

**Gretchen Nordleaf-Nelson**  
**Educator/Director/Arts Advocate**

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**PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

I have worked in various roles in my career, as a classroom teacher, theatre director, and arts advocate. Through my experience in both public and independent schools communities, I have become well-versed with the International Baccalaureate's (IB) standards and practices. As a dual certified teacher with over 30 years teaching experience, I will bring an abundance of knowledge, passion, enthusiasm and dedication to your school and the classroom. I create positive and engaging learning environments where students are encouraged to take risks, inquire and challenge assumptions to grow and become contributing members of a global community.

**SKILLS**

- Lesson Design and Implementation of IB Curriculum and Assessment
- Interpersonal, Oral, Written Communication
- Engaging Learning Concepts and Techniques: Differentiated Instruction
- Collaboration and Devising-based instruction in Theatre
- Production Design and Direction
- Literature-based Instruction and Shared Inquiry Discussion
- Focus Based Writing; Literary Analysis Essay to Varied Literary and Non-Literary Text Types
- Use of Formative and Summative Assessment
- Google Classroom: Google-Based Collaboration
- Effective and Respectful Classroom Management

**EDUCATION**

**1984 Master of Arts in Theatre Administration**

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

**1983 Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, English and Secondary Education**

Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington

**1980 Associate of Arts Theatre and Humanities**

Olympic College, Bremerton, Washington

**WORK HISTORY TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**West Sound Academy 2013-Present**

IB Theatre, IB Language & Literature, English, Theatre, Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay

**George School 2006-2013**

English, Journalism, ELL, Religion, IB Art

**Lawrence High School 2004-05**

Theatre and English Instructor 9-12

**Olympic High School 1997-2002**

Theatre and English Instructor 10-12

**Olympic College 1989-95**

Theatre and Communications Instructor

**Sehome High School 1984-1986**

Theatre and Speech Instructor 9-12

## **EXPERIENCE WITH CURRICULUM DESIGN AND INSTRUCTION**

### ***West Sound Academy:***

IB Language and Literature  
IB Theatre  
Theory of Knowledge  
Theatre -Devising, Makeup and Costume Design, Production Design  
Art History  
Holistic Health

### ***George School:***

Newspaper and Layout Design – IB  
Art Yearbook – Graphic Design – IB Art  
Junior English – American Literature  
Sophomore English  
9th ELL Literature and US History  
Essentials of a Friends Community

### ***Lawrence High School:***

Theatre  
English  
Introduction to Acting  
Scene Study  
Junior English – American Literature

### ***Olympic High School:***

Drama I – Introduction to Acting  
Play Production  
Dramatic Literature – Historical Perspective  
English Literature I & II  
World Literature  
Social Themes in Literature  
Practical Writing  
College Writing  
Creative Writing  
Introduction to Theatre

### ***Olympic College:***

Acting I – Improvisation  
Acting II – Acting  
Acting III – Scene Study  
Production Workshop  
Interpersonal Communications

### ***Sehome High School:***

Drama I – Beginning Acting  
Acting II – Scene Study  
Production III – Advanced Scene Study and Directing  
Speech/Interpersonal Communications

## **DIRECTING EXPERIENCE**

### **West Sound Academy 2014-present**

*The Brothers Grimm - SPECTACULATHON, Vintage Hitchcock: Radio Plays, Emma True: Teen Detective Radio Play, The Importance of Being Earnest, She Kills Monsters, See How They Run, Almost, Maine, The Curious Savage, The Diary of Anne Frank, Death by Design, 12 Angry Jurors, I Hate Hamlet, The Secret in the Wings, Rumors, Anatomy of Gray*

### **Central Kitsap High School 2013-14**

*Harvey, Almost, Maine, Postmortem*

### **Lawrence High School 2004-05**

*Into The Woods, You Can't Take It With You*

### **Olympic High School 1997-2002**

*Night Must Fall, Little Shop of Horrors, God, 1940's Radio Hour, Never In My Lifetime, Girls to the Rescue, Noises Off, Remember My Name*

### **Seattle Children's Theatre Summer Program 1995**

*The Boy Who Talked to Whales*

### **Olympic College 1989-1993**

*White As Snow, Red as Blood-The Story of Snow White, Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday, Hay Fever, The Adventures of Alice, The Octette Bridge Club*

### **Sehome High School 1985-86**

*The Chalk Garden, You Can't Take It With You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*

## **PRODUCING EXPERIENCE**

Olympic High School 2000-2001

*The Boyfriend and The Matchmaker*

Olympic College 1994-95

*Shadow Box and Jungalbook*

University of Michigan 1983-84

*Cyrano de Bergerac, Dogg's Hamlet, Cahoot's Macbeth, Children*

## **TEACHING ARTIST**

*Creative Dramatics for the Special Needs Classroom* – Instructor October 2005

Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22, Doylestown, PA

*Creative Dramatics for the Gifted Child* – Instructor November 2005

Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 Doylestown, PA

*Creative Dramatics Across the Curriculum and The Teacher As Actor* – Instructor June 2001

Central Kitsap Continuing Education Summer Term Western Washington University, Silverdale, WA campus

*Creative Dramatics for the Classroom Teacher* – Instructor Spring 1995 Central Kitsap Continuing Education, Seattle Pacific University, Silverdale, WA campus

*Teacher of Creative Dramatics Summer 1988*

College Gate Program, Easton, MA

## **COMMITTEE WORK**

### **Washington Arts Education Collaborative**

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Washington State 2020 - present

### **West Sound Academy**

Accreditation Renewal Team for AdvancedEd and IB 2017-18 & 2021-present

Fall Gathering Committee 2014-present

Social Emotional Learning Team 2019-present

### **George School**

Junior/Senior Peer Leadership Coordinator 2007 - 2013

QCore Team 2007 - 2008

Peer Leadership 2006 – 2008

Foundational Skills Committee 2008 – 2013

Essentials of a Friends Community Curriculum Team 2007 - 2013

### **Olympic High School**

Fine and Performing Arts Curriculum Committee 1997-2002

Writing Across the Curriculum Team 1997-2002

Problem Based Learning Project 2000-2002

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington State

Member Theatre Endorsement Advisory Committee 1987

### **Sehome High School**

Interdisciplinary Arts Course – Curriculum Design Team 1984-86

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION/TRAINING**

ISTA Professional Development courses 2020-present

IB Theatre Examiner 2017-present

IB Theatre Training 2015 Atlanta, GA

IB Language and Literature Training 2014 New Mexico

Antioch University, Seattle, Washington 1997-present Continuing Education courses

Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, Washington 1993-94 Continuing Education courses

## **PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION**

Washington State Continuing Teacher Certification K-12

Endorsement in English & Theatre Issued: June 1983

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Teacher Certification – Secondary Endorsement Language Arts 7-12 Issued: November 1987

Pennsylvania Teacher Certification

Level I Certification in English 7-12 Issued: February 2006

New Jersey Standard Certificate

Teacher of Theatre Issued: March 2005

Teacher of English 7-12 Issued: February 2008

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

ISTA, current member

Kitsap Children's Museum, Advisory Board Member, current

Washington State Thespians, past Board Member

-Coordinator WA State Theatre Educator State In Service 2015-2020

-Coordinator WA State Theatre Adjudicators 2014-2020

Theatre Communications Group - member

Educational Theatre Association

-National Adjudicator for Screening of Festival Main stage Plays 2006-2014

-Association Member, current as Thespian Troupe Sponsor

Bucks County Montessori Charter School, past member Board of Trustees

Bucks County Performing Arts Center – past Board member

(previously known as the Lower Makefield Performing Arts Society)

Washington Alliance for Theatre Education – past Board Member

-past Vice President Washington State Education Association, past member

Central Kitsap Education Association, past member

Kitsap Children's Visual and Performing Arts, past President

## **AWARDS and HONORS**

PROFESSIONAL THEATRE PROGRAM FELLOWSHIP 1983-84

Professional Theatre Program University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI

ROTARY TEACHER OF THE MONTH May 1997

For Promoting Communications in our Schools East Bremerton Rotary, Bremerton, WA

Recipient of

REGINALD AND ESTHER PRICE TEACHING CHAIR FOR YOUNG FACULTY 2007 and 2008

Recipient of MIRANDA FUND 2007 and 2008 for Outstanding Teaching and Dedication to students.

George School, Newtown, PA

## **ARTICLES AND PUBLICATIONS**

### **ISTA Scene**

The Adventures of Teaching the Theatre Journal

by Gretchen Nordleaf-Nelson | Publication date 30 June 2022

[Creating community in the virtual theatre classroom](#)

by Gretchen Nordleaf-Nelson | 1 April 2021

### **West Sound Academy News**

[HOW THE WEST SOUND ACADEMY PANDEMIC THEATRE WAS BORN](#)

Jan 24, 2021 | Theatre

[SOLVING THE PUZZLE IN IB THEATRE – BY LEAPING IN THE DARK.](#)

May 25, 2020 | Theatre

**Washington Arts Collaborative Work - Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington**

[The Arts Are Essential](#)

[Considerations for the Arts](#)

[Connecting The Arts to Social Emotional Learning](#)

## REFERENCES

### **Simon Bell**

IB Theatre Instructor, Workshop Leader, Examiner  
United Nations International School, Tutorial House  
[sbell@unis.org](mailto:sbell@unis.org)  
[Simonwilliambell@gmail.com](mailto:Simonwilliambell@gmail.com)

### **Samantha Pierce**

IB Theatre Teacher, Workshop Leader, Examiner  
[dramaeed@gmail.com](mailto:dramaeed@gmail.com)

### **Robert Beath**

Theatre Teacher/Director, retired  
[rbeath@charter.net](mailto:rbeath@charter.net)

### **Tom Hoopes**

Teacher  
Head of Religion Department  
George School  
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### **Catherine Freeman**

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