



## Issaquah High Teacher Profile

### **Kristi Hardy**

Issaquah High Math Teacher

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

B.S. Mathematics from The University of Texas at Austin (2010)

M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction (Focus: Math Education) from the University of Washington (2017)

#### **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 in a small town outside of Austin, Texas. Everyone knew each other; you couldn't go to the grocery store without running into a friend or neighbor! Central Texas was a wonderful place to grow up; the people are friendly, the hill country is beautiful, and the live music is ever present. My sister was a freshman at UT when I was a senior in high school, and although UT was not my first choice (I wanted to be farther from home), I quickly fell in love with the campus while visiting her. My sister and I lived together for several years while in college and ended up driving 30 minutes south as much as we could to see our parents. Looking back now, I am so thankful that I chose to attend a school close to home because I think it really helped strengthen my relationship with my parents and sister.



#### **What was your job/career before coming to teach at Issaquah?**

I taught for one year in Austin (2010-2011) before moving to Seattle during the summer of 2011.

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

This is my 10<sup>th</sup> year teaching at Issaquah (first year was 2011-2012).

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

I teach CC Algebra 2 and AP Calculus AB. I became a teacher because I loved math growing up. AP Calculus was my favorite class in high school, and I knew when I began studying math in college that I wanted to become a teacher so that I could share the subject with others. Calculus was the first math class I took that gave me a reason to have learned all the processes and skills from earlier classes. I wasn't just learning to factor; I was using that skill to solve a much bigger problem. I love knowing that when students leave my class they will be prepared for a variety of jobs and will have the background necessary to pursue upper level math and science classes.

**Any favorite teaching memories?**

Most of my favorite memories from teaching at IHS have less to do with teaching math and more to do with the relationships I've built with my students. High school is such an important time for young people, and I love watching them grow and develop their own ideas. I strive to provide a safe and comfortable environment for my students and try to show them every day that they are valued, cared for, and special.

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

I enjoy running and working out. I use running to destress and clear my head, especially after a long week at school. In the summer I like to hike and camp (I've done the Enchantments a few times) and in the winter I like to ski. In 2019 my husband and I went heli-skiing up near Mt. Baker. It was incredible. I also enjoy reading and spending time with my family.



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

While I've done volunteering through organizations like Relay for Life and Habitat for Humanity, my most impactful experiences have been with my dad giving back to the homeless. My dad taught me from an early age to love and cherish all people, regardless of their race, sex, gender, or financial status. He would always talk to homeless people while out in Austin, treating them as equals and offering food, clothing, toiletries, money, whatever they might need. I distinctly remember one time we pulled up to an intersection in Austin, where a homeless man was standing on the corner. My dad reached into his wallet and saw that he only had a \$20 bill. He smiled, took it out and handed it to the man, who upon receiving it started crying. My dad cried too, pulled over, and gave the man a hug. It was such a short, special, meaningful moment, and taught me to recognize that people just want to be loved and cared for.

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

My son Owen was born in April of this year. My husband and I have loved getting to spend time with him this summer. He has been our favorite part of quarantining 😊

