

Homework #1  
Due Wednesday, Aug. 30, 12pm via email to  
bennett@math.msu.edu

This problem set is mostly so that I can get an idea of who you are, what you think about mathematics, your reasons for wanting to be a mathematics teacher. The grading of this assignment will be 5 points for each problem answered. I plan on posting the answers to questions 1-4 to the whole class, together with my comments.

1. Write a mathematical autobiography of yourself. In particular, tell me which classes you have had at MSU (by subject not number please), what classes you have liked most (and why), what classes you have liked least (and why), why you want to teach mathematics.
2. Write a paragraph description of what you think mathematics is about. (Please do this before reading the first section of the class notes where I give you my opinion.)
3. Write a paragraph description of why we teach mathematics, and expect students to learn mathematics up through the collegiate algebra level.
4. How has taking collegiate mathematics courses helped prepare you to be a mathematics teacher? What would you change in the curriculum?
5. (This won't be posted to the class.) Please tell me anything about yourself that you would like me to know? In particular, please tell me what your hobbies and interests are.