Dear Ms. Adams,

I’m a freshman. I started to enjoy math in 5th grade. I went to Hartsbrook, until 6th grade, which is an alternative school in Hadley. They didn’t emphasize math as hard as they do in most places, and also didn’t have advanced classes, which I didn’t like (I was always bored). I took Algebra 1 last year at JFK and really enjoyed it. Another thing that has probably helped me to enjoy math is that my dad was a math teacher, so we’ve always talked about it a lot. I hope to get a lot out of this class…I’m looking forward to going “deeper” than I would if I was in normal Geometry. In last year’s class, we would sometimes go off on random (usually math-related) tangents where we’d end up going into serious depth on one little thing and discover interesting things about it, and I thought that was a lot of fun. I’ve never really been able to figure out how I best learn things; I usually just do it however everybody else is doing it and see how it goes. My strengths as a student are primarily willingness to stick with something that I’m not understanding and usually being able to have a pretty good grasp on the subject matter. In terms of my weaknesses, I’m very talkative and have a hard time not talking to my friends when I’m in a class with them, and I get really stressed out when I have a lot on my plate. I’m most passionate about computer science (which there unfortunately isn’t any of at the high school; I’m going to try to find some classes at Smith, GCC, or HCC), and math. This is thinking somewhat ridiculously far ahead, but in college I’d like to major in computer science and minor in math. Outside of school, I like to wrestle, mountain bike, program (computers), read, and climb anything that’s at all possible to climb. The tallest thing I’ve ever climbed without a harness was a 130 foot tall tree in California. I have an internship at a web design business on Market Street called Gravity Switch. In the summer, my family and I usually go to a state that we’ve never been to before. Last year we went to Arizona, which was my favorite so far…I was about 6 inches from stepping on a rattlesnake and then realized what it was and ran away like demons were chasing me. This year we’re going to New Mexico. I’m pretty psyched! Also, if you ever heard stories about Elliot’s spanish class last year, I was “Juan.”

Jesse Evers