

Santa Fe Trail High School
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Patrick Graham
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May 29, 2020

Mr. Denk & Mr. Graham,

The purpose of this letter is to announce my resignation from the following positions as Allen County Community College Adjunct (ACCC) - concurrent credit pre-calculus & plane trigonometry, Consumer Math teacher, math lab teacher, credit recovery/credit acquisition facilitator - all subjects, ACCC online courses mentor, summer school teacher, negotiations team member, and recently accepted SFTEA Treasurer with Santa Fe Trail High School and Santa Fe Trail School District, USD 434, as per my 2019-2020 contract. I'm committed to finishing up summer school, summer school paperwork & Accelerate course archiving, plus will virtually attend already registered for Greenbush Professional Development commitments made prior to acquiring a new teaching position next year with Washburn Rural High School teaching Math I (Algebra I/Geometry), Math II (Algebra II/Trigonometry), & a Math Lab.

Thank you for challenging me as an educator and leader with teaching personal finance, consumer math, and ACCC pre-calculus and plane trigonometry in addition to credit recovery. Each of these allowed me to embrace teaching a unique range of math ability level students. Regardless of the student, their math ability level, or any of their preconceived notions about math or school in general, my teaching ideology was always the same:

- high expectations for all students – grades are not given, they are earned
- students are teachers too; deeper learning takes place when peers share and discuss versus competing and comparing for the sake of GPA or bragging rights; everybody's brain thinks and problem solves differently; learn from each other through networking conversations; be open-minded to different problem solving methods and perspectives (many paths lead to same destination)
- nobody's perfect; mistakes = opportunities to learn & are not a reflection of intellect; create safe, open environment where students are not ashamed to admit/own mistakes & learn from them; builds peer rapport & student confidence
- genuinely care about kids & build "real" relationships; be the best version of you - always; foster caring classroom; encourage acts of kindness; be

honest & real - Kids know which teachers, paras, cooks, counselors, administrators, custodians, nurses, & secretaries care about them, yet still hold them accountable and have expectations for them to do their best and be the best version of themselves. Kids also know who of these people could care less about them, as well as which teachers having little to no student expectations.

Thirty plus years of teaching experience has taught me the first three bullets never happen without the last one being first and foremost! Dave Swaim was masterful at building rapport with staff and students alike and taught me the importance of "gabbing" with kids and/or colleagues about anything and everything besides school, which was evident from he and I's conversations ranging from Buckeye seeds to who offers the best casino buffets!

In closing I'd like to thank the district for challenging me to grow and improve as an educator, leader, and person these past 8 years. I am especially appreciative of the learning opportunities I was afforded by teaching all levels of mathematics. With that being said, I may not be retiring a Charger, as originally anticipated when I arrived in 2012, yet I'm ecstatic about the new challenges, opportunities, and supportive leadership as I continue to grow both professionally and personally beyond Trail.

Sincerely,



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