

Laura Mxxxxxx

Today's Date

Career Research Paper

1. My career of interest is Teaching. My goal is to become a Secondary Math Teacher. According to the research from the sources listed in number two below, teaching at this level would mean that I would have to teach about five different classrooms with at least 30 students in each. My job would consist of making daily lesson plans, teaching those plans, correcting papers, counseling students, grading papers, filling out progress reports, learning over 150 names each year and more. In my job I would have to meet with the head of my department, the principal, the dean, and of course, the parents. I think the best part of this career is that you are not just a teacher, but an "educator," and as an educator you can embed knowledge into young minds. Now that intrigues me!

2.

A) "Secondary School Teachers" Powered by EUREKA, CCIS © 2008 . July 12th, 2008 <http://www.eureka.org/careers/career_detail.asp?id=84560>

B) "HLPUSD Human Resources Teacher" Are you a Highly Qualified Teacher? Copyright © 2005 by the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District. All rights reserved. inSTiLE is powered by the Blackboard Academic Suite (version 7) July 12th, 2008.
<<http://www.hlpusd.k12.ca.us/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp> >

C) Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2011-2012 Edition. April 14, 2011. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections. July 9, 2011. <<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos069.html>>

D) California Labor Market Information (LMI). Latest Monthly Wage Data (2006). Secondary School Teachers, Except Special & Voc.Ed. July 13th, 2010.
<<http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/>>

E) Sifu, Vanessa. Principal. East San Jose Charter School. Personal Interview. July 13th, 2011.

3. The working environment can be a little bit difficult when it comes to dealing with adolescents, says interviewee Vanessa Sifu. Apparently the kids can be very rude and talk back a lot of times, the job requires a tough skin. In other words, Miss Sifu tells me, "You have to be able to take criticism." For a more factual approach I used the Occupation Outlook Handbook Current Edition. In short teachers must act as mentors, especially at this stage when students are learning new things about themselves and the educational level becomes more difficult. Like I stated in answer number one, teachers have many duties including but not limited to creating and assigning homework, tests, grading, attending board meetings, holding parent teacher conferences, and more. It is true, my interviewee did state, that often she works 12-hour days, and her work does not end when she goes home at the end of that day.

4. Salary can vary widely from state to state. But according to Eureka the average pay for California Secondary School Teachers is \$4,871 monthly. There are plenty of great benefits that school district's offer teachers. I know first hand, because my mother works for the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District (HLPUSD), and I've had some of the best medical and dental coverage I could ask for. There are retirement plans, credit unions, and much more.

5. According to the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District, I will need to obtain my Bachelor's degree in Pure Mathematics, and also obtain my teaching credentials. I can choose single-subject teaching credential, or a multiple-subject, which will open up more job opportunities such as working for an elementary school and not just a high school or middle school. Most schools will want to see that I have had prior internships in teaching or so many accumulated hours of tutoring students in mathematics. I also learned something interesting while visiting this site, the HLPUSD only classifies it's teachers as "highly qualified," and they provide a pdf file to allow one to classify him or herself before even bothering to apply for a job with them.

6. Well according to the Board of Labor, the employment numbers in this field are projected to grow by about 6%.

The website also stated that hiring is most favorable for math and science teachers. And yes of course, job opportunities will vary geographically, since some states, or counties have more funding than others.

7. Eureka was very helpful in stating how many expected job openings there would be between the years 2010-2020. For example, the openings due to growth, for middle school teachers, is 86,101, and for secondary teachers it would be approximately 147,879. Per year they estimated 22,470 for middle school teachers, and 43,611 for secondary school teachers. This comes out to about an average growth, so it will be my own responsibility to give myself a competitive edge to get the job.

8. I found that there were a few related occupations. Related occupations include, Elementary School Teacher, Post-Secondary Math Teacher, Science Teacher, or Counselor (www.eureka.org). However, the occupational outlook handbook suggests such careers as: librarian, childcare worker, social worker, and possibly even an athletics' coach.

9. The Person I interviewed is named Vanessa Sifu, she is a Principal at ACE Charter School in East San Jose, California (she was teaching a middle school for four years before that). Contact information includes: phone #500-320-5534, and e-mail Vanessasifu22@yahoo.com

10. I really enjoyed doing this interview with Vanessa, because it really gave me a better look, on a personal level on how this career path could be for me. I was concerned, just like her, that I wouldn't have the patience for teaching elementary and so secondary level would be a better idea. I also found her idea of taking a "self-check" on my own personal level of patience would be highly valuable in deciding on becoming a teacher. My favorite part of the interview, was finding out about "charter schools," and how that might really appeal to me, and the values I look for in a career. All in all, this interview was better than I anticipated, because it felt like an affirmation, that I had truly found my calling. I feel much more confident after the interview, because I spoke to someone who has found success in what I dream to be. You can't find that type of level of reassurance on the internet.

11. What I like the most about my primary career of research, is that it allows me to impact a persons life in a way that can help them better grow as a person. I feel that this career upholds one of 'my' most valued aspects in career decision making process, and that is: "the ability to make a difference in a community." The aspect I like least might be the fact that you constantly here about teachers fighting for better wages. Money isn't important to me, but it will be if I do not make enough for the cost of living.

12. As I look back on all the information I gathered, I feel confident as I make steps only closer to my future dream career, to become a secondary teacher, and perhaps one day a post-secondary teacher. I know that the challenges that await me, will only prepare me to better serve those students and oh course their parents. I know that because I am a workaholic I may have a difficult time leaving my work at school, but hey I here it's just part of the nature of the work... to take a little bit home with you each day.