

You can't spell science without Ence. Like his name providing the crucial suffix in the word science, Josh Ence plays a crucial role in the lives of the students on team Epsilon Delta (ED).

Despite having a young family and a full time job teaching physics at Herndon High School, Josh Ence has dedicated himself to FIRST and is always available when needed. Student Santosh Kulkarni says, "Mr. Ence is always there to help and to put the team first, he's really taught me what it means to be committed. I will always remember how he continued to come to meetings and stay dedicated to FIRST while his wife was pregnant."

Being the sole staff sponsor, Mr. Ence's commitment keeps the team alive as he acts as the main contact point between the team and school administration. He also works with the travel group to make sure we get to competitions. He manages the team budget, efficiently orders all the supplies for the team to ensure we have what we need, and that we always have access to school rooms and computers. Without the ability to access to school computers, it is quite possible that our team's Animation and Inventor subgroups would not be able to function and student, Matt Costigan, may not have earned an internship with Autodesk.

Another thing that makes him invaluable to the team is his ability to make students feel needed and equal. "Being a first year student on the team," says student Fiona Galvin, "I didn't think people would value my opinion, but Mr. Ence always gives me his full attention when we talk and takes my ideas seriously." He makes learning fun. When he asks for a "torque dork" in his center of mass demonstration, all hands are eagerly raised to volunteer. "As a student in Mr. Ence's class, I can tell that he has a passion for Physics and wants others to feel the same way," says student Amy Frankhouser, "he regularly promotes the team, engineering, and science in our physics class and gets people excited about science."

Mr. Ence is dedicated to spreading FIRST throughout the school. Last year, he enabled our graduating students to earn letters for participation in robotics. This year, he successfully negotiated that participation in FIRST satisfies the objectives of the Science Fair requirement! He obtained permission for the team to install a trophy case in the school to display our awards. Currently, he is finalizing the requirements for the first ever robotics/physics engineering class to be taught at Herndon High, a class that will include participation on ED. He firmly supports FIRST's belief that FRC is more than just building a robot and has included outreach in the curriculum he designed for the class.

Santosh, Amy, and Fiona are not the only members of the team that have been positively affected by Mr. Ence. His positive attitude, constant willingness to put others first and his ability to make students feel included has helped keep the team and its spirit alive and we don't ever want to spell Science without "Ence."