January 28, 2025

Catalina Foothills High School is proud to nominate Ms. Jody Ponzo as a Super Volunteer in CFSD. Jody has been our school's FFO President for the past 2 years.

Jody brings energy, humor, confidence, enthusiasm, and, yes, a little spunk to this very important role. Her older son recently graduated from CFHS and her younger son is currently a sophomore.

Jody knows what schools are like both from both sides of the table - as a parent and as an educator, as she was formerly a middle school administrator in California. This makes her a very effective FFO leader - she understands the complexity of schools and what it takes to organize people, resources, and ideas toward a common goal.

In her wide-ranging role as FFO President, Jody leads a team of about 10 other parent volunteers, each of whom chairs a subcommittee as part of the FFO. Jody sets agendas and runs both the executive committee and regular FFO meetings. As FFO president, Jody also oversees the planning of major events throughout the school year. Here are a few examples: Fall Fling is a large, welcome-back event for students each August featuring carnival-style games, music and entertainment, and a variety of food trucks. She also plays a major role in planning Grad night, which is the all-night senior celebration event that takes place immediately after the graduation ceremony. She helps organize dozens of volunteers and dedicates many hours of her own labor to make this happen. In addition, Jody's team organizes approximately 8 staff appreciation meals per year, including several themed lunches (i.e. Taco Tuesday, Salad and Sweets, Soup and Chili bar), a large breakfast prior to winter break complete with gift cards for each staff member, and goodies and treats for halloween and grading days. Jody attends open house events in both the fall and spring as an outreach to parents, she sells "merch" at all major school events, and in one of her more persuasive roles, Jody is constantly on a mission to actively recruit other parents to join FFO and is a tireless fundraiser for our schools.

We want to honor and thank Ms. Jody Ponzo as a CFSD Super Volunteer. She is an advocate and a champion for both Catalina Foothills High School and the district and our school is better because of her. Congratulations!