



Issaquah High Teacher Profile

Shannon Henderson

Issaquah High LAC I (9th grade English), Contemporary Lit (12th grade), Public Speaking (12th grade Eng. Elective), and Shakespeare Teacher

What is your education background?

I have a BA in English from Whitman College and a Masters in Teaching from Seattle 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 was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. I'm not native Hawaiian, but growing up there instilled an incredible appreciation for indigenous cultures, cultural diversity, and environmental consciousness.



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've been in education my whole life. Before I was a certified teacher, I taught English in Japan for 2 years, worked as a reading coach for struggling learners in Seattle Public Schools, and ran an after school theater program for Elementary students in South Seattle. All of these experiences (especially working with a lot of different age levels) have helped me be a more understanding and flexible teacher.

How many years have you been teaching at Issaquah?

I've been at IHS for 9 years! Before that, I was at the Freshman Campus for 5 years.

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

I currently teach LAC I (9th grade English), Contemporary Lit (12th grade), Public Speaking (12th grade Eng. Elective), and Shakespeare. I LOVE ENGLISH. I love reading, I love talking about reading, and most of all, I love listening to students talk about books, and poems because I always learn something from them that deepens my own appreciation for whatever we're studying.

Any favorite teaching memories?

My absolute favorite time of every year is when we produce scenes for Romeo and Juliet. Even though it's not a drama class, students always try their hardest and sometimes even find that they have hidden talents that blow everyone away.

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?

I have been involved with the CARE Club for the last two years, and it's been a wonderful way to engage with students who are passionate about social justice and making this world a better place.



What do you like to do outside of school?

I love to knit and hike and read and listen to music! Basically, if it's a crafty thing, I have either tried it or wanted to try it. It's October, so most of my free time is now taken up with building Halloween costumes for my own kids. I also love to travel and hope that someday I'll be able to do that again.