**5th Grade Math: Statement of Purpose**

Mathematics is one of the most vital, yet commonly difficult subjects to learn as a part of the any academic curriculum. For some, the understanding of concepts and skills that go along with it come more naturally, while for others, a bit more effort is needed to grasp the meaning. In fact, it is not uncommon to hear that “Far too many students in America *hate* math and for many it is a source of anxiety and fear” (Boaler, 2008). In spite of this unfortunate thought, however horrible the subject may be to students, it is still an essential part of any school’s curriculum.

Fifth grade mathematics is one of the four core subjects that include many goals to be met. This course will serve as an introduction to many of the vital basic mathematical concepts that are crucial to student success in society. In grade 5, students are on the brink of entering middle school and need a curriculum that teaches them to think critically and encourages them to be active learners. According to researchers “we need to emphasize to students the importance of mathematics in everyday life—in addition to pointing out how hard it is today to get a good-paying job…without a solid grounding in the subject” (Roman, 2004). This is a crucial reason as to why a solid curriculum should be in place, even in elementary school, that encourages a solid foundation in mathematics.

A great idea to take into consideration when designing a 5th grade math curriculum is to remember that students not only need “high-quality teaching, but well planned instruction explicitly structured to develop a specific sequence of skills” (Shellard, 2004). This, I believe, is echoed in this curriculum design. Through this Ohio Academic Content Standard-inspired design, students can come to understand the beginning principles of many of the more rigorous concepts that will be learned as they continue through middle school and high school. For example, students will learn the importance of fractions, decimals, and percents, which have great worth in society concerning the world of purchasing and buying. Through applications of these more complex concepts, students will be introduced to how more detailed mathematics can be applied to their everyday lives.

References

Boaler, J. (2008). *What's math got to do with It?: Helping children learn to love their least favorite subject--and why it's important for america*. New York: Viking Adult.

Roman, H. T. (2004). Why math is so important. *Tech Directions*, *63*(10), 16-18.

Shellard, E. G. (2004). Helping students struggling with math. *Principal*, *84*(2), 40-43.