***Statement of Purpose***

***Problem***

I teach first and second grade combined at a small private school. If you think planning for one class is difficult, imagine doing it for two classes at different grade and intelligence levels. My district is a little behind in incorporating the common core standards into the curriculum. They are slowly adding them and expecting the teachers to fulfill them without proper preparation or training.

The students need to have a concrete plan for their learning. I believe that schedules and routines are a necessary part to the learning process. When the students are able to visually see their journey through a learning activitiy, it helps then understand and comprehend what is expected. Also, incorporating the common core standards that are addressed is an integral part to the curriculum design. The students will understand why we do certain things in the classroom if the standards are noted and discussed.

***Needs of the Learner***

“The most exciting, yet difficult transition, is the one from kindergarten to first grade” (Hollowell, 2010). I completely agree with this statement. A kindergarten classroom consists, most of the time, of large tables, playtime, and lots of movement. When entering a first grade classroom, it is typically the start of “school”. By this, I mean that you are expected to sit in your seat, not talk out, and the amount of work is almost doubled. Most students entering the first grade often need a “refresher” from kindergarten before tackling the rigorous curriculum that is now expected of them.

The students need to be refreshed of the basics in mathematics before taking on the more complex topics. They need to understand the basics of counting and numbers and then apply them to more topics such as addition and subtraction. It is imperative to master the basic techniques beforehand because math is used in a variety of ways in multiple content areas. It is a subject that builds upon previously learned concepts. Without the basics, the students may not be able to comprehend more detailed problems.

***Needs of the society***

Most students always pose the question “Why do we need math?” Math is a very integral part to live in this society successfully. Whether you believe it or not, you use math every single day multiple times. Learning the basics of math can help further your math education into more complex ideas that you can apply to yourself. Most jobs require some sort of math to perform efficiently. “Math curriculum is essential to further competitiveness in the future”(Mullich). This statement is true on so many different levels. We are a very competitive society trying to reach the same goals. With an efficient knowledge of math, it enhances your chances at achieving success that others are trying to gain as well—and it all begins in the classroom.

***Value of the subject matter***

As previously stated, math is such an important factor in our everyday lives. Not only is it important in our day to day living, but it is used in many content areas. It is integrated throughout the curriculum in many subjects which enhance our students’ learning—which in turn makes it an extremely valuable subject matter.

***Educational goal***

The purpose of this curriculum design to help students understand and master the basics of mathematics. It is the foundation to many more complex skills and ideas that will be taught. Once these basics are mastered, they can be applied to more complex ideas, which then will be applied to even more complex ideas. It is building process with knowledge—taking what you know, applying it, learning more, and applying it again.

***References***

Hollowell, K. (2010, January 1). How to Transition From Kindergarten to the First Grade. Retrieved February 21, 2015.

Mullich, J. (n.d.). Rising to the Challenge. Retrieved February 21, 2015, from http://online.wsj.com/ad/article/mathscience-rising