

Jerry Krist

Woody Flowers Team 1792

An athlete can't strive without a good coach, just as an FRC team can't strive without a good mentor. Mr. Krist, often referred to as MC Krizzle, has been the head mentor of Round Table Robotics throughout all three years of our existence. He provides a prime example of what it means to be not only an outstanding mentor but also a mentor who goes above and beyond when it comes to helping students reach their potential.

He trains students in machinery and videography, manages all parts orders, assists in the marketing and business strategies, and most importantly demonstrates a quality character, inspiring the team to do the same. Hailey, freshman and safety captain, says, "If Mr. Krist can't teach you something, then it's not worth knowing. He taught me how to use video editors and work a camera. I don't understand technology at all, so he is truly a genius." His passion for all he has learned shows through his lessons. All of the students collectively agree that Mr. Krist's stories are the best you'll ever hear, perhaps due to his expansive list of experiences, such as being in the military, or his inventive imagination.

Furthermore, Mr. Krist is known around our team to be a big dreamer. His plans for our team border inconceivable, however, it's because he sets his expectations so high that we strive not only meet them but exceed them. After these dreams are turned into reality, they're truly remarkable, enforcing that no goal is ever unreachable if we dedicate enough time and effort into it just as MC Krizzle does consistently.

One goal Mr. Krist pushed into reality was our RTR Booster Club. When our school was struggling to keep up with our constant fluctuating funds, he made it his mission to ensure financial stability. He goes out of his way to introduce students to large business and government leaders at parades and community events, giving us an ability to network, and develop partnerships that may lead to internships and jobs one day. Mr. Krist also established our partnership with Amazon mentoring the Kenosha Boys and Girls Club FLL team. Team 33415 thrived after Mr. Krist and his group of 5 students dedicated every Tuesday and Thursday to mentor them. Another dream that has been initiated because of MC Krizzle is a fully functioning farming robot for Hunger Task Force that will provide food for the needy.

Mr. Krist's involvement with FIRST doesn't end with coaching new teams. Since 2010, he's volunteered at numerous FLL and FRC events. This season alone he judged at 5 FLL events. He truly believes participating in FIRST improves intellectual development and increases technical skills. He demonstrates this belief by being fully committed to our team and expanding STEM. Mr. Krist's favorite thing to tell us is that "History is made by those who show up." Well, Mr. Krist, you sure have shown up, and you've enhanced not only the history of our team but the present and future for all of us as well.