

Tho Kraus

City and state: Tacoma, WA

High school attended: Clover Park High School

Graduation year: 1988

Colleges attended/degrees earned:

Bachelor of Arts in business administration from the University of Washington



Current career/job:

Assistant City Manager for Administrative Services, city of Lakewood

Describe the path you took from high school graduation to where you are today:

The opportunity to work at the school district was perfect as it allowed me to apply for the city of Federal Way's newly created cash and general ledger accountant position. I was selected for the position, began working for Federal Way in March 1994 and progressed to finance manager. I left Federal Way in September 2007 to take the deputy budget officer position at the city of Tacoma only to come back to Federal Way in March 2008 as their finance director. I never thought I'd leave Federal Way but a great opportunity too good to pass up came along and I was offered the position at the city of Lakewood and started work here in October 2013.

How did your experiences in Clover Park School District help prepare you for this path?

When we moved to Lakewood, I started at Oakwood Elementary in the third-grade and attended Lochburn Junior High (Middle) School and Clover Park High School. In elementary school, I was active in sports, received the Kiwanis award and was patrol captain. In junior high school, I was in the drill team, choir and ASB president for my class. Those were my most impressionable years. I continued with drill team in high school. All those experiences help shaped my future.

Who was the most influential teacher or administrator to you as a student in the district? Why?

I had a lot of great teachers! To quickly name some:

- Mr. Prentice – sixth-grade principal. He was a nice, fun

and respected principal. All the students liked him.

- Mrs. Ripley – third-grade teacher. The “Ramona the Pest” book she read to us was great.
- Mr. Cox – fifth-grade teacher. He taught me how to juggle.
- Mr. Groth – sixth-grade teacher. He was the sports guy who made sports so much fun!
- Mrs. Sannerud – fourth-grade teacher. I remember the memorable “Tales of a Fourth-Grade Nothing” book.
- Mr. Gamas - high school biology teacher. He was just a kick and made learning fun. He joked a lot and went along with our jokes too.
- Mrs. Shallow - junior high school choir teacher. She was very passionate about what she did, wanted us to sing well and gave it her all.
- Mr. Weatherby - high school choir teacher. Sometimes as a group we weren't always so cooperative. He helped me appreciate teachers even more.
- Mr. Madison - junior high school principal – He was always very calm.
- Mrs. Bennett - French language teacher – She was stern but in a good way.
- Mr. Cos - junior high school PE teacher – He blew his whistle at the end of class and told me to go ahead and cross the football field instead of completing the mile run. I never liked running so this was a break.
- Mr. Nielson - junior high school math teacher – Math was never my forte so I appreciated that he allowed us to have some fun.

What opportunities exist in your career sector for new graduates? Is post-secondary education required for this field?

Having any post-secondary/trade school education will provide greater opportunities which I would encourage high school graduates to pursue. It's competitive out there and having a degree will help set them apart from others.