

Dear Parents and Students,

My name is Mrs. Smith, and I'm one of the middle school math teachers at Arches Academy. I teach Math 7 and Secondary Math 1 (9th grade math).

A little bit about me: I grew up on the East Coast, but I currently live in Draper with my husband and our two young sons. I love reading, running, hiking, traveling, and playing board games.

I majored in biology at BYU, and during my undergraduate years I interned at a hospital in South Carolina, studied clams in Dublin Bay, and researched yeast proteins at the University of Washington. While I loved those experiences, teaching undergraduates as a TA for molecular and cell biology is what really spoke to me.



When my two sons were little, I worked as a tutor for math, French, reading/writing, and SAT/ACT prep. Now that both of my boys are in school, I'm pursuing my passion for teaching! This is my fifth year at Arches Academy, where I teach both math and French. I love the natural progression, order, and challenge of mathematics. It's deeply rewarding to find new ways to convey the material so my students are engaged and motivated.

I tell my students that good mathematicians don't just race to find the correct answer. In my class, we value communication, curiosity, documentation (show your work!), consistency, and math applications and connections.

This year we'll do lots of hands-on activities and small group work. For example, Math 7 students will calculate slopes of staircases and slides, find the surface area of the Washington Monument, explore the weight limits of everyday objects, and compare their free-throw percentages. SM1 students will build giant stacks of paper to model exponential growth, use triangle geometry to measure the width of a stream, and run linear regressions to analyze experimental data.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful year of math!

-MRS. SMITH