

Ms. Papathanas Teacher Feature

By Malakye Marsh-Welton

Have you ever walked into school early in the morning and been greeted by a smiling, very excited math teacher? Well if not then let me explain, every day when I walk into school I am greeted by my ex-math teacher Ms. Papathanas. As an Oak Hills alumni herself she states that, "It's a great experience being back at the school which inspired me to become a teacher and to teach side by side some of the teachers who taught me." Ms. P has been teaching for four years here at Oak Hills, you could even say she's graduating with some of the seniors this year. When asked about how she stays



so happy, especially during a dreadful Monday morning she would reply "If I am not happy and excited to be here my students won't be either, so I always try my best to greet them and make them feel welcomed and appreciated." Though her career as a math teacher is a job she has always had a passion for, Ms. P always tries to look for a way to accomplish the things she needs to do as well as be engaging and fun for her class. Though she admits "There are definitely days where this job is very challenging and it's a lot to grade and plan for 150-175 students a day, which can be draining, but I wouldn't have it any other way because ultimately I love teaching and I love my job". This year Ms. P is currently teaching three different classes, Algebra I, Honors Algebra I, and Honors Precalculus. Circling back to Ms. Papathanas being an alum of Oak Hills when asked about who exactly inspired her she said "I am blessed to teach with many of the teachers that I had as a student. Ms. Spires, Mrs. Murphy, and Mr. Schroeder are all math teachers that I had during high school and that I now have the chance to work beside. They each have helped me more than they will ever know! I am also very grateful for Mrs. Jenemann. Thanks to her high standards and expectations, I learned the most from the two English classes that I had with her and would like to think I am a decent writer thanks to her." Being a teacher is something Ms. Papathanas always wanted to do. She had to prepare vigorously, majoring in secondary education, and to earn her degree she had to take 12 different math classes. Along with several different education classes. Ms. Papathanas also became a student teacher during her junior and senior years of college. Ms. Papathanas is not only an amazing teacher but an amazing person as well. I am not only glad to have had her as a teacher but also as a friend, after everything she has done for me. Thank you, Ms. P, for everything that you do.