

Name: Megan Steit  
Grade: 10<sup>th</sup>  
School: Cary-Grove High School

### **My Inspirational Teacher**

Inspiring, energetic, and a die hard Survivor fan are all adjectives that describe Mr. Garis. Not many people can say their teacher has auditioned for Survivor, and almost made it on. However, I have been blessed with having Mr. Garis as a teacher to help me survive this semester. His love of math and enthusiasm about teaching has inspired me to work hard, ask questions, and even to pursue education as a career. Math has never been my easiest subject and I have to work especially hard in his class to keep up my grades. Luckily for me, he makes himself available before, during, and after the school day so I can meet with him for help if I need to. His dedication to helping all of his students succeed inspires me to put my full effort into his class.

Honors Pre-Calculus is a challenging class, and it can be intimidating to answer questions in front of the whole class on things I don't understand. However, Mr. Garis makes it so much easier by asking simple questions that build off of each other and helps me work through them if I don't understand the answer. He makes it feel like you're having a conversation rather than answering hard questions about equations, triangles, or limits. His approach at student involvement makes students not afraid to ask or answer questions, leading to a better classroom atmosphere and less stressful environment.

The most inspirational thing about Mr. Garis, though, is hands down his love for teaching. Out of all of the teachers I have ever had, Mr. Garis is the teacher who seems to love his job and his students the most. He puts in effort to get to know each of us and what we like and don't like. He always has a math pun or song up on the board when we come in that is related to the lesson, and gets so excited when we start something new. I genuinely think, out of all of the people on the planet, he is the person who gets the most excited learning about calculus. It's easy to look forward to math because when I walk in the door I know I'll be greeted with a smile and a question about my day. He has helped me and so many other students grow this year and someday I hope I can have as big of an impact on student's lives as Mr. Garis has had on me this year. What could have been an extremely difficult and frustrating class is so much more fun and enjoyable because of Mr. Garis. He is truly a one and a million teacher and I can only hope to be half the teacher he is someday.