

MARGARET CLAYPOOL

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To Whom it may Concern,

I am seeking a position as a math teacher at the middle school or high school level beginning Fall 2010.

I have two bachelors degrees; one in French and one in Mathematics. I have a California Professional Clear Teaching Credential that I am fairly certain will translate well into a Canadian teaching certificate. This is my fourth year of teaching. I'm currently teaching 8th grade mathematics but would also enjoy a chance to work with older students. It would be a lot of fun to teach a Calculus class!

I am enthusiastic about teaching and about pursuing professional development. I'm very passionate about the importance of education. Although I love my current school district, I'm distressed by my class sizes. I have two enormous classes; one has forty-five students and the other forty-two. I know that the money is simply not there for smaller classes, but I don't feel that I can do a job to feel proud of in such conditions. As a parent, I do not want my daughter crammed into a class with so many other students. Thus we are seeking a community in which we can both be happy and successful in education.

I'm very excited about teaching in Canada. I grew up on the far north coast of California – where the winters (and springs) are very rainy but rarely snowy, where September and October are beautiful but it's always a race to see whether the rains will come before or after the kids go trick-or-treating. I am eager to remain on the North Coast. I prefer a rural atmosphere to that of the big city. Two summers ago my daughter and I visited Victoria and Vancouver, and had a marvelous time. In the summer we like to go camping and hiking, so we would enjoy exploring the area further.

I never dreamed that I would someday be a math teacher; I had originally planned to be a French teacher. It's funny how life works out. Although I was disappointed when I couldn't find a job teaching French, I'm now extremely glad. I really love math, and I would never have realized how much I enjoyed it if I had become a French teacher. One of the beautiful things about mathematics is that everything is logical. You can start with a few basic assumptions and go on from there to prove things like the Pythagorean theorem. I also really like that there is often more than one right way to find the answer. I really enjoy Algebra, but would also like the chance to someday teach more advanced classes. I like to include little tidbits of mathematical history in my lessons. I think it's important to look at the human aspect of mathematics, and at the process as well as at the results.

I am also very good with computers, and am experienced with both Macs and PCs. I maintain a webpage for my students and their parents that I update daily with class notes and homework. They can also use it to check their grades in my class. My principal was impressed enough with my webpage that he asked me to give a presentation at a staff meeting to help my coworkers set up their own webpages. I feel that it is becoming more and more important to integrate technology into the classroom; we need to make sure students know how to use technologies for learning, as well as for entertainment.

I hope that you will consider me for any future openings, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Claypool". The ink is dark and the writing is fluid, with a large, stylized 'M' and 'C'.

Margaret Claypool