

Tan Huynh = 7Teacher + 6Music + 5Technology + 4Hiker + 3Artist + 2Shooting Pool
+ Dance + (Curriculum Designer)

Life is short and there's just not enough time for me to enjoy and do all the things I want to do in life. The equation above lists just a few of the things that are most important in my life. I have also added a career goal in the equation. Yes, even at my age, I still have aspirations to achieve more!

I listed "teacher" as the first descriptor because it is what I am most passionate about in my life. This is a calling for me and not a day goes by that I don't really think about teaching. I will continue to motivate, activate, and inspire students at all ages to pursue their dreams and goals. I hope to make subjects like math enjoyable to all, while building the necessary skills and confidence so that young people will find opportunities open to them in the future.

While I don't play any instruments very well, I love listening to music. I listen to a wide range of music, from jazz to hip hop, from classical to R&B, and even Latin and Vietnamese music. Music has been something that has gotten me through good times and bad times throughout my life. It's very rare that you will find me working by myself or in my car without music. Like the perfect soundtrack to a movie, the right songs can make my day joyful.

Another thing that brings joy to my life is technology. I love the innovations that have been brought to life by many tech companies. It is amazing how the human mind can take abstract concepts and make them reality. I feel like I can't even keep up with many of the new innovations (like 3-D gaming and drones). However, I do enjoy being able to create software for myself by coding apps that will make my life easier. My favorite coding languages are HTML and JavaScript.

While the digital world is fascinating, the natural world relaxes me. Being in the woods and mountains has been known to stimulate the brain and mind in ways that brings about creativity and innovation. There's nothing like completing a 10-mile hike and seeing the view from the peak of a mountain; the hike up can be challenging, but the view is exhilarating! Letting go of the pixelated world and artificial sounds of urban cities for a day in nature is a must for everyone. No computer-generated graphics can beat the beauty and feel of true nature.

I often wish I could store some of the images of the natural world in my brain like how a digital camera can. I can't. So that's where art comes into play. As an artist, I can choose to photograph the scene, draw it, stipple it, or paint it. Maybe not the last one; I can't paint to save my life! While I have done a few pieces of artwork depicting nature in my life, most of my artwork is based on fantasy—dragons, wizards, and superheroes. An ink pen, good paper, and some music is how I enjoy some of my down time when I'm alone.

However, when I'm with my friends, I absolute enjoy playing a few rounds of pool. Okay, maybe a dozen or so rounds of pool. In fact, in two previous classrooms, I had a pool table. The pool table is perfect to teach Algebra, geometry, physics, and even calculus. Having a background in math does help with playing pool, but at the end of the day much practice is needed to be good at it.

One thing I'm good at that most people don't know is swing dance...specifically, the Lindy Hop. I started in college after seeing a couple having so much fun dancing with one another. In fact, I have been teaching the Lindy Hop longer than I have been teaching math! My wife and I enjoy going out dancing at least once a week. Finding time to dance is something that is a must for me; I believe it is an activity that improves your mental, social, physical, and emotional wellbeing. It is a hobby I hope I never give up.

Another thing I won't give up in life is to improve and continue to aspire towards bigger goals. One of these goals include becoming a curriculum designer for a school. I want to be able to put together learning programs that are meaningful and fun for children, but at the same time academically challenging. I want children to be motivated to come to school and enjoy learning, no matter the subject. Whether they want to become a doctor or tattoo artist, I want them to become one of the best in their field.

I aspire to become one of the best in my career. I can't tell my students that and not have the same aspirations for myself! I hope to live a life of integrity and to be my best to my family, my wife, my friends, my students and all those with whom I interact. I know that life is not indefinite, and even uncertain at times, but I want to one day look back without regrets and say to myself, "Life was totally awesome! I would do it all over again!"