

My Math Story by James D.

Math has always been fun for me. I learned basic math from my family and I did it for fun as a kid. I even learned Roman numerals in Kindergarten just because I wanted to do more math. Numbers just click with me. My brain likes and processes angles very quickly, which shows when I am playing soccer where I can see the angle and drop a ball properly at a teammate's feet or triangulating coordinates while flying, which amazed my flight instructor.

I started cross learning a school based math course in third grade to be exposed to common core learning in case I returned to in school classes. I blew through first, second and third grade math in one summer. I was allowed to choose which way I preferred to solve the problems and I NEVER chose common core.

When I reached sixth grade, my mom taught me honors algebra as I was already proficient in all math skills. I found it more challenging but was easily able to successfully complete the course and be on an advanced track to take algebra I the following year. For me, algebra I was overly easy compared to the honors course the year before so as I prepared to enter eighth grade and begin Geometry, my mom decided that I needed a higher level math course to challenge me and ensure I was getting the best math education possible given my interest in math, engineering, physics, astronomy and flight. This is when we went searching, found Triad Math and Dr. Del and I knew my life would never be the same again.

Tiers I through III was challenging, fun and exciting. Dr. Del showed me concepts that normal math programs do not teach students and all this further reinforced my love of math. I very quickly advanced through these tiers in a few months and in doing so caught the eye of Dr. Del and his associate, Ms. Goodman. They arranged a zoom meeting with myself and my mom and that was the beginning of a relationship more as an apprentice, not just a student.

Tier IV used the Simmons book and plunged into depth of advanced algebra, geometry and trig concepts. As he went into more depth, deeper detail of all these different maths, that only made it easier to grasp the concepts and increase my overall understanding of the advanced concepts. As I reached Tier 5, integral and differential calculus, Dr. Del began using Wolfram Alpha in depth and once again further ignited my love for math and learning. Through this excitement, Dr. Del is expanding my curriculum to include a full Wolfram Alpha, Linux based programming course utilizing his supercomputer with a raspberry pie data chip which will take my math and programming skills far beyond other high school seniors.

As a homeschool student, I was not exposed to standardized tests as the school system administers yearly. I have tons of tests but more like a college student, quizzes, tests, midterms and finals for my classes to test comprehension of my subjects, not how I fit into a limited box. My first ever standardized test was the SAT. I was nervous but scored a 710 on the math section, only missing one question on one of the two sections. My weakness was ratios, I rocked the higher level math concepts taught by Dr. Del.