

Issaquah High Teacher Profile

Karen Kirsch aka Ms. K

Photo 1, Future Ready, Web Design Teacher (2nd year teaching at IHS)

What is your education background?

I graduated from Liberty High School in 2008 went to Western Washington University where I graduated from Wooding's College of Education in 2012! I studied Human Services and Diversity in Higher Education.



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

Yes, I grew up very close to Issaquah in the East Renton Highlands! My parents and siblings still live there and I believe that is a testament to how tightly knit the community is where I grew up. I visit often and attribute my sense of team spirit and community to growing up there.



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 wore many hats before becoming a teacher, and I have worked in the Issaquah School District for many years prior to my current role, working as the Site Director for Maywood Impact and Sunset Sockeye Club. I also was a regional manager for all the north elementary BASC programs around the plateau. While working for BASC I also started my own photography business which became my full time gig before I started teaching! All of my prior jobs have led me to teaching photography. I have led groups as big as 200 students and as small as 5. I have learned how to make learning fun and gained the opportunity to teach something I am truly passionate about!

How many years have you been teaching at Issaquah?

2 years

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

I teach Photography, Future Ready and Web Design. All of these subjects involve my favorite thing in the world – creativity!

Any favorite teaching memories?

My favorite teaching memory is from the end of every semester hearing from students on how much boarder their horizons are now that they understand their own creativity and know how to harness it better!

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?

Yes! I am the co leader of Photo Club! My favorite memory is from last year when we put on a photo booth for STEMposium. So many elementary school students got to jump in, be silly, and see how a camera works. We had a blast!

What do you like to do outside of school?

I have my own photography business outside of school which keeps me very busy and very happy. I also LOVE to cook and go for hikes around there.



