



News release

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Jackson High School's Jason Gadek named Northwest Region 2024 High School Adviser of the Year by AWSL



Jason Gadek with JHS student leaders

MILL CREEK, WA – The Association of Washington Student Leaders (AWSL) has named Jason Gadek of Jackson High School the Northwest Region 2024 High School Adviser of the Year for his dedication to student leadership and creating an inclusive school culture.

Gadek believes in helping students grow and letting them take charge. “I let them fail and struggle, and then I work with them to figure out how we can learn from mistakes and improve moving forward,” he explains. He encourages students to take risks, knowing they have his support.

Jackson student Christine Oh describes his impact: “Mr. Gadek is an extremely friendly and funny teacher. He always strives to represent the whole student body and considers different groups of people. Although he prioritizes advocating for the entire student body, he will also prioritize protecting ASB and never stops standing up for his students—to teachers, to students, and to everyone. We always know he will protect us and stand up for us if we feel underrepresented.”

Gadek believes leadership starts with treating students as people first. “I asked a former student what helped him see himself as a leader, and he told me it was that I treated him as a person first, not just a student,” he reflects. “That perfectly captures my approach. I model what I think a leader looks like and sounds like. I work alongside students rather than pointing fingers and telling them where to go.” He pushes students to think about those not in the room, create inclusive events, and move beyond superficial participation. “We should seek to be outstanding rather than standing out,” he often tells them.

AWSL Director James Layman praises Gadek’s leadership: “Jason Gadek is a leader’s leader. He leads not just in the things he says or advocates for, but through his intentional actions and how he moves through the world. He is passionate, dedicated, loyal, and a true champion for each and every student. His work extends beyond the walls of Jackson High School. As a cherished staff member at Mount Triumph Leadership Camp (sponsored by AWSL), his contributions to WESCO and WACA showcase his deep commitment to student activities and the professionals who support them. He is a phenomenal leader, educator, adviser, and, most importantly, a phenomenal human being.”

Gadek's influence ensures that students leave Jackson High School ready to lead in their future careers and communities. For more information about the Association of Washington Student Leaders and the High School Adviser of the Year Award, please visit www.AWSLeaders.org.

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