

MfA SD Newsletter Spring 2014

Brian Shay #InspirationLeadershipIntelligence

When Brian Shay is not teaching AP Calculus and Linear Algebra at Canyon Crest Academy, or providing yearlong mentoring leadership for MfA SD, you can find him somewhere, somehow helping to strengthen mathematics education for students, teachers and the mathematics community at large. Now he has two new honors to add to his (long) list of professional accomplishments – selection as 2014 MIT Inspirational Teacher of the Year and his appointment to the College Board's SAT Subject Mathematics Test Development Committee.

"We're honored to have Brian serve as a Mentor Fellow for MfA SD," said Edwards said. "He is an extraordinary mathematics teacher dedicated to both inspiring his own students and sharing his mathematical expertise on a much larger scale. He's a force to be reckoned with; we continue to be astonished by the depth of his work."

The MIT Inspirational Teacher of the Year honors 24 exceptional high school teachers for their positive influence on a student who attends Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Canyon Crest Academy alumna Alice Wu, class of 2013 and freshman at MIT, nominated Shay, who was her AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, Calculus III and Linear Algebra teacher at Canyon Crest. The following was included in her nomination of Shay:

Thank you so much for instilling in me a sense of pride in my work, responsibility for this world we inhabit, and a hunger for new and difficult ideas. Thank you so much for showing me that caring strangers can become your best friends. Thank you so much for letting me invade your classroom and ramble about my life to you, for helping me see failures as learning opportunities, and for making my high school years a true blessing. Thank you so much for changing my life. I will be forever grateful for having been able to meet you.

As part of the award, Shay will spend a week this summer at MIT, attending lectures and networking with STEM teachers from across the world at the MIT Science and Engineering Program for Teachers.

In the fall, Shay will begin a four-year term as a member of the College Board's SAT Subject Mathematics Test Development Committee, responsible for the development of the College Board's SAT Mathematics Level 1 and Mathematics Level 2 Subject Tests. A diverse group of men and women from different parts of the United States make up the six-member committee; three are college faculty members and three, including Shay, are high school teachers. The committee members are in charge of writing the vast majority of the questions for the College Board tests.

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