



Issaquah High Teacher Profile

Hiroki Danshita - Danshita-sensei
Issaquah High Japanese Teacher

What is your education background?

I graduated from Naga High School in Japan, specializing in the International Program and learning English. I attended Brigham Young University in Hawaii, majoring in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and minoring in English as an International Language (EIL) and Music. I received my Masters in Teaching from St. Martin's University.

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 Wakayama, Japan, and of course it helped shaped who I am today! It was an entirely different culture.



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 used to work as an Educational Assistant with special needs students. I learned a lot of patience and love for my students. I especially enjoyed learning how to communicate and connect with nonverbal students.

How many years have you been teaching at Issaquah?

10

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

I teach Japanese 1-5. I love sharing the culture I come from with my students and helping broaden their view of other cultures and perspectives in the world. I enjoy helping them learn a second language, as well as helping them better understand their first language.

Any favorite teaching memories?

I love it when my students excel at the Washington State High School Speech/Skit Contest in Japanese. Many of my students win every year we attend, and some win the first prize free trip to Japan.

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 club mentor for Japanese Club. I am very proud of my students when they put on the community Japanese Expo at the high school. They amaze me every year.



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

Most of my volunteering is playing the piano to accompany church congregations and children's choirs.



What do you like to do outside of school?

I have a huge passion for music; it's my stress relief. I also love cooking and usually cook dinner for my family every night. I enjoy family fun activities and traditions. We love camping, swimming, hiking, kayaking, fairs and amusement parks, and holidays. Our favorite thing to do together is travel and have adventures in new places.

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

I have perfect pitch. I can name notes by sound and can play any song I hear on the piano. I also play the organ, trombone, and tuba. I was an exchange student from my high school in Japan when I was 16 years old. I stayed with a family in the Snoqualmie Valley and attended Mt. Si High School.