



Bob Eisenberg <bob.eisenberg@gmail.com>

Why Algebra?

1 message

Bob Eisenberg <bob.eisenberg@gmail.com>

Sun, Sep 28, 2014 at 8:31 AM

Reply-To: bob.eisenberg@gmail.com

To: Holly Trowbridge <holly.s.trowbridge@gmail.com>, "Bob Eisenberg beisenbe@rush" <beisenbe@rush.edu>

Cc: Jill Trowbridge <jill.trowbridge@gmail.com>, Sally Home <sallyeisenberg@yahoo.com>, James Trowbridge <james.trowbridge2@gmail.com>, Henry Trowbridge <henry.trowbridge2@gmail.com>, Ardyth at Gmail <ardyth.eisenberg@gmail.com>

Bcc: Brenda Russell <russell@uic.edu>, John Trowbridge <john.l.trowbridge@gmail.com>

Dear Holly

Remember how arithmetic got much easier when you were taught the right way to think about it? Maybe that will happen with algebra too.

People always forget to tell children why algebra is important.

The reason it is important is that EVERYONE GETS EXACTLY THE SAME ANSWER to a problem EVEN IF THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN.

There can be no argument, because you can substitute the apparent answer into the original equation and see if it works. It either works (i.e., makes both sides of the equation equal) or it does not work.

So there is no argument.

That makes ALL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING POSSIBLE.

There is NO ENGINEERING WITHOUT ALGEBRA. Really.

If engineers argued about every result, they could not make anything work and we would be sleeping in tents and so on.

That does not matter too much in Oahua, but I assure you that you would not want to sleep in a tent in Chicago, in winter, in thunderstorms, or even in much of the summer.

I KNOW and GREATLY respect that you are a people

person and you LOVE and I hope always WILL LOVE
the back and forth of being with people and
discussing or even arguing about what something means.

And of course YOU ARE RIGHT that is the ESSENCE
of dealing with people.

But when dealing with the physical world (and biological
world, but NOT psychological world) outside of our skins
we need to avoid argument as much as possible, so we
can get SPECIFIC results.

That is why we depend on algebra.
Specific results THAT CAN BE CHECKED BY ANYONE
no matter what the symbols mean.
Minimal argument.

Thanks for reading this far.
Hope this helps and is not confusing

Love
Grandpa Bob

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Return Address for email: [beisenbe@rush.edu](mailto:beisenbe@rush.edu) or [bob.eisenberg@gmail.com](mailto:bob.eisenberg@gmail.com)

Bob aka RS Eisenberg  
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On Sat, Sep 27, 2014 at 11:14 PM, Holly Trowbridge <holly.s.trowbridge@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks Grandpa! 💡

Love,

❤️ Holly Trowbridge ❤️

On Sat, Sep 27, 2014 at 3:29 PM, Bob Eisenberg <bob.eisenberg@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Holly

What a wonderful job!

I am MOST proud of your work in Algebra because I know it is not the easiest or most relevant class for you and you are understanding and doing so well.

Of course, I am just completely prejudiced because I think of you and love you all the time, NO MATTER WHAT THE GRADES!

Love

Grandpa Bob

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Return Address for email: [beisenbe@rush.edu](mailto:beisenbe@rush.edu) or [bob.eisenberg@gmail.com](mailto:bob.eisenberg@gmail.com)

Bob aka RS Eisenberg

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On Sat, Sep 27, 2014 at 8:02 PM, Holly Trowbridge <holly.s.trowbridge@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Everyone!!! 🤗 🤗 🤗 🤗 🤗 🤗 🤗 🤗 🤗 🤗

🌟 Attached is my mid-first quarter report card!!!! 🌟

💡 *Hugs and Kisses* >Infinite X's and O's< Sending Love your way 💡

Love,

💖 Holly Trowbridge 💖