



## Issaquah High Teacher Profile



### **Andrew Shanafelt ("Shanny")**

Issaquah High CTE Teacher (Sales & Marketing and AP Economics) DECA

### **What is your education background?**

I have a B.A. in History and English from Western Washington University, an M.A. in English Literature from the Catholic University of America, and an M.Ed from the University of Washington.

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

I grew up relatively nearby in Redmond. One of my best friends growing up lived in Issaquah (off May Valley Rd) and so I came here frequently, as well as attending Village Theatre (and performing in a KidStage production a LONG time ago). I loved growing up in the Pacific Northwest.

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

I did a few things before becoming a teacher. I was a Teaching Assistant in college, worked on the Microsoft Campus, and was a fundraiser for the MDA. Each of these jobs had a huge impact on me. As a business teacher, these different experiences helped prepare me to teach my students about the real world and created a passion for marketing that led me to teach DECA!

**How many years have you been teaching at Issaquah?**

This will be my 8<sup>th</sup> year teaching at Issaquah High School! Time flies!

**What classes at Issaquah do you teach, and why do you love teaching that subject?**

I teach all the Sales & Marketing classes, as well as AP Economics. I really enjoy working with students as they start to imagine what they are going to do after high school. I think it is a lot of fun to talk about business. Working with the students in the DECA club is the best thing about what I do.

**Any favorite teaching memories?**

Each year creates new and amazing memories, but last year's State competition for DECA was definitely a highlight. There was a lot of chaos and stress, and the chance the whole thing would get canceled due to COVID, but my students showed tremendous grit. They were so wonderful and cooperative with all the last minute changes, and the ways I had to run things, and they did SO well, with one of the best competition results in our school's history.

**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 the advisor for DECA, as well as the Women in Business club, and LaunchX Club. I love being a club advisor and the long-term relationships with students are one of the best parts. I love meeting students their freshman year, and then seeing how they grow and develop over the course of their high school career. And in DECA we usually travel out of State twice a year, while also doing two large in state trips as well. It is so much fun to see the enthusiasm and amazing accomplishments of my students on these trips: both personally and professionally.





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

I have volunteered a lot. I was a Summer Camp Counselor for almost 20 years. I worked building houses with Habitat for Humanity for about 10 years. I also used to be the youth group leader at the church I grew up in, which led me to do a variety of things from feeding the homeless to helping paint houses for the elderly. It just feels good to help other people, but it is also an interesting way to get experience that I would never have gotten otherwise. The best part is the connections you build, both with people you are working with, and the people you are working for.

**What do you like to do outside of school?**

My favorite activities are to spend time with my family, which includes my amazing wife (Alice), my one-and-a-half year old son (Freddie), and our frantic-insane-delightful terrier (Penny). We like to read, play games (especially board games), talk, go for walks in nature, swim, and just generally be together. I am also a pretty avid follower of most local sports.

