

Tadgh Spalding

Dr. Long

MAT 115-01

May 1, 2022

My Math Family Crest



When going into this project, I took the “family crest” idea to its conclusion. I love history. It's my major and I seek to share what I learn with others as my career. When thinking about my logo, I turned to the family crests of where my family comes from: Ireland. Irish family crests are absolutely stunning and highly diverse in their structure and meaning. Some emphasize a family's strength or learnedness (symbols of lions or harps) while others sing praises to the area where their family resides (fish, rocks, or streams). When crafting my logo, I wanted to emphasize the aspects that make my family special while showing that we represent these aspects equally. Naturally I turned to the strong and relaxingly symmetrical polyhedrons. From this bunch of five shapes shined the classic, beloved figure: the tetrahedron.

The tetrahedron, to me, is a symbol of harmony and strength. Its structure perseveres through nature and its symmetry consistently appears consciously and unconsciously in art and science. For my crest, I sought to combine that symmetry and strength with the history of Ireland and my familial qualities. The heart represents the love that my family gives to each other and our community. I seek to extend my love, whether it be communal, platonic, or romantic, to as many people as possible. Love makes life worth living and I personally value it greatly. It lies on the base of the tetrahedron because love is the base of all things. It is the rock that allows other beautiful qualities to grow. The hand represents friendship. It is the hand that is given to those in need. It is the open hand that reaches for others in an equal cooperation. Human beings have been able to do so much through working together. To ignore it would be to ignore what keeps us afloat as individuals and as a species. The crown represents loyalty. Loyalty to my family, my friends, my partners, my community, my history, and my values. To be loyal is to practice perseverance when things get tough and to stick with my sense of integrity. Loyalty and friendship act as pillars that grow from love and build the strength of the whole figure.

Now one might be asking: *wait, doesn't a tetrahedron have four sides?* This is the key aspect of the logo. The final side is represented by the yellow lines radiating from the tetrahedron. These lines represent the glow of light from the shape on the onlooker's face. The final side is a mirror. By having the frontmost side be a mirror, the shape is complete only by the addition of the onlooker. We come from and grow from love. That is our base. Loyalty and friendship stand side-by-side with us and makes us stronger. While these things are vital, they have no use if we aren't a part of it. The crest reminds the viewer that they are key in being a force of good in the world. We make the tetrahedron strong and it makes us strong too. This emphasizes my family crest and my ideal logo.