



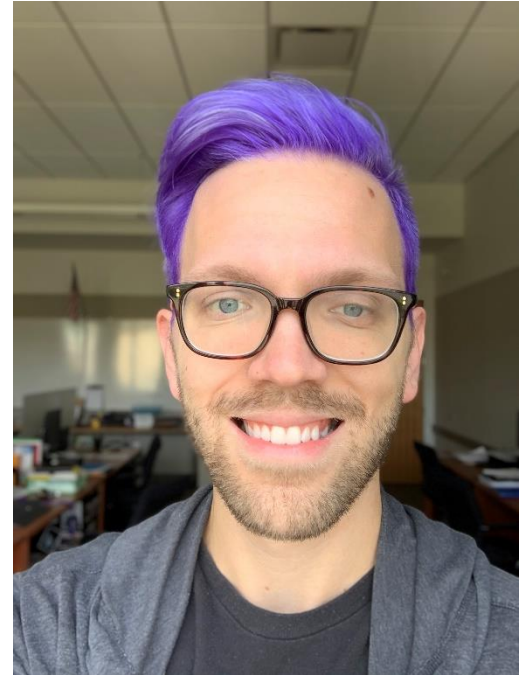
Issaquah High Teacher Profile

Jacob Blaskie

Issaquah High Mathematics Teacher

What is your education background?

I went to school at Missouri University of Science and Technology (S&T) where I earned a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics, a minor in psychology, and my teaching certification. I have worked in the Seattle School District (Franklin High School) and I work over the summer at Upward Bound (a program hosted by the University of Washington). Currently, I am working to finish up my master's degree for Curriculum Design and Instruction.



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

I did not grow up in Issaquah. I grew up in Sullivan, Missouri (a small town an hour west of St. Louis, Missouri). The town of Sullivan's population is a little over eight thousand people (smaller when I was living there). This small town taught me that you have to seek out opportunities that interest you.



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 have had a few jobs prior to teaching at Issaquah. I taught at Franklin High School in the Seattle School District, I ran my own tutoring business during college, I worked at Wal-Mart during college, I managed a movie theater, and I ran sound and lights at a performing arts theater. All of these jobs required me to work with people of all types, and those communication skills that I developed have helped reach people where they are at to achieve whatever goals we are working towards.

How many years have you been teaching at Issaquah?

This is my 4th year at Issaquah.

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

I have taught AP Statistics and Geometry all four years. I love teaching these subjects because they both require logical reasoning skills and questioning of assumed truths (skills that many people need to interact with today's world). Statistical understanding is becoming a necessary skill, and I love teaching the concept to help students understand how they can answer big questions using accessible methods.

Any favorite teaching memories?

There are a few that come to mind. The time students almost made me cry with a thoughtful gift last year. The students all signed a pair of baby Tom's that were made into an ornament. The time that the Robotics made it to world after a stressful season. Graduation time every 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 the advisor for the Issaquah Robotics Society. Memorable experiences include Snowmagedon 2019 (which happened right in the middle of build season), going to worlds, seeing the students' hard work pay off, and working with the mentors (Julie and Stacy Irwin, Randy Wang, Jim Troy, Alan Powazek, Amy and Dave Morse, and many others who help robotics run like a well-oiled machine—see what I did there...) and students.



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

I try to give back as much as I can. As I have gotten busier, I have had to step back my in-person volunteer work, but I still donate and support many great causes. These include the Northwest Community Bail Fund (<https://www.nwcombailfund.org/>), Lambda Legal (<https://www.lambdalegal.org/>), and the ACLU (<https://www.aclu.org/>) to name a few. It is important to give back to help others who are in need and to make the world a better place in any way you can. I am currently on the hunt for volunteer opportunities that give back to the community, so if you have any ideas, feel free to share.

What do you like to do outside of school?

I enjoy stand up paddle boarding, hiking, going to outdoor markets, binge watching documentaries (and reality TV), and baking. I like activities that allow me time to think, but I also search out activities that help clear my thoughts.

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

Vote and be kind to one another.

