

Mathematics is the way in which we make sense of the world. It is the “why” in “why does this work this way?”. Math helps us to build houses, travel, and even go to the moon! Its interdisciplinary nature makes it an essential subject. Math is truly all around, and that is why it is my chosen subject area. My course work at Evergreen continues to prepare and equip me with the tools I need to be a successful and well-rounded educator.

At Portland Community College I took a class called “Foundations of Elementary Math.” This course discussed the different numeration systems, patterns, and number theory. I believe this course has prepared me by giving me context into the struggles that many students are faced with when asked to tackle a what is for them, a novel subject such as math. My first course at Evergreen was “Nature and Nurture.” After completing this course, I have a better understanding of what is developmentally typical behavior for adolescents. I believe this to be a pivotal skill to carry into the classroom. The next relevant course taken at evergreen was titled “Counting on the Brain.” The course material focused mainly on neuroscience, but a portion of the class involved algebraic thinking. It was during this portion of the class that I realized that I loved math and further understood why other people do not love math. I also learned the importance of a good and supportive teacher. The next term I took out of passion I took pre-calculus 2, this term I also took “Environmental Psychology and Public Health.” It was in this class that I learned of the disparities in the education system and decided that my personal pedagogy would include equity and teaching in a way that recognizes all the systems of oppression that exist in this country while celebrating the social and cultural diversity of students.

I believe some of my strengths to be compassion, passion, mathematic competency, as well as recognition of inequities particularly as they pertain to education, understanding of behavior, and child development. Something I would love to learn more about is instructional

control in a large group, as well as expected curriculum and how to create a classroom culture that celebrates differences. My plans for the remaining terms would be to take more math! In the next year I plan on enrolling in Matter and Motion which includes Physics, Calculus, and Chemistry followed by Calculus 2 and Computer Science Foundations with Discrete Math, finally my last term as an undergrad at the Evergreen State College would (hopefully) be spring start for the Masters in Teaching program with calculus 3. My hope is these classes will not only further my mathematical competency but also give me a breadth of knowledge in the sciences as well. My passion is not just doing math but teaching it to those who find it difficult to understand. I cannot wait for the teachers at Evergreen to further teach me how to teach others.