



CREATING PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS IN MATH: NOAH

"By letting the students set their own goals in Math, we find that they are more motivated to achieve them. Whether it is short term goals—week by week—or larger goals related to semester grades and course advancements, we are empowering our students to take ownership of their success."

—Kristine Schneid, Math Department Chair

>> Allowing students to achieve their personal goals and reach their full potential

Here's how Noah describes his math experience at SDJA:

At my previous school, we were placed in our math track in 7th and 8th grade. I really wasn't that interested in math, my passion was writing.

I came to SDJA for high school because of the smaller class sizes and course flexibility. I have benefited from the "choose your own adventure" approach to course selection. Math isn't taught just from a textbook here, but through projects and other engaging activities. I was able to use my passion – origami – to demonstrate my understanding of Geometry. My teacher even gave me the opportunity to co-teach with her and contribute ideas to shape the new origami middle school elective – which I presented at an educational conference.

Being at a smaller school made it easier for me to connect with caring, encouraging teachers who helped me take advantage of more opportunities. I am currently in Algebra 2 Honors and next year, I will be taking AP Calculus, something that I can't imagine would have been possible at my other school.