Mandi S. Maxwell* (mandi.maxwell@trnty. edu), Trinity Christian College, Mathematics Department, 6601 West College Drive, Palos Heights, IL 60463, David B. Klanderman (Dave.Klanderman@trnty.edu), Trinity Christian College, Mathematics Department, 6601 West College Drive, Palos Heights, IL 60463, and Mary Webster Moore, Trinity Christian College, Education Department, 6601 West College Drive, Palos Heights, IL 60463. Reflections from a journey: Diary excerpts highlighting the content preparation of a middle school mathematics teacher.
In this paper, we follow a fictitious student named Sarah as she completes her education program at Trinity. This program leads to a "highly qualified" designation in middle school mathematics, due to her 25 credit minor in math education. This minor includes 16 hours in math, 3 hours in education technology, and 6 hours of methods courses including extensive discussions of math content. We believe that this program follows the MET recommendations.

We offer a series of excerpts from Sarah's diary, with appropriate annotations, as she progresses through her program. Along the way, she encounters a content course where structured small group activities challenge her to revisit "familiar" math concepts and advance to a level where she can explain the "why" behind the concepts. Later, she writes individual and team math problems, based upon NCTM standards, for a middle school math competition. Other entries document unexpected links between middle school math and advanced courses such as discrete structures and modern geometries, a 2-week interim, and her internship. These annotated diary entries provide the reader with exemplars linking content math courses and related program experiences to the overall goal of preparing a highly qualified middle school math teacher. (Received September 22, 2006)

