



March, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am writing this letter to introduce myself and to make you aware of the upcoming changes in your student's Freshman Algebra class. My name is David Montecucco and I am currently enrolled in the MIT program (Masters of Initial Teaching) at Gonzaga University. I graduated from Gonzaga some twenty years ago with a degree in Electrical Engineering. I am a parent like you, with two teenage children, who decided at this stage of my life to change careers. After many tutoring sessions with my children as well their friends, I experienced first hand their lack of mathematical understanding. It was suggested that I become a math teacher to help students in our area become more proficient in math and to understand the basics so that they were in a position to pass the State Math Proficiency Exams (previously known as the WASL). I was lucky enough to have been placed in a job shadow role with Ms. Spohrs since the beginning of the school year. I have been working with her in lesson preparation and execution and have had active interaction with her students on a daily basis. The students know me through the classroom exercises as well as from the Math Tutoring Center that I work one afternoon per week.

I will be taking over teaching your student's Freshman Algebra class starting March 1, 2011. We will be studying the Quadratic Formula, its applications and uses not only in the realm of math but in everyday life.

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

The formula was discovered by Euclid around 200 b.c and continues to be an important basic in the study of mathematics. My goal is that each student will understand how it works and what it is used for. For example: a student will be able to determine the altitude of a ball thrown into the air or to determine the time it takes to hit the water after jumping off a diving board. This will be an exciting time for all of us to explore and question some of the basic roots of the mathematics' tree. I hope to challenge the students to think beyond the box (usually a square) and discover new possibilities or applications of the theory. Please contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.

Respectfully,

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Mr. Montes' vision statement:



I want my students to never feel helpless or at a dead end. Since learning in the 21st century means being in contact 24-7, my class will utilize many resources to keep current and accessible. I will have at disposal books, tutors, and teachers to help as well as utilizing current technology for example; email, texting, podcasting, YouTube. Assignments, links to problem solving websites, class notes, and PowerPoint's will be available at www.montemath.com.