



Issaquah High Teacher Profile

Nicholas Hakes (Nico)

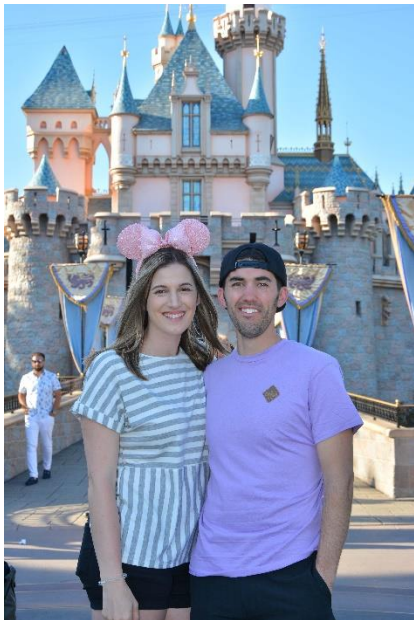
Issaquah High Social Studies teacher, World History 1 & 2

What is your education background?

I have an Undergraduate degree in Finance from Gonzaga, a MBA from Montclair State University (New Jersey), and a MIT from Gonzaga

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

I was born and raised north of Spokane. I grew up on lots of land and constantly had to help my parents maintain it, which taught me a lot about working hard and being responsible.



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 for the Walt Disney Company and my jobs there taught me a lot about working with a variety of people, cultures, and languages. This helps me throughout all my life because I am able to see situations from so many different perspectives, which allows me to have empathy. Additionally, I used to work in banking prior to being at Issaquah, which I believe allows me to add a lot more economic and finance understanding into Social Studies, while also enabling me to understand students not knowing what they want to do with their lives since it took me years to figure it all out.

How many years have you been teaching at Issaquah?

This is my second year at IHS.

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

I have only taught World History at Issaquah, but I love my subject and content because I am able to hop all over the world creating connections and bridging gaps for my students. It is extremely rewarding when students are able to realize how interconnected the world is and how small decisions can have a profound impact on all of us.



Any favorite teaching memories?

I have so many in my brief time here at Issaquah but getting emails from students and parents either informing me about something significant in their life or reaching out to say hello are some of my favorites. Connection and communication is key to learning, so when families and students want to enlighten me on something happening in their lives, it makes what I do so much more significant and rewarding.

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 Men's and Women's Varsity Tennis Coach. I love seeing how amazing these student-athletes are and that their talents reach far beyond the classroom. One of my favorite memories was winning districts with the Men's tennis team, going undefeated in league. Unfortunately, the Women's season got cancelled before we could achieve this feat.

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

I am absolutely obsessed with all things Disney. I met my wife Kelly when we were both working in Disneyland and it holds a special place in my heart



as so many amazing life memories are tied to Disney. I am also a massive supporter of Swansea City, which is a Welsh football club. They may not be the best squad, but I have supported them for years and years, and am hoping to go see a match as soon as COVID ends.

