Dear Ms. Keefe,

I’m a sophomore. 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 there as they do in most places, and also didn’t have advanced classes, which I didn’t like (I was always bored). 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 Algebra 2. In last year’s class, as well as Algebra 1, 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, and I'm doing an independent study second semester this year to prep for the AP Computer Science Exam. 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), and read. I have an internship at a web design/development company on Market Street called Gravity Switch. Math is a big part of programming, and so it plays a large part in my everyday life. I also enjoy most forms of science,and math plays a role in most major sciences.

Jesse Evers