

Name: Matthew Argyle

Year in School: 10

School Name: Timpview High School

Driven by Math

Unlike most kindergarteners, who dream about becoming astronauts or the president, I dreamed about becoming a mathematician. This strong desire that was instilled into me in kindergarten has slowly been stoked into a roaring passion that has helped to define who I am. I love math; it makes sense to me and helps me understand our world. Over the years, this passion has driven me to further my knowledge; I have participated in math competitions, attended math camps, and taken advanced courses.

My first competition was the American Mathematics Contest 8 (AMC 8), a worldwide competition for eighth graders. I was eleven, and I scored high enough to be in the top 25% in the world. I was hooked. I started practicing old questions. I formed a small group of friends who also liked math so that we could race each other. By the time I was in sixth grade, we formed a MATHCOUNTS team at our school. MATHCOUNTS is a math competition for sixth to eighth graders, but our entire team was sixth graders. Much to everyone's amazement, we placed high enough at the chapter competition to make it to the state level. Since starting high school, I have been active in Math Club. Last year, I was the 12th place individual in the State Math Competition. This year, our math club took first place in the nation in the Math Madness Competition. It has been very satisfying to see the results of my efforts.

Besides competitions, I have also attended math camps at Brigham Young University. There, I was instructed by math professors in number theory and other topics not normally covered in school. I also learned about some of their research, which helped me understand what mathematicians do. I discovered that math is everywhere. For example, I had no idea how much math went into making Pixar movies; people actually write equations to model snow and other movements. Other mathematicians are heavily involved in cybersecurity. Everyone - including Google, the Federal Reserve Bank, pharmaceuticals, and engineering firms - needs mathematicians. I am excited about the many opportunities available.

For now, I continue to push myself in my studies. My passion for math has accelerated my learning, which led me to take calculus as a freshman in high school. I was the only freshman in my class, which drew many stares from my classmates. By the end of the year, though, I had made many new friends who shared my love for math.

I do not know where math will take me. I might model pandemics or fight cybercrime. Math is the foundation of all science; maybe I will create mathematical equations that will allow others to

find the cure for cancer. All I know is that I need to let my passion steer my learning. In college, I plan to major in either mathematics or applied mathematics. This scholarship will help me fulfill my childhood dream of becoming a mathematician.