for virtual tutoring sessions. In addition to tutoring sessions, Turk instituted a program called Senior Citizen Phone Pal that fostered outreach between the Key Club and Clifton's senior citizens.

Dr. Robertozzi, Superintendent of Clifton Public Schools, said of Turk, "While I'm extremely proud of Mrs. Turk on receiving this award, I am not surprised. It seems, wherever I turn in Clifton, Mrs. Turk and the Key Club students are there, helping our community. She is an extraordinary individual and role model, not only for the students but for all of us."

Turk is most proud of the Kiwanis family that they have established in Clifton and the extension of the CHS Key Club to the elementary schools and middle schools.

"With the support of individuals like Rafat Ewais & John O'Reilly, the rechartered home club of the Kiwanis Club of Clifton, Glen Ridge Kiwanis, and the Clifton Public Schools administration, we built a K-Kid Club at School 5 and 17, Builders Club at CCMS and WWMS. We created these extensions to complement the 150 student leaders/volunteers at Clifton High's Key Club," Turk explained.

Recognizing the importance of imparting a sense of volunteerism early on, Turk remarked, "We can continue building our service family and foster our core values of leadership, character building, service, and inclusiveness for all generations."

The Key Club can now add Turk's recent honor to several recognitions that Clifton's Key Club received this year, including Clifton Recreation's Youth Service Award and Athenia Veterans Service Award. Clifton High School student, Abigail Loeb, won the election for NJ Key Club Lieutenant Governor for District 18.

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