Brad Schlagheck

EDTL 7100

Statement of Purpose

The eighth grade math curriculum is extremely important for student’s success in the future. Students will learn about number sense, operations, measurement, geometry, spatial sense, patterns, functions, algebra, data analysis, and probability. These areas of focus provide students with background knowledge for higher-level math classes, depending on their future career pursuits. It also provides students with skills that are critical for success in society. This unit focuses on three of the larger topics in the eighth grade content standards graphing lines, geometry and probability. Providing problems with real life applications allow students to develop problem-solving skills that are critical for their future success.

This unit is to help provide a mathematical base for future math classes. This is the last course students are required to take before they begin to peruse their own routes and goals for future careers and success. Some students may complete math courses at much higher levels others may only advance to meet minimum requirements. All students need to experience success at this level in order to have the base needed for their future pursuits.

The real world applications for this topic are immense. Students need to have the ability to understand graphs and tables to make quality and educated decisions from voting to choosing benefit packages. They also need to understand the value of accurate sampling in order to ensure they are not being lead astray. Students geometry skills will come in handy all though life as it will help them to better understand the values of good and services. “To be a well-informed citizen and a participant in the knowledge economy, Americans must be mathematically literate. (US Department of Education)”

References

Chiarelott, L. (2006). Curriculum in Context: Designing Curriculum for Teaching and Learning in Context. Wadsworth: Belmont, CA.

US Department of Education. (2011). Math Teacher: The Nation Builders of the 21st Century. ED.gov