



**Nomination Essay for Joel Block**  
**Submitted by: Cecily Shea, Parent**

Mr. Joel Block makes math “fun” for many students. Fun is not a word normally used to describe math, but it is when he is teaching. Block understands that students can go into a slump during third quarter. He deals with it head on with “RoPaSci.” Students may remain potential members of his society (based on the rock/paper/scissors game) as long as they turn in every single homework assignment during third quarter and maintain their grade. Those who do are eligible to be a part of the RoPaSci competition. The winner of this Rock/Paper/Scissors game wins a ride home in a limo with a stop at the winner's favorite fast food restaurant.

Block cares about each and every student and makes sure that everyone understands what he is teaching. If a student needs additional help, he is available before or after school and during lunch. He makes math understandable not only for students but for parents. He designed, coordinated and taught “Algebra for Parents.”

Block leaves unique lesson plans for substitutes. If he knows in advance that he will be absent, he videotapes himself teaching the class and leaves the corresponding handouts for the substitute so that the day is not a lost instructional day. He has even been known to call in and have the substitute put him on speakerphone for the students to be able to ask him specific questions.

Block continues to support students even when they are no longer in his class. Students feel comfortable going to him for math assistance even when he isn't their math teacher. He is more than willing to assist these and other students who are not currently in one of his classes. He also supports his students by attending sporting events, theater and music performances.