



## Issaquah High Teacher Profile

### Ms. Crain

Issaquah High Math teacher

#### What is your education background?

I have a BS in Mathematics and a Masters in Teaching Mathematics; both from Oregon State 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 grew up in Medford, Oregon (Southern Oregon). Medford was a small/medium community. I had many opportunities for me to do activities and take a variety of courses. I danced (tap, jazz, and ballet), and even did a small tour starting in Seattle, down to Medford. I played competitive soccer, and was a member of the Oregon ODP soccer team, which practiced in Portland. There were lots of lakes, rivers, and outdoors (hiking and sightseeing) that I was able to do.

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

I went directly into teaching after college, but I held various jobs through college, including a receptionist for my mom's law office, cashier in a hardware store, assistant park ranger, taught dance, and coached soccer.



#### How many years have you been teaching at Issaquah?

24! (This is my silver year!!)

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

Algebra 2, AP Calculus AB, and AP Calculus BC – These courses are gatekeepers for future math. This means students often face their first struggles in math and learn new content that is different than they had experienced before. I love seeing the light in student's eyes when they figure something out, or experience that pride in understanding difficult mathematics and solving complicated/multi-step problems.

### Any favorite teaching memories?

A student many years ago, 'stole' one of my unique grading pens and took pictures of it around the nation during their road trip. I loved it! (I did work with their parent and got a baby picture and made a wanted poster☺.)

### Is volunteering part of your life? If so, tell us about your volunteering experiences and what you love about them?

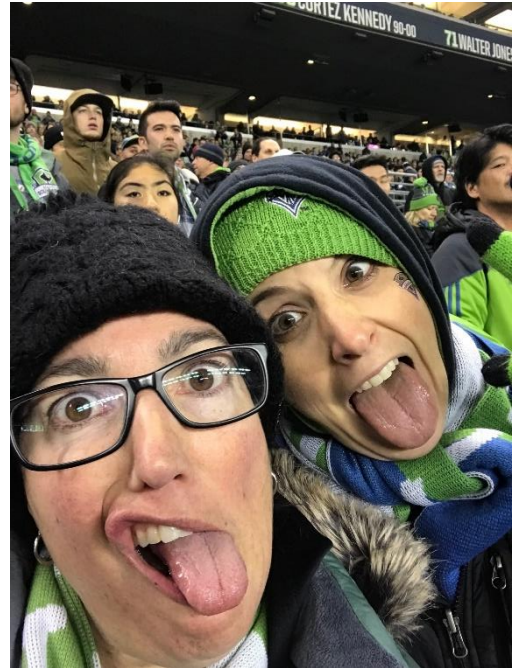
As is maybe no surprise, I often helped my friends with their math. Currently I help many of the neighbor kids around where I live.

### What do you like to do outside of school?

I still play rec soccer. In quarantine I have done online Barre class and some lifting videos. I live near Greenlake and try to spend time in the water either on our inflatable canoe or SUP. I have two kids and one of my son's friends living with us. I spend a lot of time running them to their different activities also – which means a lot of walking during practices☺.

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

I deeply enjoy my job – it is something that makes me happy, I feel as though I'm helping others, and I can't imagine my life without it. On top of the incredible people I work with and have worked with, I appreciate all the student and family support I have gotten and felt throughout my years. You are all part of what keeps teachers wanting to do more and be better. Thank you!



< My son and new son☺ showing off their new snuggles!



< Both my kids have been in Japanese Immersion since Kindergarten. I went to Japan with both of them after 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Here my daughter and I are on the top of Mt. Inarisan, which the hike takes you through the Fushima-Inari Taisha Shrine