1011-97-334 Kristin Pfabe* (kpfabe@nebrwesleyan.edu) and Michelle Reeb Homp (mhomp@lps.org). A Course in Number Theory and Cryptology for Middle Level Teachers. Preliminary report.

Despite its relevance to middle level mathematics curricula, many middle level teachers have limited formal exposure to concepts in Number Theory. We describe a course designed for middle level teachers which addresses basic number theory results needed to understand RSA cryptography and makes connections to middle level mathematics. Teachers benefit from a greater understanding of the integers and an appreciation of a modern application of a centuries-old branch of mathematics. (Received August 30, 2005)