August 30, 2018

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and welcome you to the 2018-2019 school year at MASH! I am very excited to teach mathematics within the Medford School District, especially with the new happenings with our curriculum. We are using a new curriculum called Illustrative Math (IM), and I am very excited to implement this teaching style into my classroom. Traditionally, math class has been conducted in a formal lecture type setting. However, the way that IM works is much more applicable, discussion based learning. Research shows that having guided discussion about data, shapes, and expressions, helps students retain the processes and problem solving skills needed to become career and college ready.

I will be using IM in my Pre-Algebra and Geometry classes this year, while also implementing ALEKS. ALEKS is an online tool used to supplement instruction and provide additional practice and/or fill learning gaps that exist even after taking several years of math throughout your student’s educational career. We all experience topics that we don’t understand; ALEKS helps your student find success in their math skills that they have not understood in the past. My favorite part of ALEKS is that it will not waste your student’s time by re-teaching them things they already know. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to reach out to me at any time, you will find my contact information below.

Now, let’s switch gears as I share my education and qualifications with you. I graduated from Thorp High School in 2011 and continued my education at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. I graduated with my Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics and Psychology in the fall of 2015. While completing my degree, I studied String Theory and 4-Demensional Tops and was published in the *Experimental Mathematics* journal in 2014. After graduation, I moved to New Hampshire to write, accuracy review, and program online assignments to accompany math textbooks used in classrooms across the country. Through this position I learned that I wanted to teach the content I was writing and applied to the Master of Education in Secondary Education program at Grand Canyon University. I graduate October 20, 2018 from my Master’s program.

I want to stress the importance of communication between us as the year progresses. I believe that communication is part of the success of your student’s education and I am happy to discuss your student’s performance in my class at any time. I encourage you to talk to them on a regular basis as well. Again, feel free to contact me at any time.

Thank you for your time,

Alexa Syryczuk

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