



Issaquah High Teacher Profile

Kate Kelly

Issaquah High AP US History, Civics Teacher

What is your education background?

I received my BA from Beloit College, a small liberal arts college in Beloit, Wisconsin. I have a BA in Art History, European History, and Museum Studies. I received my MA from Michigan State University, in East Lansing, MI. I have a MA in Art History and a Post-BA Education Certification in History & French. For awhile I thought I would work in museum curation or education, but I found out while getting my MA that I love teaching!



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

As you have probably guessed from my previous response, I grew up in the Midwest. I was born and raised in a very small town (graduating class of 72 people) in northern Michigan. My junior year of high school I was an exchange student in a suburb of Paris, France and that had a huge impact on my interest in travel, languages, and history.

What was your job before coming to teach at Issaquah?

Before coming to Issaquah, I taught French & History at Traverse City West Senior High in Traverse City, MI. I taught there for 15 years before moving to Issaquah.

How many years have you been teaching at Issaquah?

This is my 6th year at Issaquah.

Any favorite teaching memories?

I have taught too long to have any specific favorite teaching memories, but especially right now, I miss the camaraderie of discussing, exploring history, and learning with my students.



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

I teach AP US History and Civics. I LOVE teaching history especially because I truly believe, as William Faulkner said, "The past is never dead. It's not even past." History is around us in every experience we have, in every place we go, and in our lived experiences, both individual and as a society. I love helping students see their lives as part of a much larger human experience through 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 have advised many clubs over my years as a teacher. Right now, I am the club advisor for the IHS Feminism Club. This club started last year and has grown rapidly. We have been thrilled to bring a wide variety of students together to talk about historical and contemporary issues through the lens of striving for the equality of all individuals.

Is volunteering part of your life? If so, tell us about your volunteering experiences?

Most of my volunteering has been through my job – advising clubs and participating in other ways outside of the school day.

What do you like to do outside of school?

What I love the most is to travel, both solo and with my family. Since moving to the west coast, we have been making an effort to see more of the Western United States. I travel as much as I can and I'm missing it very much right now. Besides travel, I love to read, cook & bake.

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

In addition to being a teacher at IHS, I'm also an IHS parent; my daughter is a senior this year!

