Brooke Inselmann

Curriculum Design

**Statement of Purpose**

Mathematics is one of the most important academic areas in today’s society. To be successful in school, society, and work you must be knowledgeable in Math. The state of Ohio mandates annual assessments in Math to track student learning. The scores of the annual assessment give teachers and students a good idea of their skill level in Math. Schools across the state are now focusing more time on Mathematics after having low student test scores. The importance of good Math skills in and out of school can’t be stressed enough.

It is imperative to have good math skills in order to be successful in today’s society. As stated in the article *Mathematics in Today’s world,* the underpinnings of everyday life, such as making purchases, choosing insurance or health plans, and planning for retirement all require mathematical competence. Businesses look for workers who have real-world problem solving skills. The more educated students are in math upon graduating from high school the better off they will be in problem solving situations. Problem solving situations aren’t always related to math, but the skills taught in math can help in any situation if used appropriately.

The state of Ohio has content standards in Math for grades K-12 which are tested on the annual achievement assessments. These standards lay out exactly what needs to be taught to students at each specific grade level and build off each other every year. The purpose of the standards is so that students across the state are receiving the same information. They must all master the same skills to be successful in their grade level. Competency in mathematics includes understanding of mathematical concepts, facility with mathematical skills, and application of concepts and skills to problem-solving situations (Academic Content Standards). Applying the skills is also very important. As students get older and venture out into the real world their Math skills will be important for survival. Mathematics teaches ways of thinking that are essential to work and civic life (Mathematics in today’s world).

The material I am including on my 7th Grade Math Curriculum Design is closely related to the Ohio Academic Content Standards. I have broken it down into the important concepts that I focus on under each standard. Through my teaching of the material, my students will be given what they need to be competent in 7th grade Mathematics. They will be given the skills needed to be successful in society and in the work place.

Ohio Department of Education. (2004). *Academic Content Standards k-12 Mathematics.*

Columbus, OH.

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. (2004). *Mathematics in Today’s*

*World.* http://www.nctm.org/resources/content.aspx?id=9344