



Issaquah High Teacher Profile

Leah Weitzsacker (nickname- Weitz)
Issaquah High Orchestra teacher

What is your education background?

I have my Bachelor of Music Education with a minor in Flute Performance as well as my Master of Music Education, both from State University of New York, College at Fredonia.

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 Western New York (which meant we went West to get to Canada, not North). I attended a public school with a very strong music program, much like Issaquah!

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

I taught for 3 years in NY before moving to WA. I taught high school band and orchestra as well as middle school band and general music. I taught at a private school in the area for a long time before coming to Issaquah- I taught band, computer class (grades K-5) and even Ancient Civilizations for 6th graders, in addition to other classes. It made me VERY flexible as a teacher.



How many years have you been teaching at Issaquah?

This is my 4th year at Issaquah. I teach Greenwood Orchestra, Chamber Strings and Evergreen Philharmonic. I absolutely LOVE my job. I get to work with incredible students to learn about and perform beautiful music every day. I can't think of a better way to spend my days.

Any favorite teaching memories?

When I came to Issaquah I felt like I was home. Having taught in 5 districts now, I can tell you that wasn't always the case. Issaquah is special and I am grateful to be here. My favorite memories so far are of getting to know my students and the incredible experience of performing in the theater with all of my groups.

Are you a club mentor (advisor) or sports coach and if so, what are the best parts of being a mentor/coach for that club/organization/sport? Any memorable experiences you would like to share?

In addition to advising orchestra, I also advise the Music Theory Interest Group, which facilitates students getting to learn more about music theory outside of class. It's always great to see students working together to share what they know with other students.

What do you like to do outside of school?

Outside of school, I live on a farm with my husband. It started with some horses, chickens and a garden and has grown from there. Our farm is called Crazy Acres at Slippery Slope Farm. It is literally a slippery slope in the rainy season, but also speaks to the growth of the farm. We have two orchards, a garden, horses, chickens, sheep, rabbits, quail, and we also have cats. There is never a slow moment on the farm. Adding something new to the farm usually starts with my husband or me asking "Hey, want to hear a crazy idea?" We raise as much of our own food as possible. It's a labor of love. I also love to cook, bake and my thing to learn during the pandemic was crochet!

