



Issaquah High Staff Profile

Erin Connolly

Issaquah High Principal



What is your education background?

I attended the University of Illinois-Chicago and received a Bachelor's in History Education. I also have two Masters Degrees from SPU, one in Curriculum and Instruction and the other in Educational Leadership.

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 the suburbs of Chicago in a community quite similar to Issaquah's but attended college and spent my early 20s in the city of Chicago. I think my time in Chicago really helped me develop an appreciation for diversity and a passion for trying to make sure that everyone, regardless of where they live or what their background is, has access to a quality education. Chicago is an incredibly diverse city but it's also very segregated and I think seeing how the neighborhood you lived in could impact on the opportunities you had access to really has shaped who I am as an educator.



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 taught at 2 high schools in Chicago prior to coming to Issaquah. While I was in college I was a cheer camp instructor. Teaching at those camps and coaching cheer is what really got me interested in being a teacher in the first place.



How many years have you been teaching at Issaquah?

This is my 11th year at Issaquah High. I started off as a history teacher, then was the Activities Coordinator/ASB advisor for a few years. The last 3 years I spent as an Assistant Principal.

Any favorite teaching memories?

A lot of my favorite memories from teaching are centered on the relationships I formed with students. One memory that always makes me smile though is 2 students who called my classroom phone during 4th period to report that they were running late to class because they were at Ezell's and wanted to know what they could bring back for me.

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

I volunteered a lot in high school as a volunteer coach for a youth cheerleading team. I also spent a bit of time volunteering at various events in Seattle when we first moved here as a way to meet people.

What do you like to do outside of school?

Outside of school I like to spend time with my husband, two kids, and dog. We really enjoy traveling and although we haven't been able to do that as much as we would like to lately because of the pandemic we are looking forward to being able to do that again soon. My husband and I have been to over 25 countries and can't wait to start taking our children abroad.

