



Issaquah High Teacher Profile

Señor Robles (Bryan Robles)

Issaquah High Marine Biology and Biomed Teacher

What is your education background?

I earned a BA in scientific illustration from Humboldt State University, and my MS in Biology from UW.



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 Southern California and was extremely privileged to spend my high school years in Palos Verdes. Went surfing every day in the summer, saw Queen in concert when Freddy Mercury was still alive, had a '66 Mustang as my first car. Ah, the memories.

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 was working in the Marine Mammals department at Marineland in California (the original marine theme park.) I was an animal keeper and veterinary assistant, feeding orphan seals (and even a baby walrus), helping rejuvenate injured sea lions brought in by seaside rescue operations. All these experiences provide anecdotes for a lively marine biology class.

How many years have you been teaching at Issaquah?

This is my 20th year at IHS, although I taught for 13 years before coming here. Originally I was working with inner city kids in Los Angeles. I've had quite a spectrum of teaching experiences.

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

I teach two wonderful science electives; Marine Biology and Biomedical Science. Marine bio is academically my "first love" (as in it being the subject of my "what are you going to be when you grow up" essay in 5th grade.)

Any favorite teaching memories?

Too many to mention. There are special moments, like when one of my Biomed classes performed its “fitness magazine” project and the room became such a party atmosphere. I’ve also taught my Biomed class to gifted 9th graders in a summer program at the University of Hong Kong. Those kids were so intensely enthusiastic and appreciative. I also really enjoy the surprise moments, like when Marine Bio kids are dissecting a shark only to discover it’s pregnant with little baby sharks.

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

When I was in college (in Northern California) I used to volunteer at the Hoopa Indian reservation. It was part of an outreach program with the local Lutheran church, and we worked with the elderly. I was either chopping firewood for the rest home or helping 83 year old Oscar in his garden.

We would plow the soil for maybe ten minutes, and then he’d want to just sit and “shoot the bull.” It was eye opening to work there. We shared a lot of common ground, but there was noticeably a different vibe to that little community. We had a salmon cookout over a coal pit that, to this day, made the best salmon I’ve ever tasted (the acorn soup, on the other hand, was an acquired taste.)

What do you like to do outside of school?

Anybody who knows anything about me knows that I’m an artist. My first published work was in 8th grade, and I’ve been doing everything from freelance comic book art to storyboards for television commercials. Now I’m focusing on children’s book writing and illustrating.

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

I’d be ashamed not to mention something about my family life, so here goes: Married to the same patient and wonderful woman for 35 years, raised three kids, the last of which just went off to school two states away.

