



## Issaquah High Staff Profile



**Mark Jergens-Zmuda (Mr. JZ)**  
Issaquah High Assistant Principal

**Did you grow up around Issaquah or the surrounding area? If not, where did you grow up and did that help shape the person you are today?**

I grew up on the east coast in Virginia Beach, VA. I am the oldest of four children and both my parents were in the Navy Reserves. My father still works on a Navy base and my organizational skills and timeliness (on time is late) are definitely a result of my upbringing.

**What was your job/career before coming to work at Issaquah? If you had a prior job/career, how did that job/career make you become a better staffer at Issaquah High?**

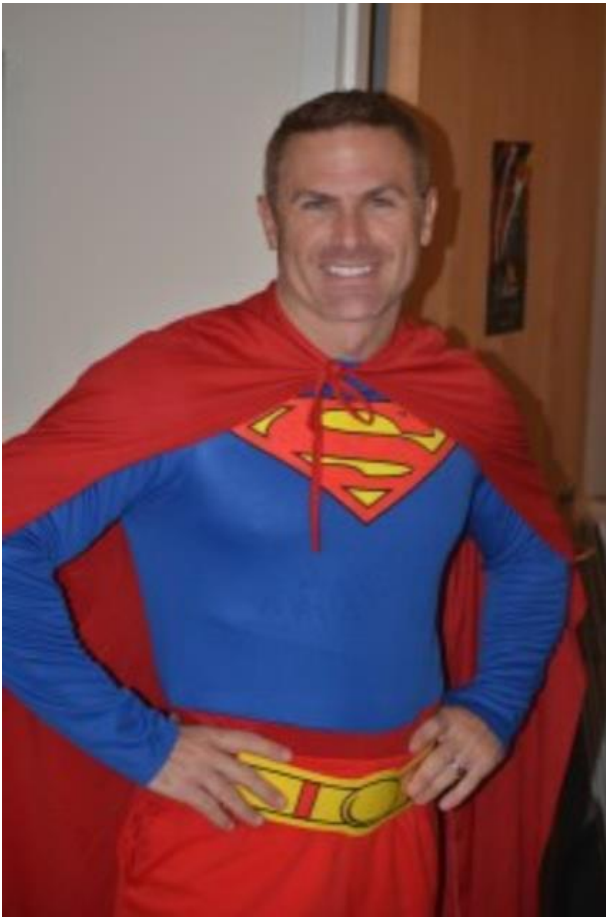
I went to College at Va. Tech and I was one of five recent graduates asked to serve as an Admissions advisor for the college. I got to explore the east coast and visited 4-5 high schools a day to talk about the university and help recruit athletes. I worked the college fairs once a week in the fall as well before reviewing applications. I got my first job teaching Middle School mathematics for a woman on maternity leave. I moved to Marietta, Ga and taught Math and coached swimming and soccer at Lassiter HS for 5 years. I then moved to Fort Lauderdale, FL, and again was a math teacher for 8 years at a private school called Cardinal Gibbons HS where I also served as the ASB advisor, Senior class advisor, National Honor Society advisor, and Math Honor Society advisor as well. I got my administrative credentials and moved to Issaquah, WA in 2012. I started my first year as an administrator in 2012 at Eastside Catholic MS and HS. I was there for a year and a half and made national headlines in the winter of 2013 for marrying my husband, Dana. Luckily, Mercer Island HS offered me a position later that spring and I served as an Associate Principal for 3 years and the Athletic Director of MI and their 65 sports teams helping to also add several Special Olympics/Unified sports teams to the school as well. Living in Issaquah, I wanted to be closer to home and came to work at Issaquah HS. This will be my 4<sup>th</sup> year as an Assistant Principal and all of these experiences have helped shape my views on clubs, athletics, and working with high school aged students.

**Tell us about your position at Issaquah High. Any highlights?**

I am one of the Assistant Principals at Issaquah HS. I work with students last names A-E and some of my areas of responsibility include working with some of the New/Transfer students (10<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade), state testing, the PSAT, overseeing athletics with the Athletic Director (Luke Ande), student recognition, Canvas support, and I oversee the Math and Visual and performing Arts departments.

**How many years have you worked at Issaquah High?**

This will be my 4<sup>th</sup> year.



**Are you a club mentor or sport coach and if so, what are the best parts of being a mentor/coach for that club/sport? Any memorable experiences you would like to share?**

I am not currently a club or sport coach. I do try to go and see every sports team at Issaquah HS play at least one match/game (I have not gone to support a golf match yet, but I would like to) and support those teams who make it to the KingCo or post season championships.

**Is (was) volunteering part of your life? If so, tell us about your volunteering experiences and what you love about them?**

I have done some volunteer work in the past including helping out at the Issaquah Food Bank a few blocks down the street from the school. I also have volunteered with some special needs children in the past. Going into LRCII type classrooms in my previous schools to play or coach unified sports, play games and work on art projects with them or even assist in getting students off buses and to classrooms. I also have done a lot of math tutoring over the years for students that find math challenging or boring.

**What do you like to do outside of school? Please elaborate.**

Outside of the school day, I like to workout and hike. I play several sports including being a member on a co-ed competitive softball team. I love to play volleyball and swim competitively even as an adult for many years. I am an avid movie buff and love going to the movie theater.

**Is there anything else special about you that you would like to share?**

I am the father of a 4-year-old son named Chase who will hopefully be going to Kindergarten at IVE for the 2021-22 school year.

