



Michael Guenette

Mathematics Department Head
(Soon to be Curriculum Supervisor)

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MA – Mathematics, Binghamton University
(SUNY) – 2012

BA – Mathematics, WSU `10

AA – Liberal Arts and Sciences, Mount
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I am currently the Mathematics Department Head at the Hampden Charter School of Science – East, located in Chicopee, MA. My job is actually split between two very different roles, teaching our students and coaching our wonderful math department. I currently teach AP Calculus and AP Statistics, two of my favorite high school level subjects. The other side of my job is to coach/evaluate our math teachers to help them improve, and to oversee our math curricula. I very much enjoy both of these jobs.

I started teaching here 5 years ago and have had the pleasure of teaching almost every grade/course here since then, eventually settling in with the AP level courses. Around 2 years ago I was excitedly promoted to the Department Head position. After seeing the success that we had with our students the state has approved us to replicate, and Hampden Charter School of Science – West will be opening during the 2018-2019 school year. At that time I will become the Curriculum Supervisor, a network employee who oversees the math departments of the two schools. I will miss teaching students directly, but knowing that I will have an impact on many more students makes it a very rewarding position.

I would say that my favorite part of my job is seeing the impact that I have on the students. We accept students from several sending districts in Western MA with very low MCAS proficiency rates. The fact that we can take these kids and have them excel on these state exams is a great feeling.

I can honestly say that my career would not be where it is today if I did not attend Westfield State University. The professors that I worked with motivated me to earn a higher level degree and pursue a career in education. Now that I am here I can see that I made the right choice and feel like I am making a

difference for so many kids. My advice to you would be to aim for a career path that makes you feel happy and useful. If you cannot decide, then the expertise of the Academic staff at WSU can help guide you in the right direction.

Editor's Note: While a student at Westfield State Michael and fellow student Jeff Vanasse were the first ever to find examples of 3 by 3 by 3 *generalized arithmetic progressions of primes*. Their discovery was so noteworthy it was reported by many regional and national media. For more, please see <http://www.westfield.ma.edu/math/GAP.page.html> .