August 15, 2014

Mrs. J. Huerta

1234 Salish Way

Torrent, WA 98123

Dear Math Department of XYZ School District

I am writing to introduce my daughter, Emily, to you. Emily has had a special talent for mathematics, logic and spatial reasoning since she was very little. Her father is an engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers so perhaps Emily’s talents come from his side of the family. But I believe these talents were developed throughout childhood because the family sat together to play games which utilized these talents such as chess, Yahtzee, Stratego, etc.

I noticed these talents emerging during early childhood because she could count much earlier than other children and seemed to understood number relationships instinctively. When we cooked together, she reduced or increased the recipes with ease; fractions came so naturally to her at 5 years old! When we shopped in the supermarket, she was able to round the prices of the grocery items to form a total remarkably close to the final bill. She also understood multiplication and division concepts so easily and so early!

In the later years of elementary school she began a fascination with number systems: number systems used by other cultures--including ancient ones--and number systems used in computer sciences and in codes. So she began to make up her own number systems and created elaborate problems within these systems for us to solve.

Emily’s logical and spatial abilities are also advanced and have been so since childhood. She spent many highly-focused hours solving and designing her own matrix logic puzzles, playing Battleship and other spatial games with her brothers, making blue print drawings of her “dream house,” and stealing her brother’s various constructions sets to create imaginary kingdoms. Even in her team sports (and she is very athletic) she could visualize how the plays would enfold in 3-dimensional space.

Emily is full of potential! Even though her wonderful middle school math teacher, Ms. Sutherland, provided Emily with many extensions to the curriculum and allowed her to move at her own pace, Emily often complained about being “alone” in the class. She is a team player and detests being isolated. I hope your math department will be able to find intellectual peers for Emily—especially girls who also love numerical and spatial concepts as much as she does.

Sincerely,

Mrs. J. Huerta