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Dr. Gustafson

MATH 365

MPA Math Extravaganza

For this year’s math extravaganza, I was once again reminded with how stingy high schoolers can be. But to be completely honest I thought it was a lot of fun seeing the students who took the day seriously to be interested in math. The hardest station for the students was when the were asked to figure out the triangle symmetry. This was the one activity that took a lot of pushing from the volunteers to get the students to start their packets. I think this was mainly due to them not really understanding what was being asked of them during the symmetry section. I can’t blame them because it still was confusing me until I took a minute to really pay attention to what Erika was saying symmetry was. As for the computer science section I was absolutely no help when it came to making the program run so they could mimic what was happening on the screen, on the LED displays. The volunteers that they had in that section seemed to be very helpful in making sure the students could figure out the activity. Tt was fun to see the students figuring out something on a computer that I personally struggle with. My favorite station of the entire day on the other hand was the statistics station. I think the playing of this game was good for the students because it was able to demonstrate how useful statistics can be in life. When I went through the training with Dr. Miles for this station it made me wish I had taken more statistics classes in my college career. Although I’m sure a few kids from my group were happy that they were able to just not be in class that day. Nonetheless I think there were still several kids who got something out of the day and that was cool to see from my end. I personally don’t think that I did much other than walking them from station to station because they all were pretty proficient in figuring out the problems at hand and really didn’t require much assistance in the stations themselves. Going to math extravaganza really makes me want to convince one of the physics professors to start a physics extravaganza!